Mr. Speaker, I rise

today out of great concern about the

Iranian nuclear threat. As dozens of

foreign leaders meet here in Washington

to stop the spread of nuclear

weapons, I am deeply worried that we

are allowing the greatest potential nuclear

threat in the world to go unchecked.

Iran has repeatedly threatened

to wipe Israel off the map. They

have threatened to destabilize the entire

Middle East and, with that, the entire

global community.

In his last visit to the United States,

former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel

Sharon said that a nuclear Iran ‘‘represents

as great a threat to the United

States, to Europe and to the entire

Middle East as it does to Israel.’’

The rest of the world should not expect

Israel to do its dirty work. I

agreed with that then. I agree with it

now.

If we want to avoid a nuclear Iran—

and I believe we must—and if we want

to ensure that Israel does not have to

take matters into its own hands, we

must immediately enact strong, effective

economic sanctions that make it

clear to Iran that we will not tolerate

this pursuit of nuclear weapons. The

alternative is simply unthinkable.

I look forward to passing a strong bipartisan/

bicameral sanctions bill so

that the President may sign this bill

into law as soon as possible.