Mr. Speaker, I rise in

support of the Spratt amendment.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the

Spratt Substitute for the Use of Force Against

Iraq Resolution.

The Spratt substitute authorizes the use of

U.S. armed forces to support any new U.N.

Security Council resolution that mandates the

elimination, by force if necessary, of all Iraqi

weapons of mass destruction, long-range ballistic

missiles, and the means of producing

such weapons and missiles. The substitute

also calls on the president to seek authorization

from Congress in the absence of a U.N.

Security Council resolution sufficient to eliminate

by force, if necessary, all Iraqi weapons

of mass destruction.

If we go to war with Iraq, we must do so

with the approval of the U.N. Security Council,

and the general cooperation and support of

the United Nations. We risk damaging the

U.N. Security Council’s legitimacy as an authoritative

body in international law if the

United States acts unilaterally. If the argument

for involvement in Iraq is that we lead by example,

then we signal to the rest of the world

that it is okay to ignore the concerns voiced by

the international community. This will only lead

to further future conflict. If the United Nations

is to impose sanctions, restore order, and be

an effective international institution, it must

have the respect and cooperation of the most

powerful country in the world.

Rather than initiating a war with Iraq, let’s

make an effort to achieve a just and lasting

peace in the Middle East between Israel and

the Palestinians.