Madam Speaker, I

come to the floor today to speak about

the continuing Iranian threat to the

United States and Israel.

Just as the President of Iran continues

to spew his vile poison into the

civil discourse of the United Nations,

the regime of the Ayatollah issued a

threat of violent aggression 2 weeks

ago against Israel through the deputy

head of the armed forces.

Through its actions, Iran has proven

that it will never work with the peaceful

nations of the world community. In

fact, in yet another affront to diplomacy,

Iran recently offered to allow inspectors

from the IAEA into the country

only to refuse them entry into the

most important facilities to examine

those nuclear sites in dispute.

The threat of a nuclear-armed Iran is

not only a threat to Israel; it is also a

direct threat to the United States and

to the entire world community. Just

this week, the chief of the International

Atomic Energy Agency said

there were unspecified activities at an

Iranian military site which inspectors

wanted to visit.

The Iranian regime has publicly

threatened to close the Strait of

Hormuz, a major shipping route for

Middle Eastern nations to export oil

and supply the world’s energy needs.

This threat by Iran amounts to economic

warfare, as the closure of the

Strait of Hormuz would trigger spikes

in crude oil, gasoline bottlenecks in

the supply chain, increased prices for

all manufactured goods, and would

likely lead to massive increases for gas

here in the United States.

At a time when our domestic economy

is struggling to recover, the last

thing hardworking Americans need is

for gas prices to soar even higher.

While drastic reductions in the supply

of crude oil would be devastating to

the world economy, the threat of a theocratic,

unstable Iranian regime bent

on the destruction of Israel and its allies

is even worse. A nuclear Iran will

not care about economic sanctions. A

nuclear Iran will not care about diplomacy.

A nuclear Iran will not negotiate

in good faith. And a nuclear Iran

will not be a friend of the United

States.

Perhaps the greatest threat to peace

and security in the world is the refusal

to heed the warnings of the most violent

and dangerous regimes when they

tell us what their exact intentions are.

My hope is that it will not be a mistake

of this Nation, one that this Nation

makes with this regime in Tehran.

Again, my hope is that it will not be

our mistake not to pay attention to

the signals from the regime in Tehran.