



*News from the...*

# United States House of Representatives

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## In Bipartisan Leadership Effort, Crowley and Cantor Send Letter to President Urging for Paramount Focus at G-8 Summit on Iran's Nuclear Weapons Program

*Press for Adoption of Common G-8 Strategy While President Visits Paris*

**Washington, DC**—Today, Congressman Joseph Crowley (D-NY), a Chief Deputy Democratic Whip and Congressman Eric Cantor (R-VA), the Chief Deputy Republican Whip, sent a letter to President Bush, calling for him to push for the adoption of a common G-8 strategy to confront the threat of Iran's nuclear weapons programs. Over 209 members of the House signed the letter.

"The importance of the issue of Iran's nuclear capabilities transcends party lines," said Congressman Crowley. "I am pleased to join my friend and colleague in sending this letter to President Bush, imploring him to make Iran's nuclear program part of the G-8 summit. The summit presents a unique opportunity to further a multilateral approach to the threat to international security that Iran's nuclear weapons program presents. We are still fighting the ever-dangerous War on Terrorism, and the weapons capabilities that Iran is trying to attain and possibly already possesses is a threat not only to the people in the Middle East, but to the entire world."

"Republicans and Democrats in Congress agree that Iran's nuclear program threatens the Middle East and the entire world," said Congressman Cantor. "Iran has refused to comply with international treaties through its deceptive, decades-long nuclear weapons program. It is time for the world's most influential countries to have a united front against this common threat. The G-8 Summit is a golden opportunity for President Bush to urge our global partners to develop a common strategy to thwart Iran's troubling nuclear program."

The G-8 summit will be held in Sea Island, Georgia on June 8. The other seven participant nations in the G-8 summit (Japan, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, Canada, and the U.K.) have declared the Iranian nuclear program to be of great concern. Each of the eight countries has substantial economic relations with Iran, with over 40% of all Iran's trade with these nations, giving them enormous economic leverage over Iran. The UN's International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors will meet a week after the G-8 summit to consider Iran's latest nuclear declaration, which will serve as a timely opportunity to highlight the global concern over Iran's nuclear activities

Iran is continuing its clandestine nuclear weapons program, a practice it has engaged in for nearly twenty years. Even now, despite repeated pledges by the Islamic regime to disclose its nuclear activities to the IAEA, Iran is concealing central elements of its nuclear program and acknowledging them only after new discoveries emerge. Issued on February 24, 2004, the IAEA's latest interim report on Iran's program unearthed continuing deception and pursuit of proscribed nuclear activities. The report underscored the need for the United States and the international community to increase pressure on Iran to end its efforts to develop a nuclear bomb.

**Letter Attached.**

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Dear Mr. President:

We write concerning the Group of Eight Summit to be held in the United States during the week of June 8, 2004. We understand that the centerpiece of the Summit is consideration of proposals to initiate the process of democratic transformation of the Middle East. While we know that such a transformation will not be easy, nor accomplished quickly, we believe, as you do, that it is essential to begin transformation if that region is ever to be stable and peaceful.

At the same time, we also believe that the Summit presents a unique opportunity to further a multilateral approach to the threat to international security that Iran's nuclear weapons program presents. Each of the other seven participant nations has declared the Iranian nuclear program to be of great concern. Each has substantial economic relations with Iran. Taken together, well over 40% of all Iran's trade is with these seven nations, giving them enormous economic leverage over Iran.

Over the last two years, the international community has learned a great deal about Iran's nuclear duplicity. As a member of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Iran has forsworn obtaining nuclear weapons. The Treaty obligates Iran to declare all of its nuclear activities to the International Atomic Energy Agency and to place all of them under the IAEA's inspection regime. Yet Iran has pursued a clandestine nuclear program for nearly two decades and has hidden from the IAEA an incredible range of nuclear activity, including the importation of uranium, the construction of uranium enrichment facilities, the construction of a uranium conversion facility, experimentation with the separation of plutonium, and the construction of a heavy water production facility.

It was only after this information was publicly revealed by an Iranian opposition group that Iran acknowledged such activities. But Iran has continued its deception even after supposedly giving the IAEA a complete accounting of its nuclear activities. The IAEA has continued to uncover new facts about the Iranian program, including the recent discoveries that Iran had experimented with polonium, the element used to initiate a chain reaction for nuclear explosives, and that uranium, enriched far beyond what is required for civil nuclear power, was present at more than one site.

What we know of the Iranian nuclear weapons program indicates that it is at a very advanced stage of development—and, of course, we do not yet know its full scope. There is only a very limited time to stop Iran before the world confronts the realization that the leading sponsor of international terrorism possesses the ability to produce a nuclear weapon.

We believe the G-8 Summit, which occurs the week before the IAEA's Board of Governors meets to consider Iran's latest nuclear declaration, is a particularly timely opportunity to highlight the global concern over Iran's nuclear activities. We strongly urge you to press for the adoption of a common G-8 strategy to confront this threat, including the use of multilateral economic sanctions. Until now, Iran has had to pay little economic penalty for its illegal nuclear program. We hope that our G – 8 partners, all of whom stress the importance of maintaining the international non-proliferation regime, will take seriously their own words of concern about Iran and use their vast economic leverage with Iran before it is too late.

Sincerely,  
Eric Cantor  
Roy Blunt  
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen  
Jim Kolbe  
Tom Davis  
Randy Neugebauer  
Robin Hayes  
Mike Rogers (AL)  
Chris Smith  
Dan Burton  
Jeb Bradley  
Jerry Lewis

Joseph Crowley  
Nancy Pelosi  
Steny H. Hoyer  
Robert Menendez  
Tom Lantos  
Nita Lowey  
Gary Ackerman  
Robert T. Matsui  
Howard L. Berman  
Henry A. Waxman  
Eliot L. Engel  
Shelley Berkley

Jim Saxton  
John Shimkus  
Howard Coble  
Mark Green  
Mark Souder  
Paul Ryan  
Edward Schrock  
John McHugh  
George Nethercutt, Jr.  
Todd Russell Platts  
James Greenwood  
J. Gresham Barrett  
J.D. Hayworth  
John Culberson  
Steve Chabot  
Christopher Shays  
Steve King  
Virgil Goode  
John Sullivan  
Jon Porter  
Devin Nunes  
Jim Ramstad  
Gerald Weller  
Sue Kelly  
Tim Murphy  
Tom Tancredo  
J. Randy Forbes  
Joseph R. Pitts  
John Kline  
Phil English  
Don Manzullo  
Peter King  
Dave Weldon  
Elton Gallegly  
Michael Burgess  
Jeff Flake  
Marsha Blackburn  
Joe Knollenberg  
Terry Everett  
Mark Foley  
Chris Chocola  
Jim DeMint  
Jim Gerlach  
Rob Bishop  
Mark Kennedy  
Richard Baker  
Dennis Rehberg  
Gil Gutknecht  
Tim Johnson  
Scott McInnis  
Wally Herger  
Pete Sessions  
Tom Cole  
Mark Kirk  
Jim Ryun  
Jeb Hensarling  
Phil Crane

Robert Wexler  
Joseph M. Hoeffel  
Adam B. Schiff  
Barbara Lee  
Martin Frost  
Anthony D. Weiner  
Chris Bell  
Max Sandlin  
Mike Honda  
Ben Chandler  
Robert E. Andrews  
Barney Frank  
Michael R. McNulty  
Silvestre Reyes  
Corrine Brown  
Collin Peterson  
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Jerrold Nadler  
Chet Edwards  
Michael Capuano  
Denise Majette  
David Scott  
Jim Cooper  
Edward J. Markey  
Nick Lampson  
Carolyn McCarthy  
Dennis A. Cardoza  
Peter A. DeFazio  
Peter Deutsch  
Adam Smith  
Gene Green  
Bart Gordon  
Fortney Pete Stark  
Lane Evans  
Mark Udall  
Sander M. Levin  
Steve Israel  
George Miller  
Jim Davis  
Jim Turner  
Baron Hill  
Benjamin L. Cardin  
Edolphus Towns  
Rodney Alexander  
Stephen F. Lynch  
Alcee L. Hastings  
Timothy H. Bishop  
Sam Farr  
Steven R. Rothman  
Harold Ford, Jr.  
Joe Baca  
Ted Strickland  
Martin T. Meehan  
Lynn Woolsey  
Lucille Roybal-Allard

Jo Bonner  
Jack Kingston  
Jim McCrery  
Jim Nussle  
Joe Wilson  
C. L. "Butch" Otter  
Kenny Hulshof  
John Shadegg  
Charles Bass  
Greg Walden  
Max Burns  
Tom Latham  
Adam Putnam  
Judy Biggert  
Thaddeus McCotter  
John Doolittle  
Kay Granger  
Mike Simpson  
Patrick Tiberi  
Curt Weldon  
Lincoln Diaz-Balart  
Lee Terry  
Sherwood Boehlert  
Mario Diaz-Balart  
Richard Burr  
Henry Brown  
Mary Bono  
Doug Ose  
John Sweeney  
James Sensenbrenner

Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Michael F. Doyle  
Artur Davis  
Christopher John  
Wm. Lacy Clay  
David E. Price  
Michael H. Michaud  
James P. McGovern  
Jerry Costello  
Thomas H. Allen  
Betty McCollum  
Mike Thompson  
Rosa DeLauro  
Linda Sanchez  
Dennis Moore  
Leonard L. Boswell  
Janice D. Schakowsky  
Jim Marshall  
Brian Baird  
Allen Boyd  
Jay Inslee  
John Olver  
Brad Carson  
Tim Holden  
Jesse Jackson, Jr.  
James Langevin  
Zoe Lofgren  
Rick Larsen  
Luis V. Gutierrez  
Darlene Hooley  
Major Owens  
Bobby L. Rush  
David Wu  
Ciro D. Rodriguez  
Tom Udall  
James Clyburn  
Charles Gonzalez  
Anna Eshoo  
Kendrick Meek  
Rush Holt  
John Larson

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