Mr. President,

yesterday, Iranian President Mahmoud

Ahmadinejad, citing the words of the

founder of Iran’s Islamic revolution,

the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini,

said

He then went on to call Israel a

He rejected the two-state solution to

the Middle East crisis as a defeat for

the Islamic world, adding that the

‘‘roadmap’’ would be short-lived. He

said

The Iranian President also criticized

his neighbors by warning ‘‘Anybody

who recognizes Israel will burn in the

fire of the Islamic nations’ fury.’’

He made these despicable comments

to 4,000 students attending a ‘‘World

without Zionism’’ conference.

This was just hours before a Palestinian

suicide bomber from Islamic

Jihad blew himself up in the small

Israeli town of Hadera, killing 5 people

and wounding more than 30.

It’s important to note that Islamic

Jihad’s murderers are supported and

trained by Iran.

Given the seriousness of President

Ahmadinejad’s hateful comments, I am

submitting a resolution with Senator

SMITH asking that this body repudiate

them.

The resolution also calls on President

Bush, on behalf of the United

States, to condemn the remarks in the

strongest terms possible.

This kind of incendiary rhetoric is

what we have come to expect from

Iran.

The Iranian President has been quite

open about his views on Israel. He has

been clear and consistent, echoing Iranian

leader Ayatollah Khomeini, who

called frequently for the destruction of

Israel through the 1980s.

The words and ideas of the President

of Iran are offensive to civilized people

around the world. We will not tolerate

anti-Israel or anti- Semitic rhetoric.

The Iranian President has spoken

words that are certain to incite violence

against the state of Israel. Too

often, that translates into violence

against Jews worldwide.

But what makes the comments especially

chilling is the fact that Iranian

officials announced earlier this year

that they had completed development

of solid fuel technology for missiles, a

huge breakthrough that increases missile

accuracy.

Iran has the Shahab-3 missile, which

has a range of 810 miles to more than

1,200 miles. Jerusalem is 970 miles from

Tehran.

The Shahab-3 is capable of deliverinq

a nuclear warhead to Israel and to U.S.

forces in the Middle East.

So when the Iranian President

threatens to ‘‘wipe Israel off the map,’’

we can’t afford to take such a threat

lightly. We have to take note of it and

repudiate it.

I urge the Senate to adopt this resolution

and go on record condemning

the hateful words of the Iranian President.

And I hope that President Bush

himself will speak to this issue. It’s

that important.

I want to thank Senator SMITH for

co-sponsoring this resolution with me.

I urge its adoption.