

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 8, 2011

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Madam Secretary:

We are writing to express our concern about information our offices have received regarding potential efforts by Iran to engage in nuclear cooperation with Argentina, using Venezuela as its interlocutor.

With Hugo Chavez as its broker, the Iranian regime has significantly expanded its reach throughout Latin America and the Caribbean in recent years. Utilizing its presence in the hemisphere, Iran - a designated state-sponsor of terrorism - has worked vigorously to strengthen regional support for its nuclear ambitions, and other destructive policies.

While it is our understanding that Argentina publicly maintains objections to Iran's nuclear program, a position it established in the wake of the 1992 attack on the Israeli Embassy and 1994 attack on the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, there are reports that in 2007 Mahmoud Ahmadinejad allegedly asked Hugo Chavez to intercede with President Nestor Kirchner to change Argentine policy to allow Iran access to Argentine technology.

Further, it is our understanding that the State Department has been provided information regarding these reports and alleging a growing commercial relationship between Argentina and Iran through Venezuela.

In light of Iran's relentless efforts to develop its nuclear capabilities, we would like to request information, within all applicable rules and guidelines, regarding Argentina's current policy toward Iran and its nuclear program; the status of any possible economic projects Argentina may be engaged in with Venezuela that may involve Iran, including any possible transfers of funds between these three countries; and the extent of any nuclear cooperation that may be at play between Argentina, Venezuela, and Iran to date.

Thank you in advance for your assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,



ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
Member of Congress



CONNIE MACK
Member of Congress



DAVID RIVERA
Member of Congress