

## Congressman Rothman Responds to Attacks on Georgia

Congressman Rothman issued the following statement in response to the attacks on Georgia.

(Washington, DC)

— On August 12, 2008, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ) issued the following statement in response to the crisis in Georgia:

“I condemn Russia for its aggressive and deadly attacks on Georgian territory. I am also saddened by the great loss of life, casualties, and displacement that have resulted from Russia’s hostile military operations in the Black Sea region—approximately 2,000 dead and 40,000 displaced. Georgia’s territorial integrity must be observed and respected by the Russians. I urge all parties involved to observe a cease-fire so that negotiations to reach a peaceful solution to this crisis can succeed.

“This recent conflict is another example of the dangerous fallout caused by the Bush Administration’s failed foreign policy initiatives over the past seven years. The President’s myopic fixation on keeping our troops bogged down in the war in Iraq has literally broken our military and exhausted our defense resources. Russian leadership — both President Dmitry Medvedev and Prime Minister Vladimir Putin—understand this, and are exploiting this terrible reality in their attack on Georgia because they recognize that the U.S. and many of our European allies cannot currently project force into that part of the world right now. The world looks forward to a future where the Bush Administration is not directing America’s foreign policy, and thereby limiting U.S. options during a conflict with such dire consequences.

“In the meantime, the U.S. will continue to stand behind allies like Georgia and Ukraine and back their membership in NATO. Now, more than ever in the face of Russian bullying, we must provide our democratic partners in the Black Sea region with the political and diplomatic support required to continue to courageously stand up against Russian expansionism.”

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