Mr.

Speaker, I rise in support of this measure.

The Spratt-Moran substitute

charts the right and responsible course.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Spratt-

Moran Substitute to H.J. Res. 114. I join the

sponsors in commending the President for

calling upon the United Nations to enforce existing

Security Council resolutions eliminating

weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, as well

as his seeking approval of a new resolution

establishing tougher arms inspections. Should

force be necessary, this substitute encourages

the President to make every effort to obtain

U.N. Security Council approval. It is essential

that we execute a multilateral approach to Iraq

by uniting with our allies as we did this past

year in Afghanistan, and which we also did in

prosecuting Desert Storm with a minimal loss

of American lives. Indeed, mobilizing a broad

coalition of nations to join us in Desert Storm

helped avoid destabilizing the Middle East,

something which we may be powerless to prevent

if we act unilaterally now. It is important

to acknowledge that, as with our responsibility

to nurture and support the effort to democratize

and help stabilize Afghanistan, it is also

in our national interest to make a long term

commitment to assist in the transition to a new

and stable democratic government in Iraq.

This is the way to build a collective security

throughout the region and enhance the prospects

for a lasting peace.

I concur with the U.S. Conference of Catholic

Bishops that ‘‘the use of massive military

force to remove the current government of

Iraq could have incalculable consequences for

a civilian population that has suffered so much

from war, repression, and a debilitating embargo.’’

In addition to concern for the people of

Iraq who have been subjugated by Saddam

Hussein and his evil regime, we must fully understand

that an attack on Iraq, particularly

without support from the world community,

may have unintended, negative consequences

to our global war on terrorism. We must not

lose sight of the fact that it is the worldwide

terrorist network which poses the most immediate

danger to the people of the United

States. We have the support of the world in

combating terrorism. If we go it alone in Iraq,

we risk destroying that support and impeding

our ability to win the war against terrorism.

That is reason enough for making a strong

and diligent effort to obtain support of the U.N.

Security Council for an aggressive and immediate

program of widespread on-site inspections

for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

The Spratt-Moran Substitute allows the President

to use our troops to assist the U.N. inspections.

Such inspections must be executed

unrelentingly and must lead to the immediate

disarmament of Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, historian Robert Dallek recently

noted that during the Presidency of

Harry Truman our defense policy was one of

containment and deterrence quite unlike the

policy proposed by the current administration.

President Truman felt that the best way to preserve

the peace following World War II was to

contain our adversaries. Truman said, ‘‘There

is nothing more foolish than to think that war

can be stopped by war. You don’t ‘prevent’

anything by war except peace.’’ Mr. Dallek assessed

the current administration’s policy as

‘‘prevention’’ by removing a head of state who

has the power to do harm to us. Such a unilateral

act must be justified with facts that convince

the American people to go it alone. The

Spratt-Moran Substitute calls upon the President

to justify that such force is the only option

left available, and mandates that the President

seek a second vote of the Congress to authorize

use of our military might if the President

determines a regime change in Iraq is the

goal. I commend my fellow Missourian, Mr.

SKELTON for his efforts to assure that we adhere

to our Constitution by requiring this second

vote.

Mr. Speaker, we are united in our desire to

achieve peace and stability in this region. One

of the strengths of our country is our right to

express our views freely and not have our patriotism

questioned if we disagree with a particular

administration or policy. I realize my

view may not be the prevailing opinion of this

body or this administration, but I truly believe

it represents the view of a majority of my constituents

given the information that is available

to us.

I recognize the tremendous sacrifices of the

armed forces in this endeavor and I fully support

them. The question before us is when

and how they should be engaged. I support

the multilateral approach stipulated in the substitute

and the call for a vigorous, all encompassing

inspection program by the U.N., and

urge my colleagues to adopt the substitute. As

anthropologist Margaret Meade wisely noted:

‘‘We must devise a system in which peace is

more rewarding than war.’’ The Spratt-Moran

Substitute charts the right and responsible

course.