Mr. President, I want

to move on to what I intended to talk

about today, and that is Iran.

I will not speak that long.

I think it is important to respond to

the outrageous comments made by the

Government of Iran this week and this

latest stunt by the despotic Iranian regime

that said: The United States may

have the power to cause harm and pain,

but it is also susceptible to harm and

pain. If the United States wishes to

choose that path, let the ball roll.

First, there is a method to this madness.

There is a method to this, with

what this regime needs and is seeking

to do. It needs crisis. It needs to raise

the level of tension to justify its own

increased militarization in the harsh

security measures at home. That is

what it is intending to do.

On the other hand, we have to take

them at their threat, at their word. If

they are threatening the United

States, take them at their word. Hitler

told us in ‘‘Mien Kampf’’ what he was

going to do. We did not listen, and

there was a terrible price to be paid.

The Iranian mullahs and the President

are telling us they intend to destroy

Israel. They are very clear that

they are on a path to obtain nuclear

weapons. We know it. Let’s take them

at their word. Let’s say: Yes, this is

what you want to do, we know it, and

we will not let you do it.

When the President of Iran issued the

first threat about the destruction of

Israel, behind him was a huge banner,

with good graphics. It was a big hourglass.

The hourglass ball is dropping.

That glass ball, which is very fragile, is

Israel, about to be destroyed. But if

you look very closely on the floor, already

destroyed is the USA. That is

their intention, what they intend to

do. We have to understand we take

them at their word, and we have to

make sure they do not have the opportunity

to develop a nuclear weapon. It

is time for the international community

to act stronger than it has acted,

maybe call their bluff. Strong words

from the Iranians require a strong response

from the Security Council. Iran

has threatened the United States with

harm because we are looking to hold

them accountable for their actions or

to endorse their international commitments.

In light of this situation, no soundminded

diplomat can claim the purpose

of the Iranian program is benign or

that it can be trusted to uphold any

part of a compromise agreement. They

do not want agreement. We talk about

continuing the discussions with the

Russian plan they laid out. We have to

presume that the other side really

wants an end to the crisis, but there is

no rational basis to presume they want

an end to the crisis. They want the crisis.

They want to push it forward. They

want to engage in dialog as they continue

their efforts to obtain nuclear

materials. So there is no incentive for

us to engage in the negotiation.

If you look at proposals—some unacceptable,

to flatout dangerous—all require

enormous concessions to the Iranians

to get their buy-in. Again, we

have to say, does the other side want

an end to the crisis? Do they want to

do a deal? The answer is ‘‘no.’’

The Iranians already rejected a Russian

proposal to jointly enrich uranium

on Russian soil. There has also been

talk of a deal where Iran will be allowed

to conduct small-scale research

enrichment in exchange for postponing

industrial-scale research. This is ludicrous

to be talking about.

Our friends on the Security Council

must recognize compromise with Iran

is not an end to itself but only used

when it is seeking to reach an objective,

to prevent them from producing

nuclear weapons. Any deal that allows

Iran to retain uranium does not serve

this objective.

This week, the IAEA must refer—and

I use the word ‘‘refer’’—Iran to the Security

Council with a strongly worded

IAEA resolution that will lead to robust

Security Council action, not to

rest on what was a weak IAEA resolution

passed last month which reported

Iran to the Council. Under the chart of

the U.N., the Security Council is granted

jurisdiction over ‘‘threats to international

peace and security.’’ There is

no more evident, obvious threat to

international peace and security than

the attempt of Iran to obtain nuclear

materials and to develop a nuclear

weapon.

The Security Council action was absolutely

necessary in dealing with Iran.

I am aware that several of our partners

on the Council—namely, Russia and

China—have yet to come to understand

the urgency of the crisis we face with

Iranian’s nuclear program. For this

reason, I support the administration’s

efforts to build a coalition of allies who

are willing to impose meaningful sanctions

on Iran, should certain members

of the Security Council fail to act responsibly

by withholding support for

sanctions. Action needs to be taken immediately.

Sanctions need to be taken

immediately. The international community

cannot be constrained from action

against imminent threat to peace

and security by a few self-interested

actors. We cannot be cowed and bowed

by the threats of the Iranians.

We must move forward. This is a

threat to peace and security of the entire

world. We have to act now.

I yield the floor.