Mr. Speaker, I rise

today to address Iran’s growing threat

to our allies in the Middle East and to

America’s national interests.

The Iranian president recently said

Israel should be ‘‘wiped off the map.’’

This malicious language must not be

ignored, especially considering Iran’s

long-standing support for terrorist

groups like Hezbollah, and its unlawful

nuclear ambitions.

Terrorist groups supported by Iran

are operating today in Gaza, the West

Bank, and Iraq, undermining the region’s

quest for democracy and threatening

the lives of innocent civilians.

Iran’s radical government seeks to

develop nuclear weapons. If Iran gains

nuclear capabilities, millions of innocent

Israelis, as well as our allies in

the Middle East, will be jeopardized

and our hopes for Middle East peace

will be lost.

Mr. Speaker, we must not abandon

Israel, leaving them to stand alone

against this imminent threat. The

United States must lead, with our allies,

in eliminating Iran’s support for

terrorist groups and requiring Iran to

fulfill nuclear nonproliferation agreements.