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## **Cantor Statement on President Bush's Remarks on Israel**

**Washington, DC**— Congressman Eric Cantor (VA-07) released the following statement regarding President Bush's remarks at a press conference today with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon:

“President Bush today took a bold step by declaring our commitment to Israel's security and the future of peace in the region. The President also reaffirmed his commitment to maintain Israel as a free, democratic, and Jewish state by asserting that moving Palestinian refugees to a future Palestinian state must be part of a framework of peace. It makes no sense to inject a democratic Jewish state with Palestinians claiming refugee status while a Palestinian state is being established.

“At the same time, President Bush recognized that returning to the post-1949 lines is not acceptable. Jews have lived in areas such as the Etzion Block since before the establishment of the state of Israel. Their descendents had a right after 1967 to live in the areas their parents and grandparents cultivated and developed.

“As President Bush laid out in his June 24, 2002 Rose Garden speech, Yassir Arafat must be removed from the equation and the Palestinian leadership must stop their terrorist acts before they can be recognized as agents of peace.”

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Congressman Eric Cantor is a Republican representing Virginia's Seventh district. In November 2002, Cantor was appointed to the House Leadership, serving as Chief Majority Deputy Whip. Cantor serves on the Ways and Means committee and as the Chairman of the House Taskforce on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare.