Mr. Speaker, war

with Iran is not inevitable if the U.S. is

ready to lead the way with honest, patient

negotiations. However, this administration

seems intent on war with

Iran. The administration is ignoring

any diplomatic initiatives which could

set the stage for talks to end the confrontation

and the escalation.

The administration is seeking to isolate

Iran from the international community

and threatens to punish nations

which try to intervene to end the

crisis. The administration is ratcheting

up fears in Europe over a first strike

nuclear capability, which Iran does not

have.

Dozens of Members of Congress have

now signed a letter to the President

urging the United States to open up

talks with Iran. Foreign policy experts

such as Henry Kissinger, Zbigniew

Brzezinski and Madeleine Albright are

urging negotiations.

President Kennedy once said in his

inaugural, ‘‘We should not negotiate

out of fear, but we should never fear to

negotiate.’’ We must make a new beginning

and begin talks with Iran. War

is not inevitable. Peace is inevitable, if

we are ready to work for it.