Mr. Speaker, our American

body politic is turning to a renewed

examination of Iran, its government,

and our relations with that

country. It has become an important

member of the OPEC oil-producing cartel.

Iran is also a state sponsor of terrorism

and a leading voice for one part

of Shia Islam.

Recently, Iran elected a new president,

a leader who replaced a moderate

but ineffectual office holder who had

presented Iran in a softer light, hiding

a continuing policy of supporting terror

and a nuclear program largely hidden

from the view of the Nuclear Nonproliferation

Treaty that Iran signed

and the U.N. inspectors who enforced

it.

Iran’s new president, Mahmoud

Ahmadinejad, has presented an entirely

new face for the government of

Iran. We have heard various quotes by

the Iranian president in news media

sources, but nowhere have all of President

Ahmadinejad’s statements on key

topics been presented in one place for a

review by the American public and our

allies. Recently, I asked the Congressional

Research Service to compile a

list entitled ‘‘Ahmadinejad In His Own

Words’’ and I present it to the House

today. History can be a very good guide

in informing us on the direction of

countries, of movements of dictators.

When we are well informed, we may see

the warning signs of dangers ahead so

that the American people, our government,

and our allies can respond with

the most effective and least costly

policies to avoid a coming danger. Our

past teaches us that we failed to see

the coming danger from Germany and

Japan, and that mistake led us into a

very costly Second World War. Conversely,

President Truman saw the

threat of the Soviet Union, and his response,

including the Marshall Plan,

the Voice of America, and NATO,

helped the United States avoid a third

and costly world war.

Our lessons teach us that tyrants or

would-be tyrants often tell us what

they are going to do long before they

do it. And if we listen, if we truly listen,

then the warnings that we are

given can move us to action to avert a

humanitarian crisis or even a future

war involving the United States or our

allies. President Ahmadinejad has been

prolific on the subject of Israel, of

Jews, and of the Holocaust.

And who is this new president of

Iran? Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was born

in Garmsar, southeast of Tehran in

1956. He is the fourth son of an Iranian

iron worker who had seven children. He

and his family migrated to Tehran

when he was one year old. He got his

diploma and was admitted to the University

of Science and Technology in

the field of civil engineering, where he

ranked 130th among nationwide university

entrance exams in 1975. He was accepted

as an MS student at that same

university and in 1986 got his doctorate

in the field of engineering and traffic

transportation and planning.

Following the 1979 Iranian revolution,

he became a member of the ultraconservative

faction of the Office for

Strengthening Unity. Between universities

and theological seminaries, the

OSU was established by Ayatollah Mohammad

Beheshti, one of Khomeini’s

key collaborators, to organize Islamist

students against the rapidly growing

Mojahedin-e Khalq. When the idea of

storming the American embassy in

Tehran was raised by Ahmadinejad’s

OSU, he also suggested storming the

Soviet embassy as well.

With the start of Iraq’s war against

Iran in 1980, Ahmadinejad rushed to the

western fronts to fight against the

enemy, and he volunteered to join the

special forces of the Islamic Revolution’s

Guard Force in 1986. He served in

the Revolution Guards Corps in intelligence

and security operation.

Ahmadinejad was a senior officer in

the Special Brigade of Revolutionary

Guards stationed at the Ramazan Garrison

near Kermanshah in western

Iran. It was there at his headquarters

of the Revolutionary Guards’

extraterritorial operations that he

helped mount attacks on Iran’s borders.

His work in the Revolutionary

Guards was related to the suppression

of dissidents in Iran and abroad, and he

personally participated in covert operations

in Iraq around the city of

Kirkuk.

With the formation of the elite Qods,

Jerusalem, Force of the Iranian Revolutionary

Guards, Ahmadinejad became

one of its senior commanders. He directed

assassinations in the Middle

East and Europe, including the assassination

of Iranian Kurdish leader

Abdorrahman Qassemlou, who was shot

dead by senior officers of the Revolutionary

Guards at a Vienna apartment

in July of 1989. Ahmadinejad was a key

planner of that murder. He also is reported

to have been involved in planning

an attempt to assassinate author

Salman Rushdie.

Ahmadinejad served as a governor of

Maku and Khoy cities in the northwestern

West Azarbaijan province for 4

years in the 1980s, and he was an adviser

to the governor general of the

western province of Kurdistan for 2

years. While serving as a cultural adviser

to then Ministry of Culture and

Higher Education in 1983, he was appointed

as governor general of the

newly established province of Ardebil.

He was elected as the exemplary governor

general for three consecutive

years, but in 1997 the newly installed

Khatami moderate administration removed

Ahmadinejad from his post as a

governor general.

Ahmadinejad returned to university

to teach in 1997, and there he also became

involved in the cultural and political

work of Ansar-i Hizbullah, the

Followers of the Party of God, a violent

Islamic vigilante group.

In April of 2003, Ahmadinejad was appointed

the mayor of Tehran by the

capital’s municipal council, dominated

by hard-line Islamic Iran Developers

Coalition. As mayor, he reversed many

of the policies of previous moderate

and reformist mayors, placing serious

and religious emphasis on the activities

of cultural centers, turning them

into prayer halls. He also closed fastfood

restaurants and required all male

employees to have beards and wear

long sleeves. He instituted the separation

of elevators for men and women in

municipal offices and also suggested

the burial of bodies of the martyrs of

the Iran-Iraq war in the major city

squares of his capital, Tehran.

Ahmadinejad was also a member of

the hard-line Islamic Revolution Devotees’

Society. While they endorsed another

candidate in the 2005 election, it

was Ahmadinejad that emerged out of

that flawed process, for it was during

the elections in 2005 in Iran that thousands

of moderate candidates were

knocked off the ballot by Iran’s ruling

council of clerics. As one of the candidates

still allowed to be on the ballot,

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad won the

presidency on June 24, 2005.

Now, since being elected the president

of Iran, Ahmadinejad has left no  
doubt about his views on Jews, Israel,

and the Holocaust. On October 25, 2005,

in advance of Iran’s Jerusalem Day, established

by Ayatollah Khomeini, he

wrote at a conference for the Society

Defense of the Palestinian Nation and

Islamic Students Union. In his speech,

he described his vision for an age-old

confrontation between the world of

Islam and, as he put it, the world of arrogance,

that is the West, portraying

Israel and Zionism as the spearhead of

the West against the Islamic nation.

He emphasized in that speech the

need to eliminate Israel, which he said

was an attainable goal. He delivered

this speech before several representatives

of Hezbollah and its leader, Hassan

Nasrallah, and Hamas leader

Khaled Mash’al.

Speaking to a student conference entitled,

‘‘A World Without Zionism,’’

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad stated: ‘‘Very

soon this stain that is Israel will vanish

from the center of the Islamic

world, and that is attainable. The people

who sit in closed rooms cannot decide

this matter. The Islamic people

cannot allow this historic enemy to

exist in the heart of the Islamic world.

I hope that Palestinians will maintain

their wariness and intelligence, much

as they have pursued their battles in

the last 10 years. This will be a brief

period, and if we pass through it successfully,

the process of eliminating

the Zionist regime will be smooth and

simple.

‘‘Our dear Imam Khomeini ordered

that the occupying regime in Jerusalem

be wiped off the face of the

earth. This was a very wise statement.’’

On April 15, 2006, at the opening of a

conference on supporting Palestinians

he said, ‘‘Like it or not, the Zionist regime

is headed towards annihilation.’’

On April 27, 2006, he stated in a

speech in the western Iranian town of

Zanjan, carried on live state television,

‘‘The regime in Israel will one day vanish.’’

On May 11, 2006, in a reference to

Israel, in a speech to students and instructors

at the University of Jakarta,

‘‘I advise all of you to pack up and

move out of the region before being

caught in the fire they have started in

Lebanon.’’

On July 8, 2006, speaking to regional

officials at the opening of a two-day

conference in Tehran on the security of

Iraq he said, ‘‘The basic problem in the

Islamic world is the existence of the

Zionist regime, and the Islamic world

and the region must mobilize to remove

this problem.’’

On July 29, 2006, during an emergency

meeting with Muslim leaders he said,

‘‘The real cure for the Lebanon conflict

is the elimination of the Zionist regime,

but there should be first an immediate

cease-fire.’’

On August 3, 2006, in a speech before

the Organization of the Islamic Conference,

to Presidents and Prime Ministers

and policymakers of 17 Muslimmajority

nations in Malaysia, a major

international conference, he said, ‘‘The

Zionist regime is fraudulent and illegitimate

and cannot survive.’’

On October 19, 2006, speaking to

crowds of people in Islamshahr, southwest

of Tehran, he said, ‘‘The regime in

Israel will be gone, definitely. You,’’

the western powers, ‘‘should know that

any government that stands by the Zionist

regime from now on will not see

any result but the hatred of people.’’

Earlier this year Congressman STEVE

ISRAEL and I had lunch with Iran’s Ambassador

to the United Nations in New

York. After a businesslike 20-minute

discussion, the Ambassador for the Islamic

Republic of Iran entered into a

30-minute monologue on how he believed

the Holocaust in Europe had not

happened.

After about half an hour I interrupted

the Ambassador and told him I

was surprised that he used our time to

discuss the Iranian nuclear nonproliferation

commitment, under a

treaty that Iran had signed, to instead

discuss issues: number one, of which

there was no significant debate about

the Holocaust occurring; number two,

on events happening over half a century

ago; and number three, all occurring

outside Iran.

Iran’s Ambassador said that his

President had ordered him to deny the

Holocaust. It was no accident. And on

several occasions, we have seen President

Ahmadinejad has tried to convince

his people that indeed there was

no Holocaust.

On December 1, 2005, in a speech to

thousands in the southeastern city of

Zahedan in southeastern Sistan va Baluchistan

Province, and this was carried

on Iranian television, he said,

‘‘Today, the Europeans have created a

myth in the name of Holocaust and

consider it to be above God, religion

and the prophets. If you committed

this big crime, then why should the oppressed

Palestinian people pay the

price? This is our proposal: If you committed

the crime, then give part of

your own land in Europe, the United

States, Canada or Alaska to them so

the Jews can establish their country.’’

On April 24, 2006, at a press conference

in Tehran, he said, ‘‘Every German-

born is indebted to the arrogant

and greedy Zionists. Sixty years after

the war, why do the Palestinians have

to burn in the crimes of Zionists under

the pretext of the Second World War.’’

And on December 8, 2005, speaking at

a press conference on the sidelines of

an Organization of the Islamic Conference

antiterrorism summit in

Mecca, Saudi Arabia, he said, ‘‘Today,

they have created a myth in the name

of the Holocaust and consider it to be

above God, religion and the prophets. If

you,’’ Europeans ‘‘committed this big

crime, then why should the oppressed

Palestinian nation pay the price? You

should pay the compensation yourself.

This is our proposal: Give a part of

your own land in Europe, the United

States, Canada or Alaska to them so

that the Jews can establish their country.’’

This is President Ahmadinejad in his

own words that I place before the

House, all accurately translated and

provided in one place by the Congressional

Research Service to present

clearly a rising danger to our allies in

Israel and to the West in general.

Tomorrow we will see the results of

the bipartisan Iraq Study Group report.

This report is the work of serious

men and women. It will lay out well

thought out proposals for the United

States in the Middle East.

One proposal that it may contain is

to increase our dialogue with Iran. Now

we should always talk with every country

and every leader, but we should

have this dialogue with Iran in an informed

way so our discussion is clearly

led by knowing with whom we are

speaking. We should not begin our dialogue

with Iran from a position of ignorance

as to what the president of Iran

has already said to large crowds in published

works and on their national television.

What I have laid before the House

this afternoon is Ahmadinejad in his

own words, so that as we begin a new

phase of U.S. relations in the Middle

East, we begin by learning more and

knowing about this man and what he

believes and what he thinks he must do

to the world.

I was looking briefly at a recently

translated quote by another leader who

said, ‘‘Why does the world shed crocodile

tears over the richly merited fate

of the small Jewish minority? What

has happened to the conscience of the

world when millions in Germany are

suffering from hunger and misery? I

ask the American people: Are you prepared

to receive in your midst these

well-poisoners of people and the universal

spirit of Christianity?’’

It may sound like a recent speech

from President Ahmadinejad. It was

actually the works of Adolf Hitler published

in the magazine Staatszeitung.

Looking at these words, we have an

eerie echo of the past, but potentially a

warning of the future. I lay them before

the House today so we see them all

clearly for who this leader is, what he

has stated publicly, and where he

would like to take his Nation and its

relation with his neighbors in the Middle

East.

I want to thank Peter Black, senior

historian for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial

Museum, and Greta Stults and

Harold Edinger for their help in these

translations.

With that, we have laid

Ahmadinejad, in his own words, before

the House on this very special week for

U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East.