Mr. Speaker, out

of a sense of duty and a growing fear, I

rise to say that I hear the drumbeats of

war coming again from this administration.

This time, Iran is in the crosshairs.

It’s ironic that the alarm has sounded

today, the birth date of Mahatma

Gandhi, and the United Nation’s first

World Nonviolence Day in honor of

Gandhi’s commitment to peace.

Perhaps the contrast between the

man of peace and an administration of

war will underscore the need and the

urgency for Congress to act before the

President orders a military strike.

I listened and sounded the alarm in

2002 regarding Iraq. But the President

and the Vice President had already set

in motion their invasion plan, and

those who got in the way were called

unpatriotic and uncaring or worse.

Back then, too many in the media, the

Congress and across the Nation were

willing to accept a war without justification

or justice. Now, at least the

American people overwhelmingly recognize

the tragic consequences of the

Iraq war and the occupation.

At least one development in 2008 may

make this time different than 2002. The

Internet has grown exponentially.

Today, credible and factual information

is readily available. The

blogosphere is on fire sounding alarm,

and we will have no one to blame except

ourselves if we let this administration

take us to war in Iran. Go to

your computer and Google ‘‘Iran war.’’

The search yields 74 million hits. Let

me read a few of the top search results:

Day One: ‘‘The War with Iran.’’

‘‘Iran: The next war,’’ in the Rolling

Stone.

‘‘America’s hidden war with Iran,’’

Newsweek.

‘‘Is U.S.-Iran war inevitable?’’ Time

magazine.

‘‘The Iran plans,’’ the New Yorker.

And ‘‘The U.S. trains gulf Air Forces

for war against Iran.’’

Some see the same signs as I do, and

they are writing across a broad spectrum

of the media, trying to be heard

above the beats of war. However, the

President and Vice President are using

friendly fire from the right-wing media

to lull the Americans to sleep, while

they lay the groundwork and shop for a

Gulf of Tonkin-like provocation to

launch a military strike.

Journalist Tim Shipman of the Telegraph

in London writes ‘‘American diplomats

have been ordered to compile a

dossier detailing Iran’s violations of

international law. Some U.S. diplomats

believe the exercise will boost calls for

military action by neoconservatives inside

and outside the administration.’’

In the New Yorker, renowned journalist

Seymour Hirsh says, ‘‘The revised

bombing plan for a possible attack,

with its tightened focus on counterterrorism,

is gathering support

among generals and admirals in the

Pentagon.

Hirsch adds, ‘‘A Pentagon consultant

on counterterrorism told me that, if

the bombing campaign took place, it

would be accompanied by a series of

what are called short, sharp incursions

by American special forces into suspected

Iranian training camps. Cheney

is devoted to this, no question.’’

Now, does that sound like a diplomatic

solution to you?

For at least a year we’ve been lulled

into believing that the administration

cannot fool the American people again.

But I say this is just the kind of wishful

thinking this administration is hoping

for. It gives them time to spin the

rhetoric and plot the missile tracks

into Iran.

We stand on the brink of a conflagration

in the Middle East, spreading from

Iraq to Iran, to Pakistan and Afghanistan

and the entire region. The legacy

of this administration could be wars

without ends and wars without borders.

Waiting for the next election may be

too late; 475 days is a long time.

As a medical doctor, I was trained to

listen to the patient. I’ve been listening

to this President, and he’s telling

us that Iran is his next military target.

Congress is all that stands in the way

of this President carrying out a bombing

strike of how many sources, how

many sites we don’t know. And I urge

the House to act before it is too late.

We need a resolution that requires

the President to come back to the Congress

before any act of war is taken

against Iran.