

Statement of Rep. Nick Rahall
Release of Iran/Contra Affair Report
November 18, 1987

While the report contained very few startling revelations, and certainly does not tell the whole story, it did, however, clearly and concisely document the abuses of our constitutional system of government by a group of unelected public officials who took a publicly unpopular policy and used it as a means to circumvent Congress and the laws of this land.

I found it particularly offensive, as a duly elected member of Congress, that senior members of the Executive branch felt more comfortable sharing vital secrets with shadowy international financiers and foreign governments than with members of Congress who are constitutionally charged with monitoring their actions and upholding the nation's security.

I hope that we can learn from this national trauma and enter into a new era of cooperation among the branches of government, working together to advance the best interests of the United States all over the world.