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Chairman Hoekstra Statement on State Department Decisions

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra, R-Mich., Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, issued the following statement after Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice announced the lifting of sanctions against Libya and concerns about Venezuelan cooperation on terrorism:

“Libya has come a long way in its cooperation with the United States on combating terrorism—from rogue state to supporter in the Global War on Terror. I have been to Libya several times, most recently last January, and witnessed this cooperation first hand.

“Having encouraged Secretary Rice to make this decision, I welcome it as a means to expand U.S.-Libyan collaboration against humanity’s common enemy: terrorism.

“As our nations move forward on the path of cooperation, I believe we can further strengthen our relationship by achieving a final resolution to the situation involving the Bulgarian medics held by Libya. The recently created International Fund provides one means to address this issue, and I strongly encourage Libya’s leadership to consider this solution.”

“As for Venezuela’s lack of support in combating terrorism, it comes as little surprise. The hostility shown by the Venezuelan leadership towards the United States along with its efforts to sow totalitarianism in the hemisphere, at the expense of the Venezuelan people, should be alarming to everyone.

“We must remain vigilant against Venezuela’s efforts to spread anti-Americanism in Central and Latin America and the opening it provides for terrorists seeking to operate in our own backyard.”