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Does Dean's Apology Apply to All Democrats' Anti-Israel, Anti-Semitic Rhetoric?

Washington, D.C. – Chief Deputy Majority Whip Eric Cantor (R-VA) released the following statement today regarding National Democrat Chairman Howard Dean's apology for anti-Israel statements made by congressional Democrats and anti-Semitic literature that was distributed at DNC headquarters:

“While I appreciate Howard Dean's apology, I wonder if his apology applies to all of his fellow Democrats' anti-Israel and anti-Semitic rhetoric?” Cantor said. “Several prominent Democrats have recently made inappropriate and insensitive statements. These statements have trivialized the Holocaust and the murderous tyranny of Adolph Hitler and ascribed motives to American Jews that are hurtful and harmful. I hope Dean will review the record of his fellow Democrats and call them to account for their statements.”

The following is a compendium of recent statements by and activities of prominent Democrats who have made insensitive and inappropriate statements about American Jews and Israel:

Anti-Israel Activists Use DNC Headquarters to Distribute Literature

Liberal activists filled an overflow room at DNC headquarters to watch a mock hearing held by Democrat members of the House Judiciary Committee to consider impeaching President Bush. Several activists were there to distribute their anti-Israel literature filled with hateful and outrageous claims:

“At Democratic headquarters, where an overflow crowd watched the hearing on television, activists handed out documents repeating two accusations -- that an Israeli company had warning of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and that there was an ‘insider trading scam’ on 9/11 -- that previously has been used to suggest Israel was behind the attacks.” (*“Democrats Play House at Rally Against the War,” Dana Milbank, The Washington Post, June 17, 2005*)

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Senate Democrat Whip Dick Durbin (D-IL)

Durbin compared the treatment by American troops of suspected terrorists held at Guantanamo Bay to Nazis:

“If I read this to you and did not tell you that it was an FBI agent describing what Americans had done to prisoners in their control, you would most certainly believe this must have been done by Nazis, Soviets in their gulags, or some mad regime - Pol Pot or others - that had no concern for human beings. Sadly, that is not the case. This was the action of Americans in the treatment of their prisoners.” (*“Gitmo Called Death Camp,” Rowan Scarborough, The Washington Times, June 16, 2005*)

House Democrat Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)

Pelosi and other House Democrats met with representatives from the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), a radical anti-Israel group, on July 15, 2004. (*“Democratic Leader Call for Ending Racial Profiling of US Muslims,” Iftikhar Ali, The Nation, July 16, 2004*)

In a July 9, 2004, press release, CAIR labeled President Bush’s support for Israel and the security fence as “defend[ing] Israel's neo-Apartheid policies”:

“Unfortunately, we once again see our own government swimming against the tide of world public and legal opinion to defend Israel's neo-Apartheid policies. How long will America's international image and interests be held hostage by a powerful domestic lobby for a foreign government? And when will the Palestinian people deserve inclusion in America's drive for freedom and justice worldwide?” (*“Muslims Applaud Court’s Condemnation of Israeli Wall,” CAIR News Release, July 9, 2004*)

Rep. Jim Moran (D-VA)

Moran, who serves as a whip on the House Democrats’ leadership team, singled out Jews as the reason behind attempting to topple Saddam Hussein’s regime in Iraq:

“‘If it were not for the strong support of the Jewish community for this war with Iraq we would not be doing this,’ he [Moran] said at the event, organized by the Greater Reston Interfaith Peace Coalition, according the Reston Connection newspaper. ‘The leaders of the Jewish community are influential enough that they could change the direction of where this is going, and I think they should.’” (*“White House, Democrats Rip Moran for Offending Jews,” Stephen Dinan, The Washington Times, Mar. 12, 2003*)

Moran participated in a mock hearing held by Democrat members of the House Judiciary Committee to consider impeaching President Bush in which a witness testified that the United States toppled Saddam Hussein’s regime for Israel, that Israel should not be

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considered an ally, and that President Bush was doing the bidding of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. Moran had asked the witness if the reason the United States went to war with Iraq was because it was a threat to Israel:

“The session took an awkward turn when witness Ray McGovern, a former intelligence analyst, declared that the United States went to war in Iraq for oil, Israel and military bases craved by administration ‘neocons’ so ‘the United States and Israel could dominate that part of the world.’ He said that Israel should not be considered an ally and that Bush was doing the bidding of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

“‘Israel is not allowed to be brought up in polite conversation,’ McGovern said. ‘The last time I did this, the previous director of Central Intelligence called me anti-Semitic.’

“Rep. James P. Moran Jr. (D-Va.), who prompted the question by wondering whether the true war motive was Iraq's threat to Israel, thanked McGovern for his ‘candid answer.’” (*“Democrats Play House at Rally Against the War,” Dana Milbank, The Washington Post, June 17, 2005*)

Rep. Charlie Rangel (D-NY)

Rangel, the ranking member of the House Ways and Means Committee, equated events in Iraq with the Holocaust:

“The Iraq war ‘is the biggest fraud ever committed on the people of this country. ... This is just as bad as the 6 million Jews being killed,’ the 74-year-old Harlem Democrat insisted during a Monday radio appearance on the WWRL-AL morning show with Steve Malzberg and Karen Hunter.” (*“Rangel in ‘Holocaust’ Firestorm,” Lloyd Grove, New York Daily News, June 9, 2005*)

Rep. Jim McDermott (D-WA)

McDermott, a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, compared President Bush’s handling of the War on Terror to Hitler’s appointed successor Herman Goering:

“McDermott went so far as to quote Nazi Reichsmarschall Herman Goering on using external threats as a device to control public opinion. ‘It’s the same tactic,’ he added, alluding to Bush on terrorism.” (*“If Democratic Party Lurches Left, It May Fare Worse,” Joel Connelly, Seattle Post-Intelligencer, Jan. 31, 2005*)

Sen. Robert Byrd (D-WV)

Byrd, the current longest serving Democrat in the Senate, compared a proposed change in Senate rules to tactics used by Hitler:

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“Hitler never abandoned the cloak of legality; he recognized the enormous psychological value of having the law on his side. Instead, he turned the law inside out and made illegality legal.

“And that is what the nuclear option seeks to do to Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate.” (“*Stopping a Strike at the Heart of the Senate*,” *Byrd News Release*, Mar. 1, 2005)

Former Sen. Fritz Hollings (D-SC)

In an editorial in which he pointed his invective at Israel as the reason America toppled Saddam Hussein’s regime in Iraq, then-Sen. Hollings singled out several American Jews as “a domino school of thought.”

“Led by Richard Perle, Paul Wolfowitz and Charles Krauthammer, for years there has been a domino school of thought that the way to guarantee Israel’s security is to spread democracy in the area.” (“*Why We’re in Iraq*,” *Ernest F. Hollings, The State*, May 7, 2004)

Former Democrat Presidential Candidate Rev. Al Sharpton

Sharpton, who once labeled Hasidic Jews as “diamond merchants,” was given a speaking role at the 2004 Democratic National Convention:

“The rotund preacher [Sharpton] denounced the Hasidic Jews as ‘diamond merchants’ and held several of his trademark ‘Day of Outrage’ demonstrations.” (“*New Yorkers Fear a Carnival of Violence*,” *John Cassidy, Sunday Times*, Sept. 1, 1991)

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