I’m pleased to send warm greetings to the

people of Iran and to welcome you to the

new Radio Farda broadcast.

For many years, the United States has

helped bring news and cultural broadcasts

for a few hours every day to the Iranian people

via Radio Freedom. Yet the Iranian people

tell us that more broadcasting is needed,

because the unelected few who control the

Iranian Government continue to place severe

restrictions on access to uncensored information.

So we are now making our broadcast

available to more Iranians by airing news and

music and cultural programs nearly 24 hours

a day, and we are pleased to continue Voice

of America and VOA TV services to Iran.

The people of Iran want to build a freer,

more prosperous country for their children

and live in a country that is a full partner

in the international community. Iranians also

deserve a free press to express themselves

to help build an open, democratic, and free

society.

My thoughts and prayers are with the Iranian

people, particularly the families of the

many Iranians who are in prison today for

daring to express their hopes and dreams for

a better future. We continue to stand with

the people of Iran in your quest for freedom,

prosperity, honest and effective government,

judicial due process, and the rule of law. And

we continue to call on the Government of

Iran to respect the will of its people and be

accountable to them.

As I have said before, if Iran respects its

international obligations and embraces freedom

and tolerance, it will have no better

friend than the United States of America.

Best wishes for a bright future filled with

knowledge and information and freedom.