Mr. Speaker, as Saddam Hussein continues to

defy the United States and the world, the avenue

of options available in dealing with Hussein

shrinks with every step he takes toward

attaining nuclear and other weapons of mass

destruction. It is clear that Hussein does not

aspire to acquire these weapons for the sake

of self-defense. The goal of these weapons is

aggression. This is not a man of peace. This

is a man of war. He has made a mockery of

the agreement ending the first Persian Gulf

War, and now he holds out hope that he can

continue to manipulate the world to hold on to

power. And he intends to hold power and use

it till he is successful in acquiring weapons of

mass destruction and with it, the ability to bully

and destabilize the Gulf region.

Hussein intends to use the currency of

these weapons to hold hostage the entire region.

What then? Some argue that if the attack

is not on the U.S. (which we cannot guarantee),

we should not get involved. But who

believes that if he again invades another

country that the United States will be able to

sit on its hands as the stability of the Middle

East unravels? If he uses these weapons

against his neighbors, where will this nation be

on moral ground to allow him to continue without

reprisal? Appeasement will not be an option.

Further, who believes that our country is

better positioned fighting a nuclear armed

Hussein than one that is currently without that

capability? Who believes that the welfare of

our men and women in uniform is better

served in having them face an enemy with nuclear

weapons than one who has not yet been

successful in doing so? The answer is no one.

With that being said, the urgency of dealing

with Hussein is ever increasing.

If Hussein attacks, the most brilliant diplomatic

minds combined will not be able to bring

a peaceful end. However well intended those

hopes may be, eleven years of defiance have

shown that peaceful talks and negotiations are

not an option for Hussein. Rather, they are an

opportunity to a man who does not deserve to

lead the Iraqi people and who we cannot continue

to appease.

Between 1987–1989, he ordered the deaths

of the Kurdish population by the tens of thousands—

indescriminately spraying their villages

with poisonous gas. He has proven his imperialist

nature through a path of destruction

against Kuwait. He has allowed the Iraqi people

to starve in favor of diverting resources to

maintaining his grip on ruling Iraq. He has engaged

in the periodic shake-up of his own administration,

brutally eliminating threats to his

reign of power. He has suppressed every effort

of democracy and change in Iraq with

bloodied and unremorseful hands. Saddam

Hussein has committed acts so far beyond the

pail of decency and acceptability that it leaves

one to wonder in shock why we have waited

so long to end this madman’s career of carnage.

Our nation stands for freedom and humanity

and because it does, we had hoped we could

reason with Hussein. We hoped he would

comply with the conditions of the peace agreement

ending the Persian Gulf War. In the

1990s, we hoped he would end the shenanigans

of denying access to inspection teams

and end his lies and deceit by ending his

weapons program. In all these things, Saddam

Hussein failed. Through no lack of effort, we

have given diplomacy a chance.

No Saddam Hussein wants to fool the world

again. And it is the job of this body to ensure

that he does not. We have exhausted all reasonable

efforts to deal with an unreasonable

madman. We have risked all too much in the

hope of peace, only to have these efforts manipulated

by a illusional director. It has not

been our President, but Saddam Hussein himself

that has made the most compelling case

for the need for his removal. Saddam Hussein

has in his actions, told the world that he is a

threat, that he is dangerous, and that he will

never be able to be held accountable unless

removed.

We can wait no longer as with each passing

day, Saddam Hussein draws closer to attaining

unclear weapons and he exponentially increases

the threat he poses to this nation, our

allies, and peace and stability. We owe to the

future generations not to make the mistake of

holding out hope for Hussein. We must act

with diligence to protect this country and we

must act decisively.

Let this be clear that this country loves freedom

and loves peace. We deserve (and the

Iraqi people deserve) more than to be held in

fear by a ruthless dictator whose actions have

been unconscionable and continue to pose a

threat to humankind. We know what Hussein

is capable of and it is time to end the nightmare

that he has unleashed on his people and

bring a complete end to his imperialist aspirations.

Therefore, I strongly urge an aye on this

resolution.