

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-2601

COMMITTEE ON  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
RANKING DEMOCRAT, SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
THE MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EAST ASIA  
AND THE PACIFIC

COMMITTEE ON  
FINANCIAL SERVICES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL MARKETS,  
INSURANCE AND GOVERNMENT  
SPONSORED ENTERPRISES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL  
INSTITUTIONS AND CONSUMER CREDIT

Gary L. Ackerman  
Congress of the United States

5th District, New York

February 16, 2007

218-14 NORTHERN BOULEVARD  
BAYSIDE, NY 11361  
(718) 423-2154

<http://www.house.gov/ackerman>

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice  
The Secretary of State  
U.S Department of State  
2201 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Madam Secretary:

We write to express our concerns about a recent news report in The Jewish Daily Forward regarding a briefing on the Middle East which you held last week with Jewish organizations. Specifically, we are concerned that the briefing included representatives from the Republican Jewish Coalition (RJC), a partisan political organization, and not the RJC's Democratic counterpart, the National Jewish Democratic Council (NJDC).

We appreciate your continued efforts to keep Jewish organizations informed, especially as it pertains to U.S. policy in the Middle East. Nevertheless, we are concerned that such briefings have great potential to become partisan in nature if only one political wing of the organized Jewish community is included while the other is left outside looking in. It is certainly your prerogative not to include either the NJDC or RJC in future briefings. Should you choose, however, to include one of the groups in such a briefing, it would be appropriate and expected that the other be included as well.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your response.

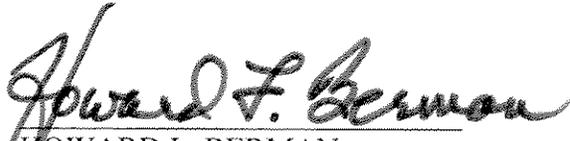
Sincerely,

  
GARY L. ACKERMAN  
Member of Congress

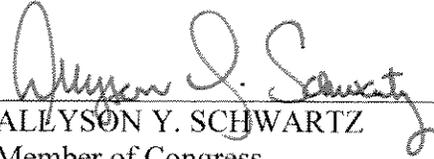
  
ROBERT WEXLER  
Member of Congress

  
STEVEN R. ROTHMAN  
Member of Congress

  
SANDER M. LEVIN  
Member of Congress



HOWARD L. BERMAN  
Member of Congress



ALLEYSON Y. SCHWARTZ  
Member of Congress