Madam Speaker, even

as we stand here today, the centrifuges

continue to spin in Iran, and their illicit

nuclear weapons program forges

ahead.

Yet, they are more isolated today

than they have ever been. I commend

President Obama for his Executive

order freezing the assets of the Central

Bank of Iran and making it impossible

to do business both with Iran and with

the United States. I thank our Asian

allies for reducing purchases of crude

oil and slashing trade with Iran, and I

commend our European allies, as well,

for banning the import of Iranian

crude. The Iranian economy is in shambles.

As a result of these international

efforts, its currency is plummeting and

inflation is skyrocketing.

I urge my colleagues, our friends

across the way in the Senate, to pass

tighter sanctions still to tighten the

economic noose on the ayatollahs and

to force them to give up their illicit

nuclear ambitions. We must stand with

the Iranian people even as their human

rights are crushed by the Revolutionary

Guard. In their quest for democracy,

we stand with them. Our efforts

are paying off, Madam Speaker,

we cannot let up.