Says President's Policy Shift Threatens Israel's Existence

WASHINGTON, DC -- Rep. Vern Buchanan, R-Fla, condemned President Obama's announcement endorsing Palestinians' demand for their own state based on 1967 borders. Buchanan said this shift breaks with longstanding U.S. policy and jeopardizes the existence of the Jewish state.

"The borders of any Palestinian state should be determined through negotiations with Israel at the table, not announced in a presidential edict that gives away Israeli land as Palestinians continue to call for the destruction of Israel," Buchanan said. "In these days of danger and change, we must reaffirm the unbreakable bond we have forged with our most trusted ally in the Middle East."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also rejected President Obama's vision for a new Palestinian state calling it "indefensible" and saying "the viability of a Palestinian state cannot come at the expense of Israel's existence."

Conversely, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas welcomed President Obama's announcement by expressing "appreciation" for the President's policy shift. Two weeks ago, Abbas embraced a Palestinian "reconciliation" agreement with Hamas, a known terrorist group that rejects Israel's existence and accepts training and arms from Iran.

A Palestinian state based on 1967 borders refers to pre-war boundaries before Israel captured the West Bank in the 1967 Six-Day war. "Now, more than ever, we must prove through our actions not our words that Israel has our unwavering support," Buchanan said.