until DOD complies with the recommendations of the Subcommittee on National Security, Veterans Affairs and International Relations.

I hope this action will send a clear signal to our men and women in uniform. This seriously flawed program does not meet the high standards they deserve.

INSIGHT INTO CAUSES OF RENEWED ISRAEL-PALESTINIAN VIOLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from West Virginia, (Mr. RAHALL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, we have all seen recent news reports of renewed confrontations between Palestinians and the Israelis. This violence is deeply troubling and cannot be condoned. It is all the more worrisome because the deadline for concluding a Final Status Agreement is quickly approaching. I think it is fair to say that we all hoped the days of such confrontation had passed.

Israel's legitimate interests in stopping terrorism and achieving security are well understood and strongly supported in Washington. Sources of Palestinian frustration, however, are less well known.

The Palestinian aggravation that boiled over recently stems from their view that seven years of peace negotiations have produced few tangible improvements in the lives of Palestinians.

For example, Mr. Speaker, Palestinians continue to see their land confiscated by Israel for the building of roads and Israeli settlements. This issue, among all others may be the most frustrating to Palestinians. Gaining control of their land is the Palestinian goal in peace negotiations. Watching land confiscations continue while negotiating deadlines pass undermines confidence among Palestinians that the peace process is worthwhile.

I would like to share with my colleagues an editorial on land confiscations that appeared recently in the Chicago Tribune. It is written by the head of the Palestinian Final Status Negotiating Team, Yasser Abed Rabbo, and it explains clearly the Palestinian viewpoint on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, achieving a peaceful, stable Middle East is in America's best interest. We have therefore spent considerable time and resources supporting that goal. Israelis and Palestinians have all suffered tremendously because of their on-going conflict and the majority of both peoples clearly long for peace. All parties must renew their efforts and truly seek compromise on their remaining differences so that Israeli and Palestinian people alike see real benefits in peace and support negotiated agreements.

I submit the Editorial written by Palestinian chief negotiator, Yesser Rabbo, from the April 27, 2000 edition of the Chicago Tribune, entitled: "Israeli Settlements Undermine Change for Peace in the Middle East," for the RECORD.

[From the Chicago Tribune, Apr. 27, 2000]

ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS UNDERMINE CHANCE FOR PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST

(By Yasser Abed Rabbo)

The Israeli-Palestinian peace process is based on the acceptance of both sides that no action will be taken that will prejudice the final negotiated arrangement.

From the Palestinian perspective, continued Israeli confiscation of land and the construction of new Israeli settlements, whether approved by previous governments or not, prejudices the final outcome more than all other actions combined. A day does not go by that Palestinians are not confronted by the expansion of Israeli control of Palestinian lands. Public support among Palestinians for the peace process is rapidly being eroded in face of this increased activity, causing Palestinian negotiators to take a firmer stance in negotiations over land confiscation and settlement activity. Negotiators are making if clear that if settlement activity does not halt, the peace process very well may.

Some see this as a sign of Palestinian intransigence; others have accused us of trying to cause a crisis in order to force the United States to become directly involved in the talks. Both assertions are wrong. For Palestinians, Israeli settlement activity is a critical issue because it makes attainment of our foremost goal more difficult.

We seek to establish an independent state comprised of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This goal represents an enormous lowering of aspirations on the part of Palestinians. It places under Palestinian sovereignty less than one-fourth of the pre-1948 Mandate of Palestine—and less than half of the territory the United Nations recommended allocating to the Palestinians in 1947. The expansion of Israeli settlements, and the continuing confiscation of Palestinian land, undermine the very reason Palestinians have chosen to enter the peace process: to regain control of our territory.

The U.S. and the international community have repeatedly condemned Israeli settlements as obstacles to peace. It is important to emphasize, however, that the obstacles posed by settlements are not abstract or rhetorical. With each new Israeli settlement or expansion of an existing settlement, new housing units are built, military installations to guard the settlement are expanded and new ''by-pass'' roads devour limited land. With the loss of land, Palestinian towns and villages become less economically viable and more isolated from one another. Most important, the ever-expanding patchwork of settlements and roads risks making it impossible for Palestinians to create a secure, contiguous, governable state. Palestinians do not aspire to become a Middle Eastern Bantustan.

Palestinians' commitment to the peace process is resolute, but it is not absolute. We have made every effort to understand and respond to Israel's concerns. We recognize, for instance, that security is of paramount importance to Israel. The Palestinian Authority is doing all in its power to prevent violence against Israelis. In testimony before Congress last year, Martin Indyk, then-U.S. assistant secretary of state, praised the Palestinian Authority for its commitment to counter-terrorism. Palestinian actions, Indyk said, are ''beginning to pay real dividends in terms of improving the security of the Israeli people.'' The Palestinian Authority has taken these steps even at the risk of alienating and angering some segments of our population, because we understand the consequences for peace if we do not. We know we will never achieve lasting peace unless Israelis believe they will be secure.

Israel, however, has not taken comparable steps to address the Palestinians' greatest concern by halting settlement activity. In November, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak ordered the dismantling of a dozen so-called ''illegal outposts,'' (tiny Israeli settlements that were not authorized by the government) in the West Bank. Barak was applauded by peace advocates in Israel and the West. Palestinians, however, saw no cause for celebration. The fact is, Barak allowed 30 newly built outposts to remain. More disturbing, more than 5,000 new houses for Israeli settlers are being constructed in the West Bank with Israeli government approval and another 3,000 have been authorized. Meanwhile, Israeli authorities have repeatedly authorized confiscation of even more Palestinian land. In Gaza—which many people incorrectly believe is under full Palestinian control—6,200 Israeli settlers remain and Israel has full or partial control of more than 42 percent of the land. The 1,000,000 Palestinians in Gaza are confined to a very small area and are deprived of potable water and employment opportunities.

The Israeli government and people must understand that just as they cannot make peace without security, we cannot make peace in the face of the relentless expansion of Israeli settlements. To talk of peace on the one hand, and to continue destroying Palestinian houses and confiscating Palestinian private property on the other, undermines the process of peace the Palestinians and Israelis both want and need. It is time for Prime Minister Barak to unequivocally declare and strictly enforce a total and permanent freeze on all Israeli settlement activity and cease the confiscation of Palestinian land. To do so would go a long way toward securing the hopes and dreams of both our peoples.

SAY NO TO THE CHINA TRADE DEAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I am joined this evening by the distinguished gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), and I hope to be joined by others, to talk about the China trade deal.

Mr. Speaker, to listen to the lobbyists for permanent MFN, most-favored-nation trade status for China, to listen to them, China today is the last frontier of American business. People have been lusting over the Chinese market since Marco Polo. After all, it is where one-fifth of the population on the face of the Earth lives, it is where the largest market in the universe is. So there has been this constant theme in western civilization of explorer, conqueror, and perhaps ''plunder'' is too strong of a word, but economically plunder I do not think is.

But the reality of all of this is that the Chinese are a very clever people, they are a very bright people, they are a very industrious people, and despite the history of the attempts to change their market to a western market, they have persisted over centuries in fighting that very thing.

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We are told it is a market of more than 1 billion customers waiting to be sold, everything from American made SUVs to cheese-flavored dog food. Take one look behind all of this hype and one will discover a different China.

Now, why the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) and I and others are