September 11, 2001, is a day that will rank with December 7, 1941, as a day of

infamy in the history of the United States. That one event, 9–11, changed

the world we live in forever. I serve as a delegate to the NATO Parliamentary

Assembly from the Congress and never have I seen the outpouring of good will

and support from our NATO allies as we experienced in the aftermath of 9– 11.

For the first time in the 50-plus-year history of the mightiest military alliance in modern times, article 5 of the

NATO charter was invoked stating in

essence that when one member nation comes under attack, all consider themselves under attack and each pledges to

the other member nations all military,

diplomatic, and territorial assets they

individually and collectively possess. This past summer, less than a year

from 9–11, the President and Vice President began to talk about a regime

change in Iraq. The philosophy was this: Saddam Hussein is a despot and a

threat to develop and perfect weapons

of mass destruction including nuclear capabilities; and, therefore, he must be

removed. Further, we, the United States, were going to effectuate that

change with or without our allies, save

the British. Suddenly the good will and support for America began to erode,

particularly among our European allies and even here at home.

In fact, some with good reason, in my

view, think an election in Germany

turned on this one issue. The United

States, led by President Bush and Vice President CHENEY’s rhetoric, was boxing herself into a very dangerous and

potentially disastrous position. Should

that policy have continued, I would

have voted ‘‘no’’ on this resolution.

Why do I say that? The best offense we have available to us to protect our

country and our citizens is accurate,

timely intelligence information so that

we know what al Qaeda or others are planning, how they are planning it,

when they are planning to attack us again so that we can stop it. In this

war of terrorism, all of the United

States military might and every weapon our country possesses is of little or

no value in the defense of our homeland without these intelligence resources.

This unilateral approach by the administration threatened to jeopardize

cooperation from those around the

world who may be in a position to give

us such intelligence information. World support, world opinion and the

good will of every nation, no matter

how small or militarily insignificant,

has never been more important to us. A

whisper in one ear from Kabul to Bagdad to the Philippines to Germany or

even to Oregon can be more important

in this war than all of the military

might on Earth, for it may give us the

warning we need to stop another event

in this country as occurred on 9–11.

Thankfully, the President’s appearance at the United Nations last month

and his speech in Cincinnati Monday

night sent a signal to our allies and to many of our own citizens who do not

and did not support the ‘‘lone cowboy’’

approach, that the administration finally recognized the importance of

international cooperation and the role of all civilized people as expressed by

the United Nations in this war against

humanity. Again, I refer not to the

military resources offered by our global allies, but to the intelligence information which is vital or perhaps more

vital to our national defense.

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT) has an amendment which

I believe does no harm to the substance

of the resolution and in my view is

much preferable and more compatible

with our constitutional powers as Congress. I hope every Member will seriously consider its adoption. But should

that fail, I believe that passage of this

resolution is in the best interest of our

country at this time. Such action on our part will hopefully spur movement

in the international arena to enforce

the United Nations resolutions when

violated, with civilization as the prosecutor and humanity as the victor.