Madam Speaker, anyone

following the news knows that tension

is growing in our relations with Iran.

But as we consider our response to this

situation, let us be clear about where

the problem lies.

The problem is with the radical new

leadership of Iran, President Mahmoud

Ahmadinejad, and his extremist regime.

It is not with the good people of

Iran, who have shown openness to freedom

and moderation.

Historically, Iran has been a center

of culture and civilization. Millions of

Iranians still value these things and

seek a future with greater freedom and

individual liberty. We must be reaching

out to these people through diplomacy,

person-to-person diplomacy and

other ways to encourage their desire

for freedom.

The idea of nuclear weapons falling

into the hands of a leader who calls the

Holocaust a myth and openly says

Israel should be wiped off the map is

unthinkable and must be addressed.

But the best way to do that is through

reaching out to the moderate people of

Iran who want better for their country

than the current regime, not through

military action.