Mr. Speaker, I yield

myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend

the gentleman from New Jersey

(Mr. MENENDEZ) for introducing this

measure and moving it through the

committee, and I thank the ranking

minority member, the gentleman from

Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON) for his cooperation.

I am pleased to support the bill,

which amends current law to ensure

that the United States does not provide

funding for the completion of nuclear

power reactors in Iran. We all know

that the Iranians have dedicated significant

resources to completing at

least three nuclear power plants by the

year 2015, and are now at work, with

Russian assistance, to complete the

Bushehr nuclear power plant.

Our Nation is opposed to completion

of the reactors of the Bushehr facility

because the transfer of civilian nuclear

technology and training would help to

advance Iran’s nuclear weapons program.

Between 1995 and 1999 it is anticipated

that the International Atomic

Energy Agency, IAEA, will have provided

over $1.5 million to the Iranian

nuclear power program through its

Technical Assistance and Cooperation

Fund.

Our Nation provides annual voluntary

contributions to that fund, totaling

$16 million in 1996. This legislation

does not halt our voluntary contributions

to the IAEA, but it does require

that none of our funds may be

used to fund IAEA programs and

projects in Iran.

That is exactly the right policy. Our

Nation should not voluntarily provide

any funding which would help Iran

complete nuclear power reactors that

could assist them in developing a nuclear

weapons program which could

pose a threat to our Nation or to our

allies.

This measure also establishes two

important reporting requirements. One

would provide the Congress with a

comprehensive report on IAEA assistance

to Iran. The second requirement

would direct the Secretary of State to

review IAEA programs, and ensures

that they are consistent with our

United States nuclear nonproliferation

and safety goals. Based on that review,

the Secretary shall direct the U.S. representative

to IAEA to oppose establishing

any program that is not consistent

with U.S. policy.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I urge my

colleagues to fully support this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of

my time.

Mr. Speaker, I yield

myself such time as I may consume.

I want to commend the gentleman

from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) again

for pointing out some of the pertinent

aspects of this measure. I would like to

remind the ranking minority member,

the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON),

that what we are doing is merely

to restore the policy that we had

prior to 1993 and up to 1993, to make

certain that we withhold any funding

based on any violation of the prior

agreements.

I would also like to note for our colleagues

that last year before the Subcommittee

on Near Eastern and South

Asian Affairs in the Senate Committee

on Foreign Relations, the former Director

of Central Intelligence, Mr.

Woolsey, stated that through the operation

of the nuclear power reactor at

the Bushehr nuclear power Plant, Iran

will develop substantial expertise relevant

to the development of nuclear

weapons.

I would also like to note that the

construction of the Bushehr nuclear

power plant had initially been halted

back in 1979 because the former West

Germany refused to assist in the completion

of the plant, due to concerns

that the completion of the plant would

provide Iran with expertise and technology

which could advance Iran’s nuclear

weapons program.

We are all aware of the recent testing

by Iran of a long range missile, missiles

that could reach more than 800

miles, an 800-mile range, and be able to

hit strategic targets throughout the

Middle East, particularly Israel, at a

time when we are trying to bring peace

to that region.

In closing my argument, I would just

like to urge our colleagues to fully support

the Menendez measure that is before

us now, in the interest of peace

throughout that part of the world and

throughout the entire world, because

they say that eventually long range

missiles being developed by Iran could

reach the entire European continent

and possibly our own shoreline in the

future.

I urge full support for this measure.