

Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28) said that she was working to help a team of lacrosse players representing the Iroquois Confederacy able to travel to England this week for the World Lacrosse Championship. Slaughter said that based on conversations she had with the State Department yesterday and today she was hopeful the players would receive the necessary documentation for them to fly to Manchester, England to play in the premiere international tournament.

“These players are part of a wonderful tradition and an important legacy, both in the Native American culture and within the broader sports world,” Slaughter said. “This same core group of players, representing the six Indian nations that includes upstate New York and Canada, have traveled internationally for more than 20 years without interruption to participate in this tournament. I definitely don’t want to see this wonderful tradition end simply because of a paperwork holdup.”

At issue is a dispute between the State Department and the British government, which says that it will not issue visas to the players unless the U.S. government guarantees in writing that all the players will return home after the tournament. Slaughter is attempting to persuade the State Department to quickly write the letters so that the players can get visas.

By tradition, the players are all issued passports by the Iroquois Confederacy.