Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentleman from New

York, for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my support

for the resolution before us and to

offer my support for our President.

There is no task that any of us faces

that is more serious than making the

decision to commit our military to

danger abroad. Mr. Speaker, I do not

take this task lightly, but with the decision

that currently faces us, I feel we have no choice.

Above all, it is our responsibility as

Members of Congress to work with the

President to protect our citizens from

danger. While it is my hope that continued

diplomatic efforts ultimately

prove this resolution unnecessary, history

has shown that we should not and

cannot take that chance.

As our esteemed colleague, the chairman

of the Committee on International

Relations, reminded us yesterday, 66

years ago another brutal dictator terrorized

his own people, instigated religious

and ethnic persecution on a massive

scale, and declared his aggressive

intent against his neighbors. The world

still bears the scars from the mistake

of ignoring the threat of evil posed by Adolph Hitler.

History has shown that Saddam Hussein,

too, is a brutal dictator and he

needs to be held in check. We know

what he has done to the Kurds. We

know what he has done to his own people.

We cannot turn our backs as the

threat of Saddam Hussein continues to

plague our Nation and the world.

Iraq’s use and its continued development

of weapons of mass destruction,

as well as its connections with terrorist

organizations that wish to do the

United States harm, demand that we

act prudently to protect our citizens from danger.

While it is necessary for us to make

the preparations to go to war, we

should not be going at it alone. I encourage

President Bush to work hard

for the passage of a U.N. resolution acknowledging

the threat that Iraq poses

to the world. The United States does

not suffer alone from the threat that

Saddam poses. We should not go at it

alone in combatting that threat either.

Just as we did during the Gulf War,

this administration should work to

build a multinational coalition to

share the burden of any possible military

action against Iraq.

In conclusion, let me reiterate my

support for this resolution.