Madam Speaker, I’d

like to thank President Obama for his

considered judgment in the matter of

Syria, and for not headstrong rushing

the United States to military action.

I thank him for his consultations

with Members of Congress in both

Chambers, and for allowing the American

people time to express their views.

We must all weigh the consequences

and repercussions of unilateral U.S. action.

As the world’s greatest military

power, we must employ our power wisely,

and only with good measure. I have

every confidence that our U.S. military

can perform any task to which they are

ordered successfully, and we owe them

our deepest respect and gratitude.

I also want to thank and acknowledge

the government of Russia for

early reports we are learning about regarding

discussions under way to rid

Syria of weapons caches of danger both

to Syria as well as our global community.

Both Russia and the United States,

as the world’s premier nuclear powers,

hold awesome responsibilities to move

our world to a more peaceful and stable

posture. Surely, we must focus that effort

on the very unstable set of states

across the Middle East.

Russia and our country both have

suffered from terrorist attacks and

well understand the consequences of

unresolved conflict and terrorists preying

on unstable states.

My hope is that the Russian initiative

gains momentum. And let all nations

of goodwill on our globe find a

way forward to address the tragic consequences

of the Syrian civil war,

starting with greater humanitarian assistance

to refugees that have flowed

into adjoining nations like Jordan and

Lebanon and Turkey, straining some of

those nations’ abilities to even hold

their own internal affairs together.

Surely, our world can better address

the human suffering that is evident to

anyone who’s paying attention. Surely,

surely, all reasonable world leaders can

find a better way forward for Syria and

for us all.