Mr. Speaker, I rise

today because I fear that lost amidst

the controversy surrounding recent

statements on the Israel-Palestinian

peace process, lost amidst the hopeful

events of the Arab Spring, and lost

amidst Syrian sanctions and military

action in Libya, lies the real and greatest

threat to the entire region: a nuclear

Iran.

As we debate the trajectory of America’s

policy in the Middle East, we

must never forget that as we speak,

Iran is hurtling toward a nuclear weapon.

A nuclear Iran would destabilize

the entire region, upend the nuclear

nonproliferation treaty, set off an arms

race, and expose our closest friend and

ally, Israel, to grave danger. The

threat is real. As Prime Minister

Netanyahu noted yesterday morning,

they could put a bomb anywhere: on a

missile, a ship, in a suitcase, or on a

subway.

Last year we implemented strong

sanctions against Iran, but more must

be done to close loopholes, ensure enforcement,

and take additional steps to

stop a nuclear Iran. No matter the

challenges that arise in the Middle

East, we must never lose sight of the

most dangerous threat of all, a nuclear

armed Iran.