Economic sanctions should be enough to discourage Iran from developing nuclear weapons, but the U.S. still should be prepared for military action, Newport Beach Rep. John Campbell said this week.

Speaking to Congress last week about the situation in Iraq, Gen. David Petraeus said Iran is providing weapons to Iraqi militias but he is not pursuing military action there at this time.

Campbell said he was pleased to hear Petraeus say conditions in Iraq are improving.

The congressman said the U.S. likely would have backing from the “world community,” particularly France and Germany, for more widespread sanctions against Iran to halt its nuclear program.

“I have said since the first day I ran for office that I felt Iran was the biggest threat to peace and stability in the world that existed at that time, and it is still the biggest threat,” Campbell said. But military action doesn’t look to be necessary yet, he added.

“I think we can do it in other ways, so I don’t think it’s likely at this point, but we have to be prepared,” he said.