Mr. President, as the ranking member of the Senate

Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs,

I want to express my deep concern about recent developments in Iran.

Today, the International Atomic Energy Agency is meeting to discuss a

proper response to findings that Iran has failed to disclose many

nuclear related activities in violation of the Non-Proliferation

Treaty. This is a serious issue. There is no doubt that Iran is in

violation of its commitments under the NPT. The IAEA Board of Governors

must insist that Iran come into complete compliance with its

obligations, disclose all information about its nuclear program, and

allow unrestricted access to IAEA inspectors. Given the high degree of

enriched uranium found in Iran--weapons grade uranium--and yesterday's

statement from Iran indicating that it planned to resume enrichment,

this matter should immediately be referred to the United Nations

Security Council for further action.

I am also deeply troubled by Iran's terribly flawed elections of

February 20. The people of Iran deserve our support and they deserve

true democratic reform. We cannot turn our backs on the people of Iran

because its political leadership has failed them. There are an

estimated 700,000 Iranian Americans living in California who are so

hopeful for democratic change in their homeland. The election of

February 20 was clearly a step in the wrong direction.

On February 12, the Senate passed an important resolution, S. Res.

304, that was submitted that same day by Senator Brownback. Denouncing

the elections as harmful for true democratic forces in Iran, the

resolution stated that the policy of the United States should be to

advocate a democratic government in Iran that will restore freedom to

the people of Iran, abandon terrorism, protect human rights, and live

in peace and security with the international community. I fully agree.

I hope that the Iranian people know that they have the support of the

Senate as they aspire for the freedom denied them by the current

Iranian regime.