Mr. Speaker, this

amendment recognizes that diplomacy is an

option that is not yet exhausted. The Administration’s

Resolution makes a number of assertions

that are questionable at best; the clauses

in this Amendment, on the other hand, are indisputable.

Surely, we can get the United Nations

to reinstate newly-empowered weapons

inspectors, who can keep a step ahead of

Baghdad—inspectors that are allowed to inspect

Saddam’s presidential sites without notice.

We must build a coalition of nations with

the support of the United Nations, a coalition

similar to that formed by the former President

Bush.

It is the duty of responsible nations to give

a convincing case to the world before embarking

on any military action on another country.

And the world is not convinced. War is a last

resort, and is recognized as such by Democrat

and Republican alike. Because we are not yet

at that point, I support the Lee amendment.

Mr. Speaker, thank you

for the opportunity to offer my support for Mr.

SPRATT’s Amendment to the proposed Joint

resolution. Its emphasis—on international action,

the role of the United Nations and diplomatic

means to achieve full compliance with

multinational efforts to destroy Iraq’s capability

to produce and deliver weapons of mass destruction—

is exactly right.

This amendment includes key elements of

the proposal for compulsory arms inspections

put forward by the Carnegie Endowment for

International Peace to the House International

Relations Committee. I was impressed with

the wisdom of that third approach then, and I

am now.

This Amendment recognizes and honors

Congress’ role in the initiation of war and in

monitoring its conduct. It rightly places our actions

within a broader multi-lateral framework

and calls on the international community, particularly

Arab and Islamic countries, to work

with the United States in the post-conflict reconstruction

of Iraq.

For all these reasons, I urge adoption of the

Amendment offered by the gentleman from

South Carolina.