have been shown that spontaneous street demo-
strations in Iran can overthrow a govern-
ment or regime."

The commander of Iran's Revolutionary
Guards has threatened recently to crack down on
a wave of internal dissent and criticism, say-
ing it jeopardized the country's security.

"The universities are in the hands of the op-
position, its people are saying the title 'death to des-
pots.' We have to behead some and cut off the tongues of others," he said.

With the hierarchy, the increasing opposition to the ruling clique, which has failed to eliminate Montazeri, the former successor to Khomeini, from the pic-
ture. Religious scholars, Montazeri outranks all of the ruling regime's
officials. He was shelved in 1988 by Khomeini after he protested the massacres of Mojahedin Resistance and was con-
tained by the mullahs, Montazeri outlined all of the ruling regime's
options. Of course, this is a coy way of pro-
ducing the kind of appeasement policy that
administration's Iran policy over the past year.

Mr. Speaker, I am submitting my remarks to
the panel on this matter to be printed in the
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

I want to thank the National Council of Resistance of Iran for organizing this event and for their ongoing efforts to focus atten-
tion on the rogue regime that continues to reside in Tehran under President Khatami. I do not think it's an exaggeration to say that the day when Iran rejoins the community of democratic nations, however, is not that day. President Khatami, while slightly more moderate than his predecessor will not or cannot overcome the political forces in
Iran which avidly pursue the development of weapons of mass destruction and continue support for terrorism.

We have heard many disturbing facts and figures, about Iranian human rights viola-
tions, about chaos and conflict within the
country, and about Iran's support of inter-
national terrorist organizations, such as
Hizbollah, Hamas and the Palestine Islamic
Jihad, all of which are responsible for terror-
ist attacks on Israel. Each of these facts re-
fects the ruling regime's status as a rogue
state, which considers itself above intern-
national law, with limitless disregard for
human life, let alone human rights. The prospect of
that regime armed with nuclear weapons is not a pleasant one.

This week, Russia and Iran announced
that over the strong objections of the U.S. and
Israel, that they would be stepping up their cooperation in the
field of nuclear technology. In fact, Iran's Atomic Energy
Minister made it clear that the two coun-
tries are considering further cooperation be-
Yond their current project to build a nuclear
Plant in Iran. It is believed that the completion
of 1998 will require the withholding of U.S.
thwart Iran's development of nuclear weapons.

The Iran Nuclear Proliferation Prevention Act
of 1998 will require the withholding of U.S.
thwart Iran's development of nuclear weapons.

The question remains, why has Iran de-
veloped a nuclear program? Iran is a country, and about Iran's support of inter-
national terrorist organizations, such as
Hizbollah, Hamas and the Palestine Islamic
Jihad, all of which are responsible for terror-
ist attacks on Israel. Each of these facts re-
fects the ruling regime's status as a rogue
state, which considers itself above intern-
national law, with limitless disregard for
human life, let alone human rights. The prospect of
that regime armed with nuclear weapons is not a pleasant one.

This week, Russia and Iran announced
that over the strong objections of the U.S. and
Israel, that they would be stepping up their cooperation in the
field of nuclear technology. In fact, Iran's Atomic Energy
Minister made it clear that the two coun-
tries are considering further cooperation be-
Yond their current project to build a nuclear
Plant in Iran. It is believed that the completion
of 1998 will require the withholding of U.S.
thwart Iran's development of nuclear weapons.

The question remains, why has Iran de-
veloped a nuclear program? Iran is a country, and about Iran's support of inter-
national terrorist organizations, such as
Hizbollah, Hamas and the Palestine Islamic
Jihad, all of which are responsible for terror-
ist attacks on Israel. Each of these facts re-
fects the ruling regime's status as a rogue
state, which considers itself above intern-
national law, with limitless disregard for
human life, let alone human rights. The prospect of
that regime armed with nuclear weapons is not a pleasant one.

This week, Russia and Iran announced
that over the strong objections of the U.S. and
Israel, that they would be stepping up their cooperation in the
field of nuclear technology. In fact, Iran's Atomic Energy
Minister made it clear that the two coun-
tries are considering further cooperation be-
Yond their current project to build a nuclear
Plant in Iran. It is believed that the completion
of 1998 will require the withholding of U.S.
thwart Iran's development of nuclear weapons.

The question remains, why has Iran de-
veloped a nuclear program? Iran is a country, and about Iran's support of inter-
national terrorist organizations, such as
Hizbollah, Hamas and the Palestine Islamic
Jihad, all of which are responsible for terror-
ist attacks on Israel. Each of these facts re-
fects the ruling regime's status as a rogue
state, which considers itself above intern-
national law, with limitless disregard for
human life, let alone human rights. The prospect of
that regime armed with nuclear weapons is not a pleasant one.

This week, Russia and Iran announced
that over the strong objections of the U.S. and
Israel, that they would be stepping up their cooperation in the
field of nuclear technology. In fact, Iran's Atomic Energy
Minister made it clear that the two coun-
tries are considering further cooperation be-
Yond their current project to build a nuclear
Plant in Iran. It is believed that the completion
of 1998 will require the withholding of U.S.
thwart Iran's development of nuclear weapons.

The question remains, why has Iran de-
veloped a nuclear program? Iran is a country, and about Iran's support of inter-
national terrorist organizations, such as
Hizbollah, Hamas and the Palestine Islamic
Jihad, all of which are responsible for terror-
ist attacks on Israel. Each of these facts re-
fects the ruling regime's status as a rogue
state, which considers itself above intern-
national law, with limitless disregard for
human life, let alone human rights. The prospect of
that regime armed with nuclear weapons is not a pleasant one.

This week, Russia and Iran announced
that over the strong objections of the U.S. and
Israel, that they would be stepping up their cooperation in the
field of nuclear technology. In fact, Iran's Atomic Energy
Minister made it clear that the two coun-
tries are considering further cooperation be-
Yond their current project to build a nuclear
Plant in Iran. It is believed that the completion
of 1998 will require the withholding of U.S.
thwart Iran's development of nuclear weapons.

The question remains, why has Iran de-
veloped a nuclear program? Iran is a country, and about Iran's support of inter-
national terrorist organizations, such as
Hizbollah, Hamas and the Palestine Islamic
Jihad, all of which are responsible for terror-
ist attacks on Israel. Each of these facts re-
fects the ruling regime's status as a rogue
state, which considers itself above intern-
national law, with limitless disregard for
human life, let alone human rights. The prospect of
that regime armed with nuclear weapons is not a pleasant one.

This week, Russia and Iran announced
that over the strong objections of the U.S. and
Israel, that they would be stepping up their cooperation in the
field of nuclear technology. In fact, Iran's Atomic Energy
Minister made it clear that the two coun-
tries are considering further cooperation be-
Yond their current project to build a nuclear
Plant in Iran. It is believed that the completion
of 1998 will require the withholding of U.S.
thwart Iran's development of nuclear weapons.

The question remains, why has Iran de-
veloped a nuclear program? Iran is a country, and about Iran's support of inter-
national terrorist organizations, such as
Hizbollah, Hamas and the Palestine Islamic
Jihad, all of which are responsible for terror-
ist attacks on Israel. Each of these facts re-
fects the ruling regime's status as a rogue
state, which considers itself above intern-
national law, with limitless disregard for
human life, let alone human rights. The prospect of
that regime armed with nuclear weapons is not a pleasant one.

This week, Russia and Iran announced
that over the strong objections of the U.S. and
Israel, that they would be stepping up their cooperation in the
field of nuclear technology. In fact, Iran's Atomic Energy
Minister made it clear that the two coun-
tries are considering further cooperation be-
Yon...
nor is nuclear energy an economic choice for Iran. So what is the motive? It should not be a revelation to anyone that Iran is seeking to acquire nuclear weapons.

In 1991, Ayatollah Mohajerani, one of Rafsanjani’s deputies, clarified the need to obtain nuclear weapons. “Since the enemy has nuclear facilities,” he said, “Islamic countries must be armed with the same capability.”

In 1989, Rafsanjani underscored the need to obtain nuclear weapons. “Resistance means, in the words of Khomeini, ‘Iran cannot overlook the reality of nuclear strength in the modern world.’” Nuclear arms, in the Tehran mullahs’ view, “are the most important strategic guarantee” of their survival.

For this reason, I introduced the Iran Nuclear Proliferation Prevention Act. The bill will eliminate the use of U.S. taxpayer dollars to the International Atomic Energy Agency to provide assistance to Iran for the completion of the Bushehr plant. The U.S. believes that the completion of the Bushehr plant could provide Iran with substantial expertise to advance its nuclear weapons program. It is ludicrous for the U.S. to support a plant—even indirectly—which could pose a threat to the United States and to stability in the Middle East.

Beyond, Iran’s nuclear weapons development program, there is substantial evidence of its efforts to develop other weapons of mass destruction.

Late last year, Satellite reconnaissance of the Shahid Hemat Industrial Group research facility, not far south of Tehran, had picked up evidence of an engine test for a new generation of Iranian ballistic missiles, “each capable of carrying a 2,200-pound warhead more than 800 miles,” within strategic range of Israel.

In January, a senior Clinton administration administration official told the Associated Press that “Iran’s purchase of Russian missile technology is giving Iran an opportunity to ‘leap ahead’ in developing new weapons” and according to a CIA report, Iran remains the largest buyer of conventional weapons among “pariah” states, buying an estimated $20 million to $30 million worth of U.S. military parts in 1997.

After the cease-fire in the Iran-Iraq War by May 1988, Iran continued to expand its efforts to produce an indigenous chemical and biological arsenal. Thanks to equipment and technology legally or illegally imported from abroad, the Tehran regime is presently able to produce a series of biological and chemical weapons. Defense Secretary Cohen has expressed concern that Iran may have produced up to 200 tons of VX nerve agent and 6,000 gallons of anthrax.

Tens of thousands of Iranians have been executed for their political beliefs since 1981. My question is, what is our administration doing about human rights violations? What have we done to relieve the suffering of the Iranian people?

I believe the policy must be very firm about condemning human rights violations in Iran, and about supporting advocates of democracy, such as Maryam Rajavi. Change will come to Iran, but not from the current regime. We will not get anywhere by coddling repressive dictators.

The situation in Iran

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, June 3, 1998

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, over the past year, I have listened with interest to promises of moderation and reform from Iran, but after a year of Mohammad Khatami’s tenure as president, I believe the Iranians continue to be one of the major violators of human rights and proponents of terrorist activities around the world. The only policy that can be successful vis-a-vis Iran is a policy of firmness. Firmness, however, will only prove effective when it is coupled with support for the establishment of democracy in Iran.

On May 21st, I had the honor of hosting a gathering at which a number of my esteemed colleagues as well as experts on Iran and the region addressed various aspects of the question. In urging the administration to pursue a policy in favor of the Iranian people and their resistance, the speakers emphasized that the U.S. should not make the same mistake made during the Shah’s time.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit a number of my remarks I prepared for this briefing for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

I would like to thank every one of you for participating in this event today. I believe it is very important that we keep our focus on the issue of human rights. Not long ago, I watched a video tape smuggled out of Iran by the Mujahedin Opposition Movement. It showed for the first time actual scenes of people being stoned to death in Iran. For individuals were brought out, buried up to their waists, and stoned to death in the most cruel, gruesome and painful scene I have ever witnessed in my life. And this still goes on in Iran, officially. Since the election of Iran’s new president, the government has announced the stoning of 7 people, four of them women.

The situation in Iran continues unabated. Despite words of moderation and conciliation, the Iranian government continues to actively and aggressively sponsor international terrorism. Iran continues to support the kind of repression that oppresses the Iranian people. In today’s Iran there is still no freedom of speech. Under the Khatami government, there is still no freedom of religion or freedom of speech. Human rights abuses continue unabated.

On May 21st, a number of my colleagues in Congress held a press briefing in the Rayburn Building to discuss the prospects for change in Iran, and how U.S. policy should be shaped to encourage democracy and freedom in Iran. While I was unable to attend the briefing, I did release a written statement. In addition to Members of Congress, other distinguished experts participated in the briefing, including former U.S. Ambassador James Akins, who served in our nation’s Foreign Service with great distinction from 1975 to 1979. Ambassador Akins spent much of his career in the Middle East in such places as Syria, Lebanon, Kuwait, Iraq and Saudi Arabia. He is the author of numerous articles about the Middle East. He is now an international and economic consultant. I would like to insert into the RECORD the written remarks I prepared for the briefing, as well as the remarks made by Ambassador Akins.

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR., BRIEFING ON “U.S. POLICY OPTIONS & PROSPECTS FOR CHANGE IN IRAN”, MAY 21, 1998

As we approach the one-year anniversary of Mohammad Khatami’s election as President of Iran, it is appropriate to assess how much has changed in Iran over the past year, and how U.S. policy should be shaped to encourage democracy and freedom in Iran. While President Khatami has spoken quite differently than his predecessor, Iran’s actions both domestically and internationally, have not materially changed.

Iran still supports international terrorism. Iran continues to deny its people basic freedoms and human rights. Iran continues to treat its women like cattle.

There is chaos and conflict throughout the government. One thing is clear—President Khatami may have—may have—good intentions, but his good intentions have not yet resulted in a change in Iran’s behavior internationally or internally.

Yet, our State Department continues to grope, hope and search for moderates in the Iranian regime. Our State Department continues to keep its head in the sand in Iran and how U.S. policy should be shaped to recognize and support those Iranians inside and outside Iran who are struggling on behalf of a democratic and free Iran—including the Iranian Resistance.

The State Department’s refusal to recognize the Resistance, and their labeling the Resistance as a terrorist organization is a travesty! Such a policy of appeasement and weakness plays right into the hands of the terrorist strongmen ruling Iran.

Let me repeat: there are no moderates in the Iranian government. Goodwill gestures from the U.S. will be perceived by the Iranian regime as a sign of weakness. Such gestures will achieve little, and will only embolden the Iranian mullahs to continue their non-stop campaign of terror and repression.

Contrary to the hopes of the Clinton Administration, Khatami’s election last May, has not resulted in any changes in Iran’s domestic or foreign policies. Iran still poses a grave threat to U.S. security and world peace. Iran’s ongoing support of terrorist groups and support of international terrorist groups such as Hamas and Hizbollah continues to threaten the Oslo Accords and other initiatives to establish a lasting peace in the Middle East.

Khatami’s election has not halted or diminished Iran’s efforts to expand its arsenal.