Mr. Speaker, I

rise in support of the resolution authorizing the

use of force against those persons responsible

for recent acts of terrorism against the United

States. The resolution is balanced and seeks

to ensure that the Congress will be included in

the consultative process when and if U.S.

troops are introduced into hostilities. I strongly

believe that the resolution will continue to

enjoy strong bipartisan support only if the Executive,

in good faith, consults with and informs

the Congress in a timely manner.

I should also note that the resolution is not

a carte blanche endorsement for the use of

force against any suspected terrorist group

anywhere in the world, but is more narrowly

crafted to endorse all necessary and appropriate

use of force against nations, organizations,

and persons that participated in the attacks

that occurred on September 11.

Mr. Speaker, although I support the resolution,

I am mindful of the gravity and seriousness

of putting U.S. troops and other governmental

personnel in harms way. It is highly

probable that more U.S. lives will be lost in

our struggle to excise the cancer of terrorism

wherever it poses a threat to the U.S., the

Western world, and our allies in the non-West.

Other countless innocents will also lose their

lives. This is not Desert Storm, an operation of

relatively short duration that witnessed minimal

loss of American lives. Our national commitment

to the task ahead of us will require vigilance

and forbearance. It will also require that

we remain mindful of the fact that the United

States is an open society and that any policy

or action implemented by the U.S. Government

will ultimately fail if it does not have the

support of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, in this time of tragedy that has

provoked visceral outrage, we must, nonetheless,

continue to exercise prudence and good

judgment in the prosecution of the U.S. response

to these terrorist acts. Indeed a military

response alone could ultimately prove to

be counterproductive, instead fueling anti-U.S.

sentiment, increased alienation, and heightened

fanaticism. Instead of eliminating the

virus of terrorism we could be creating a new

and more virulent strain. Any military action

must also be accompanied by a sustained

economic and diplomatic response aimed at

eliminating all centers of terrorist activities

while enhancing the stability and strength of

our regional allies.

The task ahead of us is complicated and

any resolution will not be quick or easy. Our

ultimate success in rooting out terrorism will

require patience, sustained commitment, and

more, not less, engagement in the world.

I pledge my support to the President as he

leads the United States forth to meet this historic

challenge.