Mr. Speaker, Saddam Hussein

has repeatedly demonstrated he is a threat to

peaceful nations around the world. He has the

money to finance his hostile intentions, he has

the capabilities to blackmail nations with the

use of weapons of mass destruction, and has

shown a willingness to use them.

Everyday our pilots in the northern and

southern no-fly zones of Iraq are the targets of

Iraqi fire. Perhaps even more frightening, Saddam

Hussein continues to develop and stockpile

weapons of mass destruction and actively

support international terrorism—both in violation

of bona fide international agreements. In

fact, in all of his actions, Hussein has demonstrated

a persistent refusal to comply with

every U.N. Security Council resolution in force

regarding his country.

U.N. Resolutions called for Saddam to end

both his WMD programs and his support for

terrorism. Yet, before Hussein kicked them out

of Iraq in 1998, weapons inspection teams

could testify to the large amount of research,

development, and materials associated with

nuclear, biological and chemical weapons—

despite Iraq’s success in concealing the extent

of its capabilities. However, Hussein did manage

to hide a great deal from these inspectors,

and it was not until defectors shared crucial

information about hidden stockpiles that

Saddam programs were set back, but never

completely shut down. Now some people say

we should have new inspections and do nothing

else, believing this time that inspectors will

be able to do what they could not before—

identify and dismantle Iraq’s WMD capabilities.

Sadly, recent history teaches us otherwise.

The same can be said about Iraq’s involvement

with terrorism. Hussein continues to

maintain his ties with terrorist organizations.

Today his terrorist training camps continue to

breed more people intent on harming prosperous,

free, and democratic nations around

the world—and endangering innocent civilians

in the process.

Hussein also targets innocent civilians in his

own country in violation of U.N. Security Resolutions.

For example, the U.N. oil-for-food program

allows Iraq to sell enough oil to provide

its citizens sufficient food and medicine to sustain

a decent standard of living. However, the

profits from the oil never make it to the Iraqi

people; instead Saddam funnels this money

into his weapons programs. He then bolsters

his programs with illegal proceeds from smuggled

oil.

In light of these actions, it is clear that the

world has a problem with Saddam and the

international community agrees. Yet instead of

action, many people want to limit the United

States to building broad coalitions and placing

international pressure on Saddam. Unfortunately,

history—and the past ten years—has

shown us that no amount of international pressure

can stop a dictator with such disregard

for international agreements and no diplomatic

coalition can change his contempt for human

life.

For decades Saddam Hussein has brutally

trampled on freedom and muzzled the self-expression

of his people. He has threatened his

neighbors, supported terrorists, and stockpiled

weapons of mass destruction. We cannot remove

ourselves from the struggle between

freedom and tyranny—good and evil. Saddam

Hussein is already engaged in a battle, and he

has been firing shots for the past decade.

Doing nothing is not an option.

With this resolution, Congress acknowledges

that something must be done and expresses

full support for the President. President

Bush’s speech on Monday demonstrated

that he—like the rest of us—does not want to

go to war. And the fact that President Bush

waited almost a month before using force in

Afghanistan makes obvious his desire to build

coalitions and utilize every peaceful opportunity

to end international disagreement before

resorting to war.

However, he also understands the United

States carries an incredible burden of leadership

in the world. For this reason when he

took office, President Bush assembled one of

the finest national security teams this nation

has ever seen. They have proven their leadership

in previous military conflicts and understand

the cost of military action. Their role in

the war on terrorism has also demonstrated

how much they care about U.S. troops and

the loss of life for anyone involved—both military

and civilian. Now is the time to have faith

in the President’s proven leadership and allow

him and his advisors to implement the strategy

that finally ends the threat Saddam poses to

the free world.