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STATEMENT OF REP. NICK RAHALL
REACTION TO P.L.O. RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL
DECEMBER 7, 1988

"I believe that this clarification of the recent P.L.O. declarations issued at their Algiers conference represents a positive step forward in the peace process. While I have not yet seen the actual declaration, if an unequivocal recognition of the State of Israel's right to exist and a clear renunciation of terrorism is the message conveyed by Chairman Arafat, then I would expect Israel to issue mutual recognition to the P.L.O. I would also expect the United States to do the same.

This action by the P.L.O. is an affirmation of the position which I have espoused all along, a position which has been consistently criticized by my political opponents and many newspaper editorials as well.

I hope that this action will signal the dawning of a new era of peace in the Middle East, as the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people will be recognized.

Clearly, the time is long past for an end to the blight of terrorism. I have always condemned in the strongest possible terms terrorism in any form, and I applaud the clear, unequivocal condemnation of terrorism which was issued by Chairman Arafat today, and I urge the United States and Israel, as well as the rest of the Arab world, not to let this unique opportunity for significant progress fall by the wayside."