Mr. Speaker, this is a

very worthy, appropriate debate and

could not be more serious.

The gentleman from Connecticut, a

very good friend of mine whom I admire

greatly, indicated that, in his

opinion, the Spratt resolution would

strengthen the hand of the President.

Here is what the President believes.

He rejects that. He does not believe

that the Spratt resolution strengthens

his hand.

He asked us Monday night to come

together and speak with one voice.

What has happened over the last few

weeks is amazing, and the American

public should rejoice in it. The Speaker

of the House, the minority leader, a

group of bipartisan Senators, MCCAIN

and LIEBERMAN and others, have sat

down with the White House and have

structured a resolution that gives a

one-voice approach to a very serious

problem for our country.

I am not here to tell Members that

they should follow blindly their President

or their leadership. God knows, I

have never been accused of that. But in

matters such as this, we must try to

achieve consensus because so much is

at stake.

Many watch what we say and do here.

Please do not believe otherwise. We

will either be stronger, or weaker, in

our ability to negotiate and to make

the world safer. There is strength in

HASTERT, GEPHARDT, HYDE and LANTOS.

The strength comes from the Speaker,

the minority leader, committee chairmen

and ranking members and the

President reaching consensus. No disrespect

to the gentleman from South

Carolina (Mr. SPRATT), but that is

strength. The Spratt resolution would

show weakness.

It would be a defeat for the House

leadership. It would be a defeat for our

President. Other Members can write

the headlines tomorrow. I choose not

to write that headline because our enemies

are watching, and they read.

The Spratt resolution, I think, is ill-advised

and ill-structured. To suggest

that our President is not working with

the United Nations would be wrong.

The Speaker, the minority leader, and

a bipartisan group of Senators believe

he is; and the facts are clear that he is.

He is working with our allies. He is

trying to find a way to disarm this terrible,

evil person before he does more

damage.

The resolution that the gentleman

from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT) is

asking us to adopt not only would be a

rejection of this consensus, but it

would mandate by U.S. law that the

United Nations act before the President

can act.

I speak again. The U.S. Congress

would be telling the President he must

go to the U.N. and he must win their

political game. We would be making

our President win a political game that

I do not want to put him in.

I believe the resolution is clear on

what would be required of the President

before he could act. U.N. politics

takes a dominance in the Spratt

amendment, not the one we are trying

to support here today.

If he loses the U.N. political battle,

the President comes back to this body,

and just imagine the frenzy. Write

those headlines. The President comes

back a loser in U.N. politics, and the

forces in this world will seize upon

that, and we will be weaker, not

stronger, more division, a horrible scenario.

Please reject it. I know many

Members want to vote yes/yes. That

may be good politics, but it would be

bad for the country.

Mr. Speaker, there are forces for

good in this world, none greater than

the U.S. Congress. Use our powers wisely.

The world is watching.