Mr. Speaker, I move to

suspend the rules and pass the Senate

joint resolution (S.J. Res. 54) finding

the Government of Iraq in unacceptable

and material breach of its international

obligations.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Speaker, I ask

unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days within

which to revise and extend their remarks

on this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I yield

myself such time as I may consume.

S.J. Res. 54 is the Senate companion

of H.J. Res. 125 which Speaker GINGRICH

and I introduced on June 25, 1998.

We introduced our resolution in response

to the mounting evidence that

Iraq continues to defy the decisions of

the United Nations Security Council

with regard to its weapons of mass destruction.

The most recent example is the revelation

in late June that Iraq has

placed VX poison gas into missile warheads.

That fact was established by lab

testing in our Nation of missile warhead

fragments which U.N. inspectors

found in Iraq. This evidence proves

that Iraq remains in violation of its obligations

under U.N. Security Council

Resolution 687 to disclose and eliminate

its weapons of mass destruction

programs and capabilities. It also demonstrates

that Iraq continues even now

to misrepresent to the United Nations

and to the world about the history of

its weapons of mass destruction programs.

There is nothing new about this,

however. Iraq’s record of continued

evasion and obstruction of U.N. resolutions

is spelled out in the 28 ‘‘whereas’’

clauses contained in our measure.

It quickly becomes apparent, from

these 28-some clauses, that there has

been a continuous and uninterrupted

pattern of Iraqi noncompliance with

Security Council resolutions going

back as far as 1991. This problem emphatically

has not been resolved by the

agreement put together by U.N. Secretary

General Kofi Annan just last

February.

My colleagues will recall that earlier

this year the Clinton Administration

was on the verge of using military

force to compel Saddam Hussein to

comply with his international obligations.

That threat was withdrawn after

Kofi Annan went to Baghdad and came

back with Saddam Hussein’s promises

of better behavior by Iraq for the future.

It now turns out that those promises

were not even worth the paper they

were printed on. The chief U.N. weapons

inspector, Richard Butler, is in

Iraq today, this very day, meeting with

Iraqi officials about what they must do

to comply with U.N. resolutions. It is

apparent from news reports coming out

of Iraq this morning that Saddam Hussein

continues to resist international

inspections and to reject his obligations

under pertinent Security Council

resolutions.

The purpose of S.J. Res. 54 is to draw

attention to the fact that Saddam Hussein’s

behavior has not improved and

that he remains in material and unacceptable

breach of his international obligations.

The international community

cannot continue to look the other

way.

S.J. Res. 54 is both timely and unassailable

in its facts. It incorporates

changes to the original text of H.J.

Res. 125 that were negotiated among

the interested members of the Committee

on International Relations.

And it is not opposed by the Clinton

administration. Accordingly, I urge my

colleagues to fully support S.J. Res. 54.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of

my time.

Mr. Speaker, I yield

myself the balance of my time and, in

closing, I just want to remind our colleagues

to let us concentrate on the

fact that the government of Iraq’s actions

are unacceptable and a material

breach of their obligations and, accordingly,

this measure before us with regard

to Iraq’s continuing programs of

building up weapons of mass destruction

threaten our own vital interests

and we should be supporting the measure.

I urge a supporting vote for S.J. Res.

54.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests

for time, and I yield back the

balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, on that, I

demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.