Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution, but we are

engaged in debating the most difficult

decision that Members of Congress are called upon to make.

Notwithstanding that, Saddam Hussein is uniquely evil, the only ruler in

power today, and the first one since

Hitler, to commit chemical genocide. I believe there is reason for the long

term to remove him from power. This resolution is the first step.

My colleagues, remember that Israel

absorbed the world’s hatred and scorn

for its attack on and destruction of

Iraq’s Osirak nuclear reactor in 1981.

Today it is accepted by most arms control experts that had Israel not destroyed Osirak, Hussein’s Iraq would

have had nuclear power by 1990, when

his forces pillaged their way through Kuwait.

We can see on this chart all the resolutions that were passed and that Sad-

dam Hussein did not comply with. In

fact, there were 12 immediately after

the war; 35 after those 12. All together,

47 resolutions, of which he scarcely complied.

Now, let us take the resolution on this chart, which is 687, governing the

cease-fire in 1991. It required that Iraq

unconditionally accept the destruction, removal or rendering harmless its

chemical and biological weapons. With-in 15 days after the passage of the resolution, Iraq was to have provided the

locations, the amounts, and types of

those specified items. Over a decade

later, we still have little information on that.

That is why I applaud President Bush

for taking his case to the United Nations and placing the burden of action

upon the organization to enforce its

own resolutions passed on Iraq. We owe

diplomacy and peaceful opportunities

the due diligence necessary to rid this

despotic regime of weapons of mass destruction and terrorism sponsorship.

However, if the U.S. is not credible in

alternatives for noncompliance, we will

again be at the crossroads asking the same question: If not now, when?

Let us move forward with this resolution, develop a consensus, and work together with other nations to remove this evil dictator.

Mr. Speaker, our vote this week will be

whether or not to authorize the President of

the United States to use necessary and appropriate force to defend the national security of

the United States against the continuing threat

posed by Iraq. I would like to emphatically

state that no decision weighs heavier on the

mind of a President, or a Member of Congress, than the decision to send our men and

women of the Armed Forces into action.

And I want to thank the President for working hard to make the case for possible—and

I want my colleagues and the public to under-

stand this—possible action against Iraq. The

President stated last night that he hopes military action is not required.

Iraq can avoid conflict by adhering to the security resolutions requiring ‘‘declaring and destroying all of it’s

weapons of mass destruction, ending support

for terrorism and ceasing the persecution of its

civilian population. And, it must release or account for all gulf war personnel, including an

American pilot, whose fate is still unknown.’’

And lastly, my colleagues, President Bush is

not alone in calling for a regime change. Congress made the need for regime change clear

in 1998 with the passage of the Iraq Liberation Act. The congress specifically stated ‘‘ It should

be the policy of the United States to support

efforts to remove the regime headed by Saddam Hussein from power in Iraq and to promote the emergence of a democratic government to replace that regime.’’ In that legislation we also called upon the United Nations to

establish an international criminal tribunal to

prosecute Saddam Hussein and those in his regime for crimes against humanity and criminal violation of international law.