Mr. Speaker,

45 years ago, President Kennedy

compelled the Soviet Union to remove

offensive missiles from Cuba without a

shot being fired. The Soviet missiles

represented a true threat, but President

Kennedy knew that the consequences

of war were severe and that

there was a viable option short of direct

military confrontation.

The Iranian threat, while certainly a

continuing and growing concern, cannot

be compared to the danger of Soviet

efforts during the Cold War. The

President’s perceived rush toward the

possibility of military conflict with

Iran highlights the executive’s inability

to find real solutions to preventing

Iran from developing nuclear weapons

or supplying weapons to our adversaries

in Iraq. We must exhaust every

economic and diplomatic opportunity

before even considering a military response.

This administration has reduced our

leverage around the world, but there is

still time to build an international

consensus around this issue. Congress

has a constitutional responsibility in

this debate. I hope Members will urge

the President to take the moral high

ground and deal with Iran through

international pressure, not unilateral

action.