

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Joint Statement of Rep. Henry A. Waxman and Rep. Gary L. Ackerman
April 19, 2007

As senior Jewish members of Congress, we would like to comment on Nathan Guttman's article in the *Forward*, "Dems Warn Olmert About Playing Politics."

Many of us in Congress have known Prime Minister Olmert for decades. We warmly welcomed him upon his address to a Joint Session of Congress. We appreciate that he has always made himself available for members of Congress visiting Israel and respect his work to further the close ties between the United States and Israel.

The controversy from the recent congressional delegation led by Speaker Nancy Pelosi has been entirely overblown. Democratic members were pleased to learn of the cordial conversation between Speaker Pelosi and the Prime Minister following her visit. That alone should be underscored to resolutely put an end to any confusion over this incident.