Mr. Speaker, the rush

to war continues here in Washington,

despite the possibility of the reinstatement

of effective, unfettered inspections

aimed at the destruction of weapons

of mass destruction that Saddam

Hussein may have hidden from past inspections

or may have developed since

that time.

Now, Prime Minister Tony Blair, as a

surrogate for this administration, did

provide a more concrete and detailed

report than anything provided by the

Bush administration to the United

States Congress thus far on what is

going on in Iraq. But the interesting

thing is, in reading through the 50-

some odd pages of this report and perusing

the photographs, the actual conclusion

is that inspections did work,

U.N. sanctions did work, and are still

working. The containment and deterrence

doctrine has worked with Saddam

Hussein.

In fact, the previous program before

the inspectors left was extraordinarily

successful, more so than would be admitted

by this administration, that is

very dismissive about the possibility of

going back in with intrusive, unfettered

inspections with a mandate to destroy

any weapons of mass destruction

that this miscreant may have managed

to develop.

I will read a few quotes from Prime

Minister Blair’s report. He talks about

their attempts to obtain nuclear weapons:

‘‘In August 1990, Iraq instigated a

crash program to develop a single nuclear

weapon within a year. By the

time of the Gulf War, the crash program

had made little progress.’’

They go on to say that ‘‘UNSCOM

had totally dismantled the physical infrastructure

of the Iraqi nuclear weapons

program, including the dedicated

facilities and equipment for uranium

separation and enrichment, and for

weapon development and production,

and removed the remaining highly enriched

uranium.’’

It is hard to reconcile that with the

assertions that intrusive inspections

under the auspices of the U.N. will

have no impact on Saddam Hussein or

his attempts to obtain weapons of mass

destruction.

In early 2002, the British intelligence

judged that while sanctions remained

effective, Iraq will not be able to

produce nuclear weapons. That is on

page 27 of the justification given by the

Prime Minister of Britain for a preemptive

war against Iraq. He cannot

build or obtain nuclear weapons, according

to British intelligence, as long

as the sanctions remain in effect, and

that is without intrusive inspections

backed by the full force of the United

States and around the world.

There are many other passages. This

is incredibly instructive reading. I

would recommend it to my colleagues

in Congress. It is certainly more detailed

than anything provided to this

Congress, either in classified briefings

or outside of classified briefings, and

certainly more detailed than anything

provided to the American public, NATO

or anybody else by the United States,

and the British have done us a service.

But the case they make is the opposite

of the conclusion of their Prime

Minister. The case that is strongly

made here is that a return to the regime

of an intrusive, unfettered weapons

inspection and destruction program

would effectively preclude this

dictator from ever obtaining weapons

with which he could threaten other

countries in that region, and most certainly

the United States of America.

So this, to me, certainly demonstrates

that the rush to war, the

first preemptive war in the history of

the United States, the first preemptive

war since the horrible destruction of

World War II and the U.N. and the

agreements we have reached since

then, breaking with all precedent, the

United States, in some bizarre version

of ‘‘Minority Report,’’ the movie, will

decide that we have people in the administration

who can determine

whether or not someone presents a real

and present threat to the United

States, even if they made no threats,

even if there is no documentation of

them having the capabilities on carrying

out on the threats they have not

made; and we, the United States of

America, should be able, in violation of

all international law and all precedents

of our Nation, be able to preemptively

attack and destroy that country for

the purposes of regime change, because

we do not like who is running that

country.

Well, there are a lot of brutal dictators

around the world running a lot

of countries I do not like, including

Saddam Hussein; and I would support

democratic efforts and subversion efforts

and any other way to get those

people out of power. But a war that

opens the door to worldwide conflicts,

to Taiwan and China, India and Pakistan

and any other host of countries, is

an incredibly dangerous precedent, and

this report from the Prime Minister to

his Parliament documents that it is

not necessary. We have an effective option

before us.