Mr. Speaker,

as the International Atomic Energy

Agency meets on Monday to determine

whether to refer Iran to the Security

Council, the United States must clearly

and firmly state its position on Iran.

Iran’s clandestine nuclear weapons

program has been in the works for the

past 2 decades. As a member of the Nuclear

Nonproliferation Treaty, all of

Iran’s nuclear activities must be constantly

monitored by the International

Atomic Energy Agency. Since 1987,

Iran has pursued a hidden nuclear program

in flagrant violation of its treaty

obligations.

Mr. Speaker, Iran’s actions over the

past 18 years are clearly directed toward

building a nuclear weapons capability.

Yet Iran calls upon the western

countries to trust Iranian intentions.

But how could we possibly do that, Mr.

Speaker? Iran claims its nuclear program

is intended only for peaceful purposes,

but that claim is simply not

credible.

Iran has the world’s second largest

proven natural gas reserves and huge

crude oil reserves as well. It is neither

cost effective nor expedient to develop

nuclear capabilities for Iran’s energy

needs.

The world must not be so naive in

this grave situation. We must look at

Iran’s past and present actions as the

most reliable indication of its true intent.

For years, since the early 1990s, Iran

has persistently stated its need for nuclear

weapon development. Its newly

elected president pledged that he will

continue to support Hezbollah’s struggle

against ‘‘the enemies of Islam.’’ He

has even vowed to reinforce Hezbollah;

and he announced just today, Mr.

Speaker, that his country is prepared

to provide nuclear technology to other

Islamic nations.

Mr. Speaker, the spiritual adviser to

and supporter of the president, Ayatollah

Misbah Yazdi, issued a call for

the public to join the swelling ranks of

Iran’s homegrown suicide bombers,

stating that ‘‘Suicide operations are

the peak of the nation and the height

of its bravery.’’ And President

Ahmadinejad himself has equated martyrdom

with art and made known his

ambition to spread his government’s

Islamic ideology to the world.

Mr. Speaker, the possibility of the regime

in Iran having indigenous nuclear

capability is a recipe for destruction

that is simply unthinkable, and we absolutely

must not make the cataclysmic

error of believing that those

now ruling in Iran have only peaceful

purposes in developing nuclear capabilities.

Iran attempts to allay international

concerns, pledging that its nuclear program

will be subject to inspection by

the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Yet this assurance is completely

unassuring when we put it in the context

of 18 years of unremitting deception

in the IAEA’s ineffectiveness. Iran

has violated its obligations and forfeited

its credibility.

On Sunday, Iran’s Foreign Minister

Mottaki warned that referral to the UN

Security Council would be a political

no-win situation with ‘‘certain consequences

affecting Iran’s decisions.’’

It is totally disingenuous for Iran to

appeal to the West’s conscience in this

regard. Iran has set on a course that it

has never wavered from, and it is seeking

only to buy time. Mr. Speaker, the

International Atomic Energy Agency

should refer Iran to the Security Council.

It goes unnoticed, Mr. Speaker, that

it is the Iranian people who are suffering

the most as a result of this radical

clerical regime. The people of Iran

should know that they have at least

this Nation’s unequivocal support to

take the stand that they have yearned

for for so many years. This support

should be stated openly, clearly, and

repeatedly.

Regardless of what the International

Atomic Energy Agency decides, United

Nations policy should be clear. It

should be articulated, and it should be

open support for the freedom-loving

people of Iran to establish a restored

Iran, an Iran that contributes to its

people and to the world, as it classically

has done. What is required, Mr.

Speaker, as Assad Homayoun has articulated,

is ‘‘legitimization through

recognition’’ and the people of Iran will

rightfully have the resolve and recourse

to establish a government by

the people and for the people. This is a

day we all should look forward to with

gratitude to the good people of Iran.

Mr. Speaker, as the International Atomic Energy

Agency meets to determine in the next

days whether to refer Iran to the Security

Council, the United States must clearly—and

firmly—state its position on Iran.

Iran’s clandestine nuclear weapons program

has been in the works for the past two decades.

As a member of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation

Treaty, all of Iran’s nuclear activities

are treaty-bound to be constantly safeguarded

by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Since 1987, Iran has pursued a hidden nuclear

program in flagrant violation of its obligations

under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation

Treaty.

Iran’s actions over the past 18 years are

clearly directed toward building a nuclear

weapons capability. The Iranians have already

built a pilot uranium enrichment facility and are

currently completing a huge facility capable of

producing enough highly enriched uranium to

produce forty nuclear weapons per year.

Iran has secretly imported 18 tons of uranium

yellowcake from China and constructed

a conversion facility to produce uranium

hexafluoride gas for enrichment.

Iran has also experimented with separating

plutonium, and are presently building a heavy

water reactor.

Further, it has now been reported that Iran

has experimented with polonium. Polonium is

a radioactive isotope with only one principal

use: to trigger a nuclear explosion.

Further, Mr. Speaker, analysis by the U.S.

Department of State released as of August

2005 states that ‘‘the United States believes

that Iran has manufactured and stockpiled

blister, blood, and choking chemical agents,

and weaponized some of these agents into artillery

shells, mortars, rockets and aerial

bombs in contravention to the Chemical

Weapons Convention.

In July, Iran announced that it succeeded in

developing solid fuel technology for ballistic

missiles, which can be launched with almost

no warning, far more quickly and reliably and

with greater accuracy than those with liquid

fuel.

In August, Iran resumed converting uranium

to gaseous state. This is a step that precedes

enrichment which then can produce nuclear

material usable both as fuel in nuclear reactors

and as material for an atomic bomb.

Mr. Speaker, Iran calls upon the Western

countries to trust Iranian intentions, but how

could we possibly do that?

Iran’s claim is that its nuclear program is intended

for peaceful purposes only—to

produce electricity. That claim is simply not

credible. Iran has the world’s second largest

proven reserves of natural gas, along with

huge crude oil reserves. It is neither cost effective

nor expedient to develop nuclear capabilities

for Iran’s energy needs.

The world must not be so naive in this

grave situation—we must look at Iran’s past

and present actions. They are the most reliable

indications of its true intent.

For years—since the early 1990’s, Iran has

persistently maintained the need for nuclear

weapon development. Ali Akbar Hashemi-

Rafsanjani, who some hail as a ‘‘moderate’’,

has repeatedly stated that nuclear development

was a ‘‘necessity.’’ Rafsanjani has also

stated that ‘‘If a day comes when the world of

Islam is duly equipped with the arms Israel

has in possession, the strategy of colonialism

would face a stalemate because application of

an atomic bomb would not leave any thing in

Israel but the same thing would just produce

damages in the Muslim world.’’ What frightening

words.

Iran is in violation of numerous treaties—

and continues its patterns of deceit. Iran is trying

to create a Euro dominated exchange of

oil, and has a strategic economic relationship

with China.

Iran suppresses its people with the harshest

and most brutal kind of treatment. Just last

Tuesday, September 6th, prosecutors’ offices

in provincial centers announced that ‘‘Women

who violate Iran’s strict Islamic dress code will

be flogged immediately’’—they will appear before

an Islamic judge immediately after arrest

to receive a sentence, which is usually 100

lashes in public.

Its newly elected President Mahmoud

Ahmadinejad pledged that he will continue to

support Hezbollah’s struggle against the ‘‘enemies

of Islam.’’ He has even more recently

vowed to reinforce Hezbollah.

And, Mr. Speaker, the spiritual advisor to

and supporter of President Ahmadinejad,

Ayatoilah Misbah Yazdi, has issued a call in

an Iranian newspaper for the public to join the

swelling ranks of Iran’s homegrown suicide

bombers, stating that ‘‘Suicide operations are

the peak of the nation, and the height of its

bravery.’’ And President Ahmadinejad himself

has stated that ‘‘Is there art that is more beautiful,

more divine, and more eternal than the

art of martyrdom?’’ The Iranian President has

said that his ambition was to spread his government’s

Islamist ideology to the world.

Mr. Speaker, the possibility of the regime in

Iran having indigenous nuclear capability is a

recipe for destruction that is unthinkable. And

we absolutely must not make the cataclysmic

error of believing that those now ruling in Iran

have only peaceful purposes in developing nuclear

capabilities.

Mr. Speaker, Iran is attempting to allay

international concerns, pledging that its nuclear

program will be subject to inspection by

the International Atomic Energy Agency. Yet

this assurance is completely unassuring when

put in the context of 18 years of unremitting

deception, and the IAEA’s ineffectiveness. Iran

has violated its obligations and forfeited its

credibility. We must not allow this defiant

threat to the world to pass by unnoticed. The

IAEA should refer Iran to the Security Council.

The world cannot allow the current ruling regime

of Iran to obtain and develop indigenous

nuclear capability.

It goes unnoticed, Mr. Speaker, that it is the

Iranian people who are suffering the most as

a result of this radical clerical regime. It seems

all too possible that Iran wishes to develop nuclear

capability to stifle international support

for an Iranian popular revolt as much, and

possibly more so, than to counter an Israeli

nuclear ‘‘threat’’. The people of Iran should

know that they have this nation’s support—unequivocal

support to take the stand that they

have yearned for, for so many years. This

support should be stated openly, clearly, and

repeatedly.

Regardless of what the IAEA determines—

Security Council or not, United States’ policy

should be clear, articulated support for the

freedom-loving people of Iran to establish a

restored Iran, an Iran that contributes to its

people and the world, as it classically has

done.

What is required, Mr. Speaker, as Dr. Assad

Homayoun the President of the Azadegan

Foundation has articulated, is ‘‘legitimization

through recognition’’ and the people of Iran

will rightfully have the resolve and recourse to

establish a government—by the people and

for the people. That is a day we should all

look forward to, with gratitude to the good

people of Iran.