Mr. Speaker, I thank

the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this

resolution because it provides an opportunity

for peace through diplomacy

while preserving the President’s flexibility

to engage the full force of our

military to protect national security.

The resolution before us does not preordain

a path for our President to

choose. Rather, this resolution provides

the President with all possible options.

Enacting the resolution does not

mean that an attack is imminent. It

does mean that an escalation of our

current military conflict with Iraq is a

real possibility. Enacting this resolution

does not mean that the President

will stop pursuing diplomatic and

peaceful means to a solution. It does

mean that there can be consequences

to continued inaction by the Iraqi regime.

Enacting this resolution will

show the world, our traditional allies,

our potential allies, the Iraqi people,

and most importantly Saddam Hussein,

that the United States speaks with one

voice in our determination to bring

peace and stability to the world.

The resolution references the continuing

threat posed by Iraq. Make no

mistake, this threat is real and it is

growing. It is not just that Saddam

Hussein has weapons of mass destruction,

Mr. Speaker. He has used them.

He used them against Iran. He used

chemical weapons against his country’s

own people, the Kurds of northern Iraq.

And we have to ask ourselves this question,

Mr. Speaker: Since Saddam Hussein

has no greater opponent than the

United States and our people and since

he continues to develop more and more

weapons, where will he use them next?

In the aftermath of September 11,

2001, countless voices asked this question:

Did we do everything we could do

to prevent this tragedy? To answer

that question in the world that exists

today, in a world in which an enemy

can inflict damage with an army of

one, we must be willing to change fundamentally

our security strategy by

accepting that intervention is a necessary

part of protecting our safety.

With the passage of this resolution,

Mr. Speaker, Saddam Hussein will be

able to choose his destiny. Either Saddam

Hussein’s regime must change the

way it acts or the regime itself must change.