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RAHALL CALLS FOR SPECIAL PROSECUTOR IN U.S.-ISRAEL-IRAN-CONTRA CONNECTION

Washington, D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) today called for the appointment of a special prosecutor to investigate the Administration's actions in the ongoing controversy over arms sales to Iran. Rahall expressed his growing concern over the Administration's possible violations of many arms export laws, as well as its circumvention of Congress.

"The time has come for an independent special prosecutor to be brought in to untangle this web of intrigue woven by the President and his aides," Rahall said. "We must also know what role the State of Israel played in aiding the President, and/or his cronies, in flouting the will of Congress. The Attorney General has identified Israel as an accomplice to this fiasco and I believe that the American people have a right to know what is being done with weapons built and paid for by their tax dollars."

Rahall noted that Israel's involvement in arms sales to Iran and other countries has been a source of speculation since the U.S. broke off relations with Iran in 1979 following the seizure of the U.S. Embassy in Iran and the taking of hostages there. "The rumors, which for many years have been unsubstantiated, seem to have been confirmed by the Attorney General's findings," Rahall pointed out. "I hope that his revelations represent the full truth and not just the tip of the iceberg. Israel's agenda in the Middle East is not always in America's best interests. The American people need to know the full truth."

Rahall blasted the President and his advisors for intentionally doing an end run around the law of the land. "The Administration may have violated, among others, the Export Administration Act, the Arms Export Control Act, the Omnibus Antiterrorism Act, the National Security Act of 1947, and the Boland Amendment, which prohibits aid to the Contras explicitly," Rahall pointed out. "Unless the President admits to a mistake and agrees to the appointment of a special prosecutor, his next two years will be more of a lame turkey than a lame duck. And America will suffer."

"The President has an obligation to the American people, and the Constitution, to abide by the letter and the spirit of the laws of the United States," Rahall added. "I feel that his actions must be brought to the surface in order to preserve the concept of a democratic government, and to also preserve the Constitutional process upon which this nation was founded. Arrogance of power cannot be allowed to subvert America's laws or our best interests."