Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me

this time, and I stand in support of Joint Resolution 114.

Mr. Speaker, the way I see it is this way. Let us just say, hypothetically, if

it was August 2001, and I stood before

this House and said, listen, there is a

guy out there named Osama bin Laden who is associated with a terrorist

group named al Qaeda, and this terrorist group has found safe haven inside the corrupt Taliban government of

Afghanistan. And, my colleagues, I

think we should do something about it

because our intelligence is not necessarily absolute, but this guy is up to no good and we need to strike before he

strikes us. Now, if I had said that in August of

2001, people would have said, that war

monger, that jingoistic guy from Georgia. What is he talking about? Yet before September 11, would it not have

been nice if we could have had that speech and maybe prevented the tragedy of September 11?

Well, here we are. We know Saddam

Hussein has violated treaty after treaty which happened after Desert Storm,

starting with U.N. Resolution 660, U.N.

Resolution 678, U.N. Resolution 686, 687,

688, 701, all of them. In fact, 16 total of

very significant matters going back to Resolution 660. All of them violated, Mr. Speaker.

And then here is the situation with the weapons. We know that they have

VX. It is a sticky, colorless liquid that

interferes with nerve impulses of the

body, causes convulsions and paralysis.

U.N. inspectors estimate that Iraq has

the means to make 200 tons of VX.

Sarin Gas. And, of course, we know that it causes convulsions and paralysis as well. It was used in a small

quantity in a Tokyo subway in 1995. Again, inspectors estimate that they

have maybe as high as 800 tons of sarin

gas. It goes on. Mustard gas, anthrax,

and other great worrisome chemical

and biological weapons in their stockpile. We also know that he is trying to become nuclear capable.

Finally comes the question of terrorism. We know that the State Department has designated Iraq as a state

that sponsors international terrorism.

We know that they shelter the Abu

Nidal terrorist organization that has

carried out terrorist attacks in 20 different countries and killed over 900

people. We also know that Iraq shelters several prominent terrorist Palestinian

organizations, including the Palestine

Liberation Front, which is known for

its attacks on Israel, including one on

the Achille Lauro ship that killed the

United States citizen, Leon

Klinghoffer. My colleagues, the time to act is

now. If we could just think for a

minute what the price of action is

versus inaction. Had Todd Beamer and

the other passengers of Flight 93 elected a course of inaction on September

11, the price would have been significantly different for particularly those

of us in this building. This is a time

that calls for action. And in the great

words of Todd Beamer, let me close with this: ‘‘Let’s roll.’’

It is time to do something. Let us pass this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of

House Joint Resolution 114, Authorizing the

Use of Military Force Against Iraq.

Here’s how I view the situation: Suppose

last August (2001), I gave a speech announcing, ‘‘There’s a guy named Osama Bin Laden

who is involved in a terrorist group called Al Quida, which has found a safe haven and

training opportunities inside the corrupt

Taliban government of Afghanistan. Bin Laden

and his terrorist allies probably were involved

in the 1993 bombing of the WTC, the bombing

of the USS Cole in Yemen, and the bombing of our embassies in Africa. We know Bin

Laden hates America and it is likely his group

will attack our country in the future. Therefore

we need to eliminate him. I suggest we start

bombing his hideouts in Afghanistan immediately.’’

Had I given that speech, I would have been

laughed at and called a warmonger, even

though action against Al Quida in August 2001

could have saved thousands of lives in both

America and Afghanistan. But this, in fact, is

our situation today. Saddam Hussein hates us.

He harbors terrorist groups, possesses chemical and biological weapons, and may become

nuclear capable in a short period of time.

America traditionally does not do preemptive

strikes, but the events of September 11th

change everything. Americans will not tolerate

the threat of another horrific attack against the

United States. Although no American desires

a war, the best way to ensure Hassein’s compliance with UN resolutions, and reduce the

threat he poses to our national security, is for

Congress to confirm the United State’s willingness to use force if necessary.

Mr. Speaker, let me give you an account of

all the reasons why I support this resolution.

The whole world knows that Saddam Hus-

sein has repeatedly violated all 16 of the

United Nations Security Council Resolutions

(UNSCRs) for more than a decade. These violations should not be taken lightly and are

worthy of review. The list is substantial:

Mr. Speaker, some people have said, ‘‘why

are we doing this now?’’ They say there is no

‘‘clear and present danger.’’ I don’t know how

much clearer it has to be. The facts of the

matter are documented, and undoubtedly pose

a clear and present danger to our national security.

Documented U.N. weapons inspector reports show that Iraq continually deceived the

inspectors and never provided definitive proof

that they destroyed their stockpiles of biological and chemical weapons.

Iraq has admitted producing the world’s

most dangerous biological and chemical

weapons, but refuses to give proof that they

destroyed them. Examples of Iraq’s chemical

weapons include VX, Sarin Gas and Mustard Gas.

VX, the most toxic of chemical weapons, is a sticky, colorless liquid that interferes with the

body’s nerve impulses, causing convulsions

and paralysis of the lungs and blood vessels.

Victims essentially chock to death. A dose of

10 milligrams on the skin is enough to kill.

Iraq acknowledged making nearly 4 tons of

VX, and ‘‘claimed’’ they destroyed it, but they

never provided any definitive proof. U.N. in-

spectors estimate that Iraq has the means to

make more than 200 tons of VX, and Iraq con-

tinues to rebuild and expand dual-use facilities

that it could quickly adapt to chemical weapons production.

Sarin gas, a nerve agent like VX, causes

convulsions, paralysis and asphyxiation. Even

a small scale Sarin Gas attack such as the

one used in the Tokyo subway in 1995 can kill and injure vast numbers of people.

Iraq acknowledged making approximately

800 tons of Sarin gas and thousands of rockets, artillery shells and bombs containing

Sarin, but they have not accounted for hundreds of these weapons. Iraq willingly used

these weapons against Iran during the Iran-Iraq war, and it also used them against Kurdish Iraqi civilians.

Mustard Gas, a colorless liquid that evaporates into a gas and begins dissolving upon

contact with the skin causes injuries similar to

burns and damages the eyes and lungs.

Iraq acknowledged making thousands of

tons of mustard gas and using the chemical

during it’s war with Iran, but told U.N. inspectors they ‘‘misplaced’’ 550 mustard filled artillery shells after the Gulf war.

Examples of Iraq’s biological weapons include Anthrax, Botulimun Toxin and Aflatoxin

Anthrax, as we all know, is a potentially fatal

bacterium that causes flu like symptoms before filling the lungs with fluid and causing

death. Just a few tiny spores are enough to cause the deadly infection.

Iraq has acknowledged making 2,200 gallons of anthrax spores—enough to kill millions,

but U.N. inspectors determined that Iraq could

have made three times as much. Inspectors

say that at least 16 missile warheads filled

with Anthrax are missing, and Iraq is working

to produce the deadlier powdered form of Anthrax that could be sprayed from aircraft, put

into missile warheads, or given to terrorists.

Botulimun Toxin, is a poison that is one of

the deadliest substances known to man. Even

in small doses it causes gastrointestinal infection and can quickly advance to paralysis and

death. A mere 70 billionths of a gram is enough to kill if inhaled.

Iraq acknowledged making 2,200 gallons of

Botulimun Toxin, most of which was put into

missile warheads and other munitions. At least

five missile warheads with Botulimun Toxin

are missing according to U.N. inspectors.

Aflatoxin, is a poison that can cause swelling of the abdomen, lungs and brain resulting in convulsion, coma and death.

Iraq acknowledged making more than 520

gallons of Aflaxtoxin and putting it into missile

warheads and bombs. At least four Aflatoxin—

filled missile warheads are missing according to U.N. inspectors.

It is also a fact (and a clear and present

danger) that Saddam Hussein continues his

work to develop a nuclear weapon.

We know he had an advanced nuclear

weapons development program before the

Gulf War, and the independent Institute for

Strategic Studies concluded that Saddam Hus-

sein could build a nuclear bomb within months

if he were able to obtain fissile material.

We now know that Iraq has embarked on a

worldwide hunt for materials to make an atomic bomb. In the last 14 months, Iraq has

sought to buy thousands of specially designed

aluminum tubes, which are believed to be intended for use as components of centrifuges to enrich uranium.

As if weapons of mass destruction in the

hands of a ruthless dictator were not enough,

we now know that Saddam Hussein harbors terrorist organizations within Iraq.

Iraq is one of seven countries that have

been designated by the State Department as

‘‘state sponsors of international terrorism.’’

UNSUR 687 prohibits Saddam Hussein from

committing or supporting terrorism, or allowing

terrorist organizations to operate in Iraq. Saddam continues to violate these UNSUR provisions.

Iraq shelters the Abu Nidal Terrorist Organization that has carried out terrorist attacks in

twenty countries, killing or injuring almost 900

people. These terrorists have offices in Baghdad and received training, logistical assistance, and financial aid from the government of Iraq. Iraq also shelters several prominent Palestinian terrorist organizations in Baghdad, including the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF), which is known for attacks against Israel and

is headed by Abu Abbas, who carried out the

1985 hijacking of the cruise ship Achille Lauro

and murdered U.S. citizen Leo Klinghoffer.

Hussein increased from $10,000 to $25,000

the money he offers to families of Palestinian

suicide/homicide bombers who blow themselves up with belt explosives.

Several former Iraqi military officers have

described a highly secret terrorist training facility in Iraq known as Salman Pak, where both

Iraqis and non-Iraqi Arabs receive training on

hijacking planes and trains, planting explosives in cities, sabotage, and assassinations.

And in 1993, the Iraqi Intelligence Service

(IIS) attempted to assassinate former U.S.

President George Bush and the Emir of Kuwait. Kuwaiti authorities thwarted the terrorist

plot and arrested 17 suspects, led by two Iraqi nationals.

Mr. Speaker, I don’t know how much clearer

it needs to be. The American people will not

understand if we ignore these facts, sit back,

and wait for the unacceptable possibility of

Saddam Hussein providing a weapon of mass

destruction to a terrorist group for use against the United States.

Saddam Hussein was the only world leader

to fully condone the September 11 attacks on

America. His media even promised the American people that if their government did not

change its policies toward Iraq, it would suffer

even more devastating blows. He has even

endorsed and encouraged acts of terrorism against America.

The case is clear. We know Saddam Hussein has weapons of mass destruction, we

know he harbors terrorists including al-Qaida,

and we know he hates America, so the case

against Saddam really isn’t the issue. The

question is what are we going to do about it.

Cearly, we must authorize the use of military force against Iraq in case it becomes necessary. The President has said that military

action is a last resort, and our bipartisan resolution calls for the same tact, but Saddam

Hussein must know that America is prepared

to use force if he continues to defy UN Security Council resolutions and refuses to disarm.

As the President said, approving this resolution does not mean that military action is

imminent or unavoidable. The resolution will tell the

United Nations, and all nations, that America

speaks with one voice and is determined to

make the demands of the civilized world mean

something. Congress will be sending a message to Saddam Hussein that his only choice

is full compliance—and the time remaining for that choice is limited.

The Speaker, the price of taking action

against this evil dictator may be high, but history has shown that the price of inaction is

even higher. Had Todd Beamer and the passengers of flight 93 elected a course of inaction on September 11th, the price may have

been far higher for those of us in this building.

There comes a time when we must take action. A time when we must risk lives in order

to save lives. This resolution authorizes action, if necessary, to protect America.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that I speak for

every member of this House when I say I

hope we can avoid war & that Saddam Hussein will allow unfettered access to all sites

and willingly disarm. But if he does not, then

the Congress will have done its duty and

given the President the authority he needs to

defend our great nation. The authority to take

action if Iraq continues to delay, deceive and

deny. If Hussein complies, our resolution will

have worked, but if he does not, then in the

words of that brave American Todd Beamer, ‘‘Let’s Roll!’’