

of the Appropriations Committee and the staff, particularly Martin, Maureen, Leslie, Tom, and Jamie, for doing an admirable job; and they did it with the allocation figure they were given.

I also want to congratulate ranking member ROSA DELAURU for completing her first cycle as ranking. I thank her for her hard work on the food safety and FDA issues. I also want to thank Martha Foley on our side. She is always ready with an answer anytime one asks.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the efforts of Chairman BONILLA in crafting this bill, which is an improvement over the President's budget request. I particularly want to thank the chairman for working with me to find \$7 million for the Specialty Crop Block Grant program in full committee and maintaining that funding in the conference report that we have before us today.

Investing in our specialty crop agriculture is imperative, and this certainly will be a happy day for the industry and all those who produce our Nation's fruits, vegetables, and nuts. I look forward to working together to provide innovative and effective assistance to make the specialty crop industry more competitive in the future; and, I might add, this is the industry that does not receive subsidies or help from the government.

Because of the work of this committee, my growers will now have help with pests such as vine mealy bug and diseases such as verticillium wilt, and we will continue a voluntary water quality study for the entire Monterey Bay watershed.

But as with any legislation this lengthy, it cannot all be good. I am very disappointed with, and strongly oppose, section 797 which was added as a "legislative fix" to an Organic Foods Production Act in response to a ruling by the courts in *Harvey v. Johanns* after the conference committee had adjourned, subject to call of the Chair. There was no public disclosure. This was all done behind closed doors.

These changes will not return us to the status quo prior to the lawsuit. Rather, this legislative fix will weaken both law and existing regulatory standards and restrict the authority of the National Organic Standards Board.

For example, numerous synthetic food additives and processing aids, including over 500 food contact substances, can be used in organic foods without public review. Young dairy cows can continue to be treated with antibiotics and fed genetically engineered feed prior to being converted to organic production. Loopholes under which nonorganic ingredients could be substituted for organic ingredients can occur without any notification to the public based on emergency decrees.

If the history of OFPA has taught us anything, it is that changes should be done following an inclusive and transparent process that unites, rather than divides, the organic community. At the

very least, the process should have given all stakeholders a fair chance to vet the proposed changes and their likely consequences.

Consumers are willing to pay more for organic food because organic offers the most authentic of natural food. Consumers expect that food carrying the organic label will be natural and should not contain synthetic ingredients.

In a March 2005 nationwide survey, 85 percent of the respondents did not expect food labeled "organic" to contain any artificial ingredients, a finding that is directly in opposition to the actions of the conference committee. The real losers under this policy change are American consumers. Consumers who care about having natural food will have to look for additional claims to organic, such as "no synthetic ingredients included" on processed foods and "100 percent grass fed" on meat and dairy products in order to know that their expectations have been met.

This amendment undermines consumer confidence in the integrity of the national organic program. Backroom deals without proper debate undermine the integrity of the entire organic industry, and we are certain to visit this fix again and again.

Mr. Speaker, we have come a long way with this process. Despite section 797, our farmers will be better off because of this legislation, and I want to thank all of my committee members for putting together such a good appropriations bill. I support the action of the committee when we followed regular order, and when we did that, we crafted a good bill. I only wish we would have finished the bill together so the process was as good as the final product.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I again want to commend Chairman BONILLA and Ranking Member DELAURU for their great work and the members of the committee, and I urge support of the conference report.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the comments of the speakers on both sides of the aisle. I agree with them that Chairman Bonilla has led a very balanced process as we move agricultural policy in this country into the 21st century. It is a large appropriations bill. It covers a wide array of needs in this Nation, from WIC and child nutrition programs, to the conservation side and all that that entails in terms of making sure that we are not eroding our valuable topsoil, making sure that we have wildlife habitat, and making sure that environmentalists understand that farmers are the true stewards of that land. And frankly, at the root of the bill, the most important service, is to allow American farmers and ranchers to continue to grow the safest, most affordable, most abundant food supply and be able to feed not only our country but the rest of the world as well.

It is a real tribute that there is bipartisan support for this legislation to make sure that we are competitive in the 21st century, that we are compliant with our global trade agreements, that we are continuing to push ahead in fighting the war against hunger, making sure that we continue to fight the war against obesity, and allowing our farmers and ranchers to be competitive.

So it is a testament to the bill, and it is a testament to the authors of that bill on both sides of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONDEMNING IRANIAN PRESIDENT MAHMOUD AHMADINEJAD'S THREATS AGAINST ISRAEL

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it shall be in order at any time without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House H. Res. 523; the resolution shall be considered as read; the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution and preamble to its adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question except: (1) 40 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on International Relations; and (2) one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the previous order of the House, I call up the resolution (H. Res. 523) condemning Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's threats against Israel, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 523

Whereas on October 26, 2005, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, declared that "Israel must be wiped off the map", described Israel as "a disgraceful blot [on] the face of the Islamic world", and declared that "[a]nybody who recognizes Israel will burn in the fire of the Islamic nation's fury";

Whereas Iran funds, trains, and openly supports terrorist groups that are determined to destroy Israel;

Whereas on December 14, 2001, the President of Iran's highly influential Expediency Council, Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, threatened Israel with nuclear attack, saying, "[i]f one day, the Islamic world is also equipped with weapons like those that Israel possesses now, then the imperialists' strategy will reach a standstill because the use of even one nuclear bomb inside Israel will destroy everything [in Israel], while it will merely harm the Islamic world";

Whereas Iran has aggressively pursued a clandestine effort to arm itself with nuclear weapons; and

Whereas the longstanding policy of the Iranian regime aimed at destroying the democratic state of Israel, highlighted by statements such as those by Ahmadinejad and Rafsanjani, underscores the danger of an Iran armed with nuclear weapons: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns, in the strongest terms, Ahmadinejad's outrageous and despicable threats and demands that he repudiate them;

(2) calls on the United Nations Security Council and all civilized nations to condemn and reject these statements and to censure Iran for its statements and for its policies aimed at destroying Israel;

(3) further calls on the United Nations Security Council and all civilized nations to consider measures to deny Iran the means to carry out its threats and to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons; and

(4) reaffirms the unwavering alliance between the United States and Israel and reasserts the commitment of the United States to defend the right of Israel to exist as a free and democratic state.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this should be a week in which people around the world consider and celebrate the progress that has been made in interfaith relations in the modern era. We are marking the fact that 40 years ago today, His Holiness Pope Paul VI issued *Nostra Aetate*, "In Our Times," the landmark declaration of the Roman Catholic Church on its relations with non-Christian religions, in particular Islam and Judaism. That declaration began 4 decades of very important and very helpful dialogue among the world's major faith communities.

In sharp contrast to the spirit of *Nostra Aetate*, we witnessed on Wednesday a shocking and venomous instance of political and religious intolerance. The President of the Islamic Republic of Iran issued a series of threats against the State of Israel, couched in religious or, perhaps I should say, pseudo-religious terms. President Ahmadinejad said, in essence, that for religious reasons, the State of Israel should be wiped off the map. Evidently, the world has not had enough genocide and ethnic cleansing.

This is not a position shared by most Muslims. Iranians in particular have had enough of the intellectual, economic, and spiritual poverty imposed upon them by their unelected or nominally elected officials.

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That poverty will only deepen as Iran finds itself isolated by the sort of rhetoric spouted by President Ahmadinejad.

We can take comfort from the fact that our response of dismay is shared by many in the world community. In particular, the response of Palestinian leader Saeb Erakat is worth noting: "We have recognized the State of Israel, and we are pursuing a peace process with Israel. And we do not accept the statements of the President of Iran."

In this resolution, we express our rejection of the statements of the Iranian president and call upon him to repudiate them. Further, we ask the world community to consider whether a government that calls for the elimination of another state should remain in possession of the means to carry out its threats. Israel is entitled to take these threats seriously, as are all other nations, and Iran will have to be prepared to bear the consequences.

I urge the adoption of the resolution and wish to express my appreciation of the leadership shown on this issue by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) and by my colleague from California, our ranking Democrat (Mr. LANTOS).

The gentleman from Indiana has an important markup, and so I would like to yield to him briefly at this time.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding and am deeply humbled to rise during the chairman's time and prior to the ranking member's time.

I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for the courtesy in recognizing a markup schedule on the Hill. I am deeply humbled to stand between TOM LANTOS and HENRY HYDE, who are the two leading voices for human rights and for the relationship between the people of the United States of America and the people of Israel.

I rise in support of House Resolution 523 that recognizes an extraordinary and, as Chairman HYDE just said, shocking and venomous moment in world debate. On October 26, 2005, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, declared that Israel must be "wiped off the map." He described Israel as, quote, a disgraceful blot on the face of the Islamic world. Such rhetoric is, as this resolution states, outrageous and despicable. It is, in my judgment, in the heart of the American people to rise in this Congress, in these extraordinary times and speak this truth to that power, and that is that the people of the United States cherish the dream that became the reality of Israel in 1948, and we categorically condemn rhetoric of this nature.

This resolution calls bravely on the United Nations Security Council and all civilized nations to condemn and reject these statements. Let the world know, the American people pray for

the peace of Jerusalem, for all the people of all the faiths in Jerusalem. We long for justice in the region. And only if the world will come together and condemn this venomous and despicable and shocking statement by the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran will that peace and justice ever be achieved.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back to the chairman with gratitude and appreciation for his and the gentleman from California's leadership in bringing this important resolution before the Congress.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Let me first pay tribute to my friends and distinguished colleagues, Chairman HYDE and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) for their powerful and eloquent statements.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution. Two days ago the leader of Iran made one of the most repugnant remarks the international community has heard since Adolf Hitler. With his bone-chilling call for Israel to be wiped off the map, the Iranian dictator placed himself and his benighted regime far beyond the pale of the civilized world.

I would hope that everyone in this body would be sickened by the Iranian dictator's contemptible sentiments. And I would hope that every civilized nation is likewise appalled by it, and condemns Iran in the strongest possible terms.

But, Mr. Speaker, this latest outrage from Tehran comes as no surprise. The Iranian leader has made graphically explicit what many of us have long known. Since day one of its existence, the Iranian regime has craved Israel's destruction and has been working assiduously through terrorism and all other means to achieve that goal. Iran's support for terrorist groups that are determined to destroy Israel is well known. Iran is Hezbollah's puppetmaster and increasingly the banker and mentor for Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad as well. And Iran would almost certainly put any nuclear arms it produces or acquires at the service of this nefarious end. All of this should, by now, be clear, even to the most gullible. This has nothing to do with Israel's policies. Tehran simply rejects Israel's right to exist.

Anyone who still does not get the message should read the Iranian Foreign Minister's response to criticism of the Iranian President's remarks yesterday. And I quote, "The comments expressed by the President is the declared and specific policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. We don't recognize the Zionist regime and don't consider it legitimate." That is what the Iranian Foreign Minister said yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, it is crucial that the United Nations Security Council censure Iran in the strongest terms possible for its leader's disgusting, belligerent statement, and that it insist that

Iran repudiate those statements and halt its support of terrorism.

And it is more urgent than ever that the Security Council take up the issue of preventing Iran's nuclearization and agree on strong sanctions. Let me remind everyone that 4 years ago another powerful Iranian leader, Ali Rafsanjani, openly boasted that Iran would win a nuclear exchange with Israel.

Mr. Speaker, when Hitler threatened to destroy the Jews, almost nobody took him seriously. The appeasers and the pseudosophisticates said it was just rhetoric. But madmen often mean exactly what they say, as we learned only under the most tragic circumstances, and now Iran is declaring its ugly, unthinkable intent for all to hear. And the world is tested yet again.

Mr. Speaker, Iran is guilty of a multitude of sins and assaults on civilization beyond its policy of attempting to delegitimize the State of Israel. Iran is the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism. It ceaselessly meddles in Iraq, sowing violence and chaos and undermining that fragile new society's quest for stability and peace, and it is an unapologetic enemy of the United States, as government-sponsored demonstrations all over Iran on this very day make it crystal clear. These are just a few elements of its dangerous behavior, and we shall return to all these concerns on another day.

But Ahmadinejad's inflammatory statement compels us today to focus on Iran's ugly fanaticism-based opposition to Israel's existence and the threat that a nuclear Iran would pose to Israel and to all nations of the Middle East. I know of no situation in the world remotely comparable to this one where a power hell-bent on acquiring nuclear arms declares its determination to wipe one of its neighbors off the map. And in this case, the neighbor that is the object of this vituperation and this murderous intent is the sole democracy in the Middle East and a close ally of the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that our resolution will in itself dissuade Iran from its repugnant views or deter it from its planned horrible deeds, but it is morally imperative that we speak out, that we draw attention to a potentially impending nightmare, and that we demand that this time the world take action before it is too late. That is what our resolution does, Mr. Speaker, and that is why I unreservedly support it and urge all of my colleagues to do so.

Just a few minutes ago, Mr. Speaker, Reuters reported another megalomaniacal and insane statement by the President of Iran. He said, and I quote, that he stands by his call to wipe Israel off the map. My words are the Iranian nation's words: Westerners are free to comment, but their reactions are invalid, end quote.

All of us in this body should reject, denounce and repudiate the outrageous statements of the leader of Iran and

stand up for our friend, the democratic State of Israel.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for the time.

I rise to strongly condemn the statements made by Iran's so-called President and to call on the international community at the United Nations to take swift action to compel Iran to change its destructive behavior.

I rise in support of this resolution, and I thank Chairman HYDE and Ranking Member LANTOS and our leadership for bringing this important measure before this House this morning.

Earlier this week, Iran's so-called President called for Israel to be wiped off the map and for a new wave of Palestinian attacks to destroy the Jewish State.

He further stated that anybody who recognizes Israel will burn in the fire of the Islamic nations' fury, while any Islamic leader who recognizes the Zionist regime means that he is acknowledging the surrender and the defeat of the Islamic world.

Nations throughout the world have condemned the regime's comments, but the international community needs to do more.

The Iranian leadership has a history of calling for the wholesale destruction of Israel. On December 14, 2001, the current president of Iran's Expediency Council and the former Iranian President Rafsanjani threatened Israel with nuclear attack saying that the use of even one nuclear bomb inside Israel will destroy everything in Israel, while it will merely harm the Islamic world.

Iran's behavior is a threat to peace and security and, as such, runs contrary to the United Nations Charter and the spirit of an organization built upon the ashes of the Second World War.

In calling for the destruction of Israel, Iran, a U.N. member state, stands in grave breach of the U.N. Charter which stipulates that member states must foster peaceful relations with one another.

My colleagues and I are circulating letters to Secretary Rice and U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan calling not only for Iran to be censured, as this resolution rightfully does, but for the U.N. Security Council to recommend expulsion of Iran from the United Nations system.

I support this resolution before us because it calls for all civilized nations to consider measures to deny Iran the means to carry out its threats and to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons.

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However, Mr. Speaker, we need to do more to secure concrete actions from our allies. We need to leverage all of our political, diplomatic, and economic

tools to ensure that Iran does not cross the nuclear threshold, that it stops its chemical and biological weapons program, that it ends its sponsorship of terror and it stops oppressing its own people.

H.R. 282, the Iran Freedom Support Act, which I introduced with my distinguished colleagues, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT), the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN), the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR), and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN), provides a comprehensive, multi-tiered, non-military approach to the Iranian threat. The legislation has 325 co-sponsors, and I urge that it be acted upon before the House adjourns this year.

Mr. Speaker, Iran is the full ticket. It is not just Israel's problem. It constitutes a clear and present danger to regional and global security and must elicit a clear and comprehensive response.

The time has come for Congress and the international community to hold Iran accountable for its destructive behavior. I urge my colleagues to render their strong support for this resolution, but we must do more. We must also pass H.R. 282. It seeks to hold the Iranian regime accountable for its unacceptable behavior and to contain the threat by denying Tehran the resources to engage in its sponsorship of terrorism worldwide, its development of long-range missiles, and chemical, biological and possibly nuclear weapons, and its repression of the Iranian people.

I urge my colleagues to pass this resolution, but also to pass H.R. 282.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 25, 2005.

Hon. HENRY J. HYDE,
Chairman, Committee on International Relations, U.S. House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HYDE: I would like to take this opportunity to respectfully request that H.R. 282 be scheduled for mark-up by the Committee next month (November 2005).

H.R. 282, seeks to hold the Iranian regime accountable for its unacceptable behavior and to contain the threat by denying Tehran the resources to engage in its sponsorship of terrorism worldwide, its development of longer-range missiles and chemical, biological, and, possibly, nuclear weapons and its repression of the Iranian people.

General Background

Mr. Chairman, almost three years of negotiations between the E3-EU countries and the Iranian regime have yet to yield a permanent suspension of enrichment activities and a dismantling of Iran's nuclear program. On the contrary Iran, in August of this year, resumed its nuclear efforts removing the IAEA seals on the uranium conversion plant at Isfahan and, in September, Iran began to transfer more of its nuclear program under military control.

Referral of the Iran case to the UN Security Council, should that occur, would not necessarily yield any concrete steps to contain or halt Iran's nuclear pursuits.

Lastly, the E3-EU/Iran negotiations fail to address other critical issues of great importance to U.S. national security interests

such as Iran's sponsorship of terrorist activities, including in Iraq, while H.R. 282 seeks to cover the range of U.S. policy priorities.

Procedural Background

On April 13, 2005, the Subcommittee on the Middle East and Central Asia held a mark-up session to consider H.R. 282. The legislation was amended and adopted by unanimous consent and forwarded by voice vote to Full Committee for action.

My Subcommittee Staff Director has worked with your staff on the full Committee to seek input from the Administration, having met with NSC and State officials on May 25, 2005 and on June 27, 2005. At the June 27th meeting, a written line in/line out was promised "in the next couple of weeks." In mid-July, a deadline of July 22nd was given to the NSC to provide a line in/line out to the Committee but it was not met.

On September 28, 2005, I met with [redacted], who asked for more time before calling for a Full Committee mark-up of H.R. 282. I agreed to wait a few weeks.

It has now been a month since that meeting and the Russian Federation remains opposed to referral of the Iran case to the UN Security Council and insists on "Iran's lawful right to a peaceful nuclear energy program." Further, the position of the EU now appears to be focused merely on convincing Tehran to "resume talks" and "resume suspension."

In the interim, Iran inches closer to crossing the nuclear threshold.

Status of H.R. 282

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 282 provides critical leverage for the Administration to use to compel greater action from U.S. allies who, months ago, were asked by the U.S. to consider individual sanctions on Iran for its breaches and, instead, continue their multi-billion dollar investments in Iran's energy sector.

H.R. 282 is in keeping with U.S. efforts to address the multiple threats posed by the Iranian regime, as well as with the U.S. strategy to bring freedom and democratic governance to the people of the Middle East.

H.R. 282 currently enjoys the support of 325 co-sponsors, including:

Members of the Republican and Democrat Leadership

Three-fourths of the Members of the Committee on International Relations (22 out of 27 GOP/17 of 23 DEM)

7 Full Committee Chairs and 8 Ranking Members

49 of 65 Members of the Committee on Armed Services

17 of 21 Members of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

25 of 34 Members of the Committee on Homeland Security

42 of 66 Members of the Committee on Appropriations

Committee Action Requested

Mr. Chairman, you have exerted Congressional oversight and the Committee's jurisdiction on a range of important issues such as the U.S.-India nuclear deal and the amendment to the Iran Nonproliferation Act, despite Administration concerns.

In that vein, I ask for your assistance and respectfully request that you immediately schedule H.R. 282—the Iran Freedom Support Act—for mark-up.

Sincerely,

ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN,
Chair, Subcommittee on the
Middle East and Central Asia.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY), a distinguished member of the Committee on International Relations.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the resolution introduced by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS).

The President of Iran stated clearly that his intentions are to wipe the State of Israel off the map. He followed up these remarks the other day by saying, "My words were the Iranian nation's words."

These comments further highlight the nefarious intentions the Iranian regime has towards not only Israel but towards the West.

You would think when international pressure is bearing down on Iran over the refusal to allow IAEA inspections, they would not be making such disgusting comments. The United States must start a serious diplomatic effort to ensure that a vote is taken next month to bring the Iran nuclear program to the Security Council.

The Iranian leadership will continue to make these outrageous statements, but it is not just words for Iran. A U.N. report released this week said large shipments of weapons from Iran are being shipped through Syria to Palestinian terrorists. Israel and the Palestinians have a chance for peace, but this chance will not be achieved if bad actors like Iran and Syria continue to fan the flames of violence.

I do not believe the majority of the Iranian people support the words of Mr. Ahmadinejad. His hard-line politics make him a favorite of the ruling mullahs, and he was able to win the presidency when the reformist voters chose not to vote instead of supporting him. It is not as if the Council of Guardians gave the Iranian people any other choice. They made sure that any candidate representing reformist views was removed from the ballot.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this resolution, and I urge all of my colleagues to send a message to the Iranian regime that we do not support these unacceptable and disgusting statements.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY).

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman and I thank the ranking member for bringing this very important resolution to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, the words this week from the President of Iran were shocking but, unfortunately, not surprising. "Israel must be wiped off the map . . . and God willing, with the force of God behind it, we shall soon experience a world without the United States and Zionism."

These are words of hate, the words not of a legitimate world leader but of an enemy to peace, to freedom, and to the United States.

That Iran's corrupt ruling elite have their boot heel on the neck of moderate reform is not a secret. Nor is Iran's obsession with the development of nuclear weapons with which to destroy Israel any hope for freedom in the Mid-

dle East; nor is Iran's membership in and sponsorship of a psychopathic cult of violence and murder that is right now a clear and present danger to the safety of every citizen of the United States, Israel, Iraq, and every other democracy on Earth.

This week's rhetorical outburst, repugnant as it is, Mr. Speaker, is simply a verbal expression of the ayatollah regime's most basic political aspiration, the destruction of Israel and the extermination of the Israeli people. That regime, clinging both to power and the past, will one day fall to a new generation of Iranians, devout in their faith, tolerant in their politics, and free in their hearts.

The democratic opposition to the ayatollahs is the future, and a bright one at that. They deserve our support as much as the Tehran regime deserves our scorn and suspicion.

This week's outburst, a direct threat to our ally and our interests, must be condemned in the fiercest terms and backed up by a renewed commitment by this House and this Nation to develop substantive policies to bring about desperately needed political reform in Iran.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF), a distinguished member of the Committee on International Relations.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, anyone who held out hope that despite his reputation as a hard liner that Iran's new president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, would adopt a more statesmanlike posture in office, has been bitterly, tragically, and unequivocally set straight. The Iranian dictator has instead chosen the role of international outlaw.

With his remarks 2 days ago that Israel must be wiped off the map, the Iranian strongman showed utter disregard for human life and for the central principle of the United Nations and the modern international system. Ahmadinejad's outrageous remarks were reinforced today by massive demonstrations in Iran that further threaten to ignite tensions in a volatile region of the world and undermine the fragile Israeli/Palestinian peace negotiations.

What makes Ahmadinejad's remarks all the more disturbing is that they come at a time when Iran is actively pursuing nuclear weapons that could make his harsh rhetoric a reality. How can the world stand by while an outlaw nation attempts to gain nuclear weapons? How can the world stand by while an outlaw nation announces its despotic intentions to annihilate millions of people? Should Iran one day act on its murderous intent, how can the world claim surprise?

As our ranking member, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), points out, sometimes a madman means exactly what he says. The world must unite to condemn these threats

and this episode must stiffen the resolve of Europe and the United Nations to ensure that Tehran will never, never acquire nuclear weapons.

I thank the chairman and the ranking member for the leadership in offering this resolution, and I am proud to sponsor it.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the learned gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER).

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the resolution. We need to send a message. This message is being sent immediately upon hearing these despicable words from the President of Iran. Again, understanding the significance of these words, we must recommit ourselves in this body to seeing to it that Iran never does possess nuclear weapons and these weapons of mass destruction that would create a hell on Earth and not only disturb the peace but could threaten the lives not only of the people of Israel but the people throughout the world who support Israel's right to exist.

Let me make that very clear. All of our allies, all of our neighbors, every neighborhood in the United States of America would be at risk if the Iran mullah regime has possession of nuclear weapons. We know this not because Iran threatens Israel. We know this because any country that has a president that would threaten to wipe off the face of the map another country is a threat to all decent people in the world, and they know it.

The President of Iran has said they will wipe Israel off the face of the map. Let us note that he and those in his regime hold power only because the people of Iran are denied the right to choose their own leaders. He is not the President of Iran; he is part of a gangster regime run by radicals who are out of touch with Islam and do not represent their own people.

As so often happens, those who oppose the freedom of their own people end up being a threat to the peace and stability of the world, and that is exactly what this statement exemplifies.

The mullahs are playing a horrible role in the lives of their own people. They promote hatred, violence, and intolerance in a region that is desperate for peace. They are spreading hatred and violence and an intolerance in a region that right now is poised and ready for peace, reconciliation and, yes, democracy.

The people of Iran are not our enemies. This resolution is not about the people of Iran. We would ask the people of Iran today to join with us, the free people of the world and the decent people of the world, in building a better world, a peaceful world, a tolerant world, a world of democracy and freedom. We can do this together by eliminating the mullah regime. They are the ones that should be removed from the face of the planet, not Iran, but their mullah regime, the dictatorship that holds power over them.

They should go back to the mosque. The people of Iran should be free. The people of the region of the Middle East, including the people of Israel, should live in peace and harmony with their neighbors. That is what this resolution is all about.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to my good friend from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN).

(Mr. AL GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) for this opportunity to speak.

Mr. Speaker, Emily Dickenson said that "a word is dead when it is said some say. I say it just begins to live that day."

These words of hate are taking on life, Mr. Speaker. These words of hate are a clarion call to us to take affirmative action to make sure that this president is never armed with nuclear weapons. This president with these words of hate could create a nuclear holocaust, an inferno if you will, unlike which even the mind of Dante could imagine.

We must not allow these words of hate to go unchallenged. This is why I rise today. I rise because I support the resolution. I believe that this is the appropriate action for us to take as a first step.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK).

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I praise Chairman HYDE and Ranking Member LANTOS for bringing this resolution so quickly to the floor.

Adolf Hitler said when genocide was committed against the Armenians, No one will remember. But we remember. When "Mein Kampf" was written, the dictator said he planned genocide against the Jewish people, but the international community ignored his plan and 6 million died in the death camp ovens.

□ 1030

Now, the leader of Iran delivered his "Mein Kampf" speech committing Iran to a policy of genocide against Israel.

He told us that he seeks to kill another 6 million Jews in Israel, but if Iran builds nuclear weapons and missiles, he will not only commit a second Jewish Holocaust, he will also kill 1 million Arabs that live in Israel. He would kill them, too. The fallout from his attack would also deposit poison on Jordan, and he would kill them, too.

The President of Iran's speech was not religious. It was genocidal. The President of Iran's speech was not for the Muslim faithful. It is going to lead to the death of Muslims living in Israel and Jordan.

If the failure of the League of Nations against Hitler teaches us anything, it is that the international community must listen to the warnings of would-be leaders of genocide and stop

them. The United Nations, formed out of the ashes of Germany, committed itself to stopping men of this kind who plan to commit genocide against other Nations.

Every generation is tested by dictators, and the Iranians are becoming our generation's test. Let us join with the United Nations and moderate Muslim Nations to say that we have read the lessons of history, and we will now act collectively to stop them. This is our generation's test, and we owe it to our grandparents who opposed the dictators to make this a collective action before the danger against millions grows.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER).

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, the history of the 20th century aptly teaches us that when tyrants threaten genocide and mass murder, their words must be taken seriously because they have a tendency to do exactly what they said they would do.

When President Ahmadinejad of Iran threatened to destroy Israel, says Israel must be wiped off the map, he joined the fellow he defeated in the election, the former President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani who said that Israel must be destroyed by nuclear weapons, and it does not matter. One nuclear bomb will destroy Israel, and nuclear war will merely harm, not destroy, the Islamic world.

These men must be taken seriously. The threats of genocide must not be permitted to be carried out. Iran is the enemy of peace and the enemy of order and the enemy of mankind in its behavior and its proclaimed intentions. Iran must not be permitted to have nuclear weapons.

It is a shame that this country got diverted into Iraq from focusing on the real threat to peace in the world, Iran, and we should focus on Iran and make sure they do not get nuclear weapons, and make sure they return to peaceful sanity.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to my good friend and distinguished colleague from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL).

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois and the kind gentleman from California for bringing this resolution to the floor today and allowing me to join them as a cosponsor.

On Wednesday at a speech in front of 4,000 Iranian students, the President of Iran called for Israel to be "wiped off the map." He led a group of students in chants of "death to Israel."

Our message to Iran and its President is firm. We condemn in the strongest terms his dangerous and reckless remarks. These comments are a wake-up call to the international community as we deal with Iran's attempt to gain access to nuclear technology.

It goes without saying, Iran's words are a challenge to all members of the

United Nations and the integrity of the United Nations Charter and those who have signed on to it. As a member of the United Nations, the President of Iran's comments violate U.N. rules and must be dealt with decisively by the United Nations leadership and all those in the Security Council.

This kind of hateful rhetoric, it breeds a terrorism and a violence that we saw in the 20th century, and we took steps to deal with that type of reckless, hateful speech. Yet, unfortunately, it is what we have come to expect from Iran's leadership, but I do not believe that spirit or those words represent the aspirations of the Iranian people.

I support this resolution and urge my colleagues in both parties and those in the world body to condemn its hatefulness in all its forms.

Again, I want to thank my two colleagues from Illinois and from California for their leadership and the speed in which they brought this resolution to the floor, because today, when it comes to hate, the United States Congress speaks with one forceful voice.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to my good friend and distinguished colleague from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN).

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank my California colleague for yielding me time.

I rise to condemn in the strongest way statements made by President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad earlier this week and strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the resolution.

Earlier this week, the President of Iran repeated the late Ayatollah Khomeini's call, stating, "Israel must be wiped off the map," described Israel as "a disgraced blot on the face of the Islamic world," and declared that "anybody who recognizes Israel will burn in the fire of the Islamic nation's fury."

These comments are unacceptable and raise concerns about Iran's intentions. Does Iran want to be a partner in this world or an outlaw regime that is a pariah among nations?

It is also troubling that this was not just the sentiment of the President, but the Iranian Foreign Minister reiterated the President's remarks stating, "The comments expressed by the President are the declared and specific policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. We don't recognize the Zionist regime and don't consider it legitimate."

Mr. Speaker, as one of our closest allies, Israel has constantly had to defend itself from hostile neighbors supported by Iran. However, it poses a new threat with nuclear ambitions not just in the Middle East, but to the world, and that is why this statement is outrageous.

I think our country, by passing this resolution, needs to guarantee our continued support for Israel, and I will insert the rest of my statement in the RECORD at this point.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn in the strongest way the statements made by Iranian

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad earlier this week I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

Earlier this week, President Ahmadinejad repeated the late Ayatollah Khomeini's call, stating "Israel must be wiped off the map," described Israel as "a disgraceful blot on the face of the Islamic world," and declared that "anybody who recognizes Israel will burn in the fire of the Islamic nation's fury."

These comments are unacceptable and raise concerns about Iran's intentions. Does Iran want to be a partner in this world or an outlaw regime that is a pariah among nations. It is also troubling that this was not just the sentiment of the President, but that Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki reiterated President Ahmadinejad's remarks stating "the comments expressed by the president are the declared and specific policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. We don't recognize the Zionist regime and don't consider it legitimate."

Mr. Speaker, as one of our closest allies, Israel has constantly had to defend itself from hostile neighbors, however, Iran poses a new and possible more serious threat with its nuclear ambitions.

When reading about these comments I learned that during a military parade in Tehran just a month ago, "Israel Should Be Wiped Off the Map" was the slogan draped on a Shahab-3 ballistic missile. Six of the missiles were displayed in the parade; with a 1,250 mile range, these missiles could reach Israel. Nuclear power is dangerous in reasonable nations but must be controlled in outlaw countries. Iran has long been a threat to Middle East peace and Israel, and President Ahmadinejad's remarks underline Iran's hostile intent. We should treat Iran as an outlaw government and not only a threat to Israel or our country but the world.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support his resolution to denounce the comments made by President Ahmadinejad and to guarantee our support for Israel's security.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, three generations ago, Adolph Hitler threatened to kill the Jews of Europe. When he made that statement, the gullible, the pseudosophisticates, the appeasers thought that it was only oratory.

Earlier this year we commemorated the liberation of Auschwitz, where a million of those whom Hitler promised to kill were, in fact, destroyed in the gas chambers, in the nightmare of that concentration camp.

We now have a similar statement from an equally deranged but serious leader of a nation. He is calling for the destruction of another 6 million, this time Israelis.

The civilized world must understand that these are not oratorical statements, but plans for action. We need to prevent Iran from ever obtaining nuclear weapons, and we must do everything in our power to have this insane, megalomaniacal regime replaced by a regime of responsibility which would be part of the civilized world.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the resolution. I want to commend

the authors of H. Res. 523, HENRY HYDE, Chairman of our International Relations Committee, TOM LANTOS, the ranking member of that committee, and a host of others, in their condemnation of the words of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. On Wednesday, President Ahmadinejad presented 4,000 of his country's youth with a diatribe against the state of Israel entitled "A World Without Zionism." As the resolution pending before the House today states, Ahmadinejad described Israel as "a disgraceful blot on the face of the Islamic world" as well as a place that "must be wiped off the map." As Islam is a self-proclaimed religion of peaceful teachings, President Ahmadinejad's words are anything but. His portrait of "Islamic fury" that wishes to "burn Israel" turns the entire civilized world against him. What kind of leadership is that?

Unfortunately, Ahmadinejad's words are not the only ones of this kind coming from the mouths of Iranian leaders. In 2001, the President of Iran's Expediency Council, Ali Akbar Hasemi-Rafsanjani threatened Israel with nuclear attack. These words are the latest in a string of defiant moves against the international community by Iran. Its uranium enrichment program openly disregards the warnings of the International Atomic Energy Agency. And we are all well aware that Iran also has been credited with harboring terrorists and relaxing border security with Iraq to enable entry into that fledgling democracy. These attempts by the government of Iran to destabilize Iraq are absolutely despicable and cannot be tolerated if Iraq's democracy is to grow.

In addition to these destabilizing activities in Iraq, Iran has openly supported the violent actions of terrorist groups of Hamas and Hezbollah, both of whom have repeatedly called for the annihilation of Israel and have repeatedly backed up that threat with suicide bombings inside Israel. How can the United States' and our allies' attempts to spread democracy and promote peace be effective when nations such as Iran are protecting and bankrolling such groups?

This has been a landmark year for the Middle East and Persian Gulf, especially in Iraq, Israel and in the Palestinian areas. We have seen the extremely successful constitutional reforms and democratic elections in Iraq, unwavering in the face of security risks. Israel and the Palestinian Authority reached a milestone agreement regarding the controversial Gaza strip settlements. In addition, Lebanon moved forward in the democratic process by holding elections without significant Syrian interference and Bahrain allowed women to vote for the first time. If those successes are not indicative of worthy work by all nations involved, then I don't know what is.

The state of Israel, as the only non-Islamic nation in its region, has come under fire since its creation in 1947. However, it has withstood verbal and physical attack and it will continue to do so with the unwavering support of the United States. It is ironic, perhaps, that this week, the House passed a resolution which congratulated Ambassador Dan Gillerman of Israel as he was elected as a Vice President of the United Nations General Assembly. This marks the first time that Israel has been included in a U.N. regional grouping and the first time an Israeli has served as a U.N. General Assembly Vice President. While the international community continues to welcome Israel's deeper involvement, Iran refuses not

only to recognize Israel's right to fully participate in U.N. activities, it also refuses to recognize its right to exist.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of H. Res. 523, a resolution to condemn Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's recent threats against Israel. We were all extremely disturbed to hear that President Ahmadinejad called for "wiping Israel off the map," an incendiary and inexcusable attack against one of America's closest allies and friends. This threat may prove more serious than any other, as we all know that Iran insists on developing nuclear capabilities.

We have already seen harsh condemnations of this hateful speech around the world, from British Prime Minister Tony Blair to European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso to U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan. Now it is our turn, as the elected Representatives of the American people, to stand with our Israeli friends and against the hatred that is all-too-often pointed in their direction.

I read a recent Associated Press report that thousands of Iranians gathered in the streets today, some seen holding signs that said "Death to Israel, Death to America." However unfortunate, the signs serve as a reminder that America and Israel are closely connected, and that we will always stand together for democracy and freedom, and against hatred.

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my colleagues in the House of Representatives to strongly condemn the evil words of the President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and to support H. Res. 523 condemning this threat.

Iran has taken an unprecedented action in threatening to wipe off the map another sovereign country, Israel.

Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East and is our staunch ally and friend. Threats against Israel and her people are based in anti-Semitism and must be utterly and completely condemned by all countries in the world who want peace to reign over evil and terror. A responsible member of the international community cannot make these unprovoked and destructive threats against another member of the international community.

At a time when Iran is flagrantly violating international bodies in their calls for transparency and restraint in Iran's nuclear ambitions, these comments are all the more concerning to the international community. Further, Iran remains the world's leading state-sponsor of terror and has praised and supported militant groups such as Islamic Jihad who commit suicide bombing atrocities against Israel.

Mr. Speaker, Iran is not just a threat to Israel, but to the entire peaceful world community. The United States must continue to lead in efforts not only to keep a check on the danger presented by Iran to the world, but also to help achieve a lasting peace in the Middle East. I join my colleagues from both parties today in strongly condemning Iran's threats against Israel and urge passage of this important resolution.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, this morning I voted in favor of H. Res. 523, a resolution condemning the hateful statements of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on October 26, 2005 against Israel.

Mr. Speaker, these statements are not only outrageous, but must be denounced in the strongest possible terms.

Such inflammatory vitriol only contributes to destabilizing the Middle East. That's why, Mr. Speaker, we must redouble our efforts for the cause of peace in the region and work with all our international partners, including multilateral institutions, to ensure that Iran does not acquire nuclear weapons.

In supporting the Resolution and voting to condemn these statements today, I do so knowing that the Resolution is not intended to provide legal justification, nor may it be cited in support, for pre-emptive military action against Iran.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in strong support of H. Res. 523, a resolution condemning Iranian Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's declaration that "Israel must be wiped off the map."

At a time when so many are working to foster peace and enhance security in the Middle East, President Ahmadinejad's comments are not only abhorrent, but also place that already very troubled region in further jeopardy. His statement warrants a swift, unequivocal condemnation from Congress as well as the United Nations and all countries around the world that are concerned about troubling changes in Iranian foreign policy under President Ahmadinejad.

Again, I urge all of my colleagues to support this important resolution, and condemn the Iranian President's remarks in the strongest possible terms.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 523, which condemns the recent threats against Israel made by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. The Iranian President recently declared that "Israel must be wiped off the map," described Israel as "a disgraceful blot [on] the face of the Islamic world," and declared that "[a]nybody who recognizes Israel will burn in the fire of the Islamic nation's fury."

I join my colleagues in condemning these remarks and threats against the state of Israel. Iran should repudiate these statements. The United Nations Security Council should condemn these statements and censure Iran for its statements and policies aimed at destroying Israel. These despicable comments only serve to legitimize and fuel those that preach hatred and anti-Semitism in the Middle East.

Earlier this year we marked the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camps by Soviet Army troops, which served as a reminder of the consequences of allowing anti-Semitism to flourish. I have worked closely with my colleagues on the U.S. Helsinki Commission and my fellow parliamentarians in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to take measures aimed at eradicating the threat of anti-Semitism and hate throughout the world.

In 2004 the OSCE's Conference on Anti-Semitism produced the historic Berlin Declaration which condemns "without reserve all manifestations of and attacks motivated by anti-Semitism," notes that anti-Semitism has "assumed new forms and expressions . . . which pose a threat to democracy and the values of civilization," and "declares unambiguously that international developments or political issues, including those in Israel or elsewhere in the Middle East, never justify anti-Semitism."

Iran has actively supported numerous terrorist groups over the years and has attempted to undermine the peace process be-

tween the Palestinians and Israelis. Iran has funded suicide bombers and militant organizations that are seeking to kill and maim Israelis, including civilians. Iran is still seeking weapons of mass destruction, and has deceived the international community in the past about its intentions. Next month the International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA, will meet on this issue, and I would urge the IAEA to refer this matter to the U.N. Security Council for the consideration of sanctions.

The House should also take up and pass legislation to strengthen the Iran-Libya Sanctions Act (ILSA). I was pleased to support the five-year extension of ILSA when it was considered by the House Ways and Means Committee in 2001. H.R. 282, the Iran Freedom Support Act would repeal the sunset of ILSA, close some loopholes in ILSA, provide assistance to pro-democracy organizations in Iran, and require ILSA to remain in effect until the President certifies to Congress that Iran has permanently and verifiably dismantled its weapons of mass destruction programs and has committed to combating such weapons' proliferation.

I am pleased that the European Union, Canada, and Russia have condemned the remarks of the Iranian President. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and to work with our allies to promote democracy in Iran, convince Iran to give up its pursuit of WMD, and fight anti-Semitism wherever it arises.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I voted in favor of H. Res. 523. President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's threats against Israel are appalling and contemptible. I believe that all nations should strongly condemn these remarks. However, I do not want my vote to be misconstrued as a vote in support of a carte blanche measure to wage war against Iran, or any other country. The language in this resolution calls on "all civilized nations to consider measures to deny Iran the means to carry out its threats and to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons." This statement means just that, all nations should consider measures against Iran, it does not authorize the use of force against Iran. I share the world's concern about Iran acquiring weapons of mass destruction and it is imperative that we continue to pursue diplomatic avenues. I do not support, at this time, the use of military force and my vote in favor of this resolution is and should not be interpreted as a vote authorizing such action.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues here in condemning the statement reportedly made by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad that "Israel must be wiped off the map." I reject this statement and any such statement by any government anywhere because I reject the notion that the use or threat of violence is an appropriate way to solve international disputes.

While rejecting comments by Iran that seem to advocate the use of force, I must also strongly object to using Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's statement as an excuse to escalate our own rhetoric and strengthen our anti-Iranian and anti-Muslim policies. This condemnable statement is nevertheless being conveniently used to expand our policy of remaking the Middle East in our own image.

I do find it interesting to hear my colleagues condemning Iran's implied threat of force while in the same breath calling for the use of force

against Iran. Ironically, it is small step from repeatedly calling Iran “our enemy” with increasingly militaristic rhetoric to calling for Iran to be “wiped off the map.” We should keep this in mind as we condemn the rhetoric of others while repeating similar rhetoric ourselves.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this resolution condemning Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad’s threats against Israel. Not in recent time have we heard such a repugnant statement made by an international leader. And I stand here today with my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to declare that the United States Congress will not sit idly by while Iran threatens Israel with anti-Semitic, racist, and dangerous threats.

Since its establishment in 1948, Israel has sought to live in peace with its neighbors. It has signed peace agreements with Egypt and Jordan, and continues to seek a two-state solution with the Palestinians.

On the contrary, Iran continues to seek instability in the Middle East. For Iran’s dictatorial regime, instability is power. Its actions combined with its anti-Semitic and anti-Western statements seek to accomplish nothing more than incite hate and violence in the region. President Ahmadinejad’s comments represent Iran’s long-term goal of violently destroying Israel. Most despicable about these statements is that Iranian leaders make them “in the name of Allah.” They attempt to manipulate the text of the Koran from its words of peace into directives of extremism and intolerance, tainting the world’s views of the religion.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Iran are calling out for freedom from the tyrannical regime which holds them hostage. While it is not the role of the United States to free the people of Iran, it is certainly our job to support them—and we will when they and their leaders choose democracy over autocracy and instability. Until then, the United States will never stand by when Iranian threats are levied at Israel or any other democracy in the world. The world can always count on that.

Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 523, a resolution condemning the unprovoked and incendiary statements made by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

On October 26, 2005, President Ahmadinejad described Israel as a “disgraceful blot” that should be “wiped off the map,” and declared that those who recognize Israel “will burn in the fire of the Islamic nation’s fury.”

While Mr. Ahmadinejad’s dangerous rhetoric is reason enough for alarm, it is even more frightening that Mr. Ahmadinejad and the Iranian regime have demonstrated a willingness to follow through on these statements.

In recent years, Iran has stepped up its efforts to initiate terror against Israel by directly funding and providing safe haven, training and weapons to Hamas, Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad. And just hours after his speech, Islamic Jihad, benefiting from this support, killed 5 Israeli citizens in a terrorist attack in Northern Israel.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Ahmadinejad has blood on his hands and we must stand strong against this menacing threat by passing this resolution.

Furthermore, I call on my colleagues to support the Iran Freedom Support Act, which would tighten and codify sanctions against

Iran, and I urge the United Nations Security Council to take immediate action to thwart Iran’s continued pursuit of nuclear weapons. Iran’s bellicose words and aggressive behavior must be met by a strong, united reaction by the United States and the international community.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on October 26, 2005, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad stated that “Israel must be wiped off the map.” It is shocking and unbelievable that the leader of any nation would call for the complete destruction of another.

These types of threats cannot stand unanswered. I join my colleagues today in condemning the president of Iran’s remarks in the strongest of terms.

While the peace process has been moving along in the Middle East without much participation from the Bush administration, Iran continues to pursue nuclear armament with little interest shown by the president, and the United States remains bogged down in Iraq.

I hope these unconscionable statements will cause the Bush administration to renew its commitment to our allies in the region.

Let us make no mistake, such statements present a serious threat to the world. Iran’s leaders are pursuing nuclear armament, and continue to call for the destruction of the state of Israel, one of the United States most important allies.

The statements made by President Ahmadinejad are not just a threat against the people of Israel, but they are a threat to the peace and stability of the entire world.

These words of hate must not go unanswered or unchallenged. The United States and the United Nations must stand firmly against such threats.

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and join my colleagues in condemning the vile statement made this week by Iran’s president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, when he called for Israel to be “wiped off the map.” Such words are not empty rhetoric but poison aimed at inspiring hate, violence and terrorism. The fact that these words were spoken before an audience of 4,000 students is a dark and ominous demonstration of the current Iranian president’s pathological leadership.

Israel is a sovereign democracy in which free people deserve the right to live in peace and without fear of terror or threats. While this dangerous man speaks venom, the people of Iran must be reminded that the people of the U.S. and the entire Congress stand in strong support of Israel. As Israel exists today, so will it exist one hundred years from now, and I hope, a thousand years from now, as a strong and inseparable partner of the American people.

Iran’s president is the voice of hatred and moral corruption. It is a voice not to be ignored, but guarded against. The people of Iran are not served by this voice and neither is the civilized world. President Ahmadinejad must be placed on notice by all nations of the world and all voices of civility and dignity—the people of Israel are our brothers and sisters and such a threat is not only a threat against Israel but against the entire world community. Collectively we seek peace, but we also deserve security, the U.S., Israel and all nations that reject these virulent sentiments.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support for H. Res. 523 and join my col-

leagues in condemning Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad’s threats against Israel.

This week, during an anti-Zionist conference in Tehran, the Iranian President called for Israel to be “wiped off the map” and led group chants of “death to Israel.” Standing beside Sheikh Nasrallah, leader of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah terrorist organization, he called for violence against Israel and all states that recognize her existence.

Leaders around the world responded with forceful condemnation. At the U.N., Secretary General Annan acted swiftly to reject Iran’s unprovoked hostility.

Now, it is time for the U.N. to stand up as an institution and rebuke Iran for its actions. It is time for the U.N., which has a long history of unfair treatment of Israel, to speak out loudly and clearly in support of its existence.

Iran’s threats against Israel violate the fundamental U.N. Charter principle of sovereign equality for all member states. The danger of its rhetoric is only underscored by its open support for terrorist groups that attack Israel, and its determination to develop nuclear weapons and obtain long-range missiles capable of striking Israel.

This alarming incident demonstrates that the international community must redouble its efforts to shut down Iran’s nuclear program before the regime has the capability to try and carry out its evil designs.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of our time.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the gentleman from California for his superb support for this important resolution, as well as the other Members who spoke.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to the order of the House today, the resolution is considered read and the previous question is ordered on the resolution and on the preamble.

The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the conference report to accompany H.R. 2744.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.