

all agree that US participation is the missing piece of the puzzle. No diplomatic approach that rejects direct talks with Iran can be regarded as a serious effort to seek a peaceful solution.

We remind you that decision-making power under Iran's government is diffuse. Although we are all familiar with the inflammatory rhetoric of President Ahmadinejad, there are certainly other significant governmental bodies in Iran that have demonstrated moderation and an eagerness for dialogue. We believe that such bodies should be sought out for diplomatic engagement.

There are seldom occasions in history where a great country should fear dialogue with a potential adversary. On the contrary, dialogue is needed to explain clearly the compelling nature of America's objectives in the Middle East. More than 25 years of isolating Iran has moved us farther from, not closer to, achieving these objectives. No one can dispute that the US has a strong track record of diplomatic successes in autocratic societies after opening negotiation channels.

We believe America's diplomats are the best in the world, and should be allowed to apply their talents to our conflict with Iran. We therefore respectfully urge you to begin the process of holding direct talks with Iran as soon as possible.

Sincerely,