Mr. Speaker, I

rise in strong support of H.R. 4655, and

I would like to applaud the gentleman

from New York (Mr. GILMAN), chairman

of the committee, and the gentleman

from California (Mr. COX) for

what I consider to be a well thought

out, both philosophically and practically,

plan that will get our country

out of a situation in which we are now

in jeopardy unless we do something.

The only thing coming back to haunt

us now is that, when the Gulf War was

going on, we did not dispatch Saddam

Hussein from this planet. We did not

finish the job. We should not have gotten

involved in that war unless we intended

to finish it. Unfortunately, we

did not do so, and now we will live with

that decision not to finish that job.

There is a symmetry to the affairs of

State. There can be no peace without

freedom, and there can be no prosperity

without peace. Our failure in the

Gulf War was in not supporting those

who oppose Saddam Hussein’s tyranny

and not to finish the job on Saddam

Hussein himself back when we had the

power to determine the course of

events in the Persian Gulf.

Our willingness not to finish the job,

our unwillingness, I should say, to finish

the job and to stand for our ideals,

which are to support those elements in

their area who believed in freedom or

at least some degree of freedom and

were not aggressing upon their neighbors,

were opposed to aggression, that

is the decision that haunts us today.

Saddam Hussein now has a blood feud

with us, and he will murder if we give

him the opportunity to do so with

weapons of mass destruction. He will

murder millions of Americans. So like

it or not, America’s safety is now tied

to events in Iraq and in the Persian

Gulf. We cannot turn our backs on that

region, or we will risk the death of millions

of Americans, not to speak of just

those people in the Persian Gulf itself.

But it is not too late to get ourselves

out of this dilemma by supporting the

people in the region and in Iraq itself

who oppose Saddam Hussein’s aggression

and his dictatorship.

This resolution is exactly the right

formula, and we should have used it

long ago. If we would have used it

while we were there in the Gulf during

the Gulf War, we would not have the

problems and the threat to our wellbeing

that we face today.

Support democracy. Oppose tyranny.

Oppose aggression and repression. That

is what America’s policy should be

based on. We should strengthen the victims

so they can defend themselves.

These things are totally consistent

with America’s philosophy, and it is a

pragmatic approach as well.

Furthermore, this resolution calls to

hold Saddam Hussein himself accountable.

The man is a murderer. The man

has murdered large numbers of his own

people. The man has invaded his neighbors.

It is the dictatorship in Iraq, not

the people of Iraq, who are the enemies

of the United States and threaten our

well-being.

That is what this resolution is all

about. It is not a declaration of war. It

is a declaration that we are on the side

of the Iraqi people and the other people

of that region who believe in freedom

to some degree, whatever degree that

is, more than what they have today,

and oppose aggression.

Let us stand up and stand by our

ideals, because we did not do that before,

and we left the practical planners

to say do not eliminate Saddam Hussein,

and now we face this threat.

Our support for the Mujahedin collapsed

the Soviet Union. Yes, there was

a price to pay, because after the Soviet

Union collapsed, we walked away, and

we did not support those elements in

the Mujahedin who were somewhat in

favor of the freedom and western values.

With those people who oppose this effort

of pro democracy foreign policy, a

pro freedom foreign policy rather than

isolation foreign policy, they would

have had us stay out of that war in Afghanistan.

They would never have had

us confronting Soviet aggression in different

parts of the world.

Would the world be a better place

today? No. But our problem, again, was

not in supporting the Mujahedin, not

supporting those people who oppose Soviet

tyranny, but our failure was not

supporting those people who believed

in democracy and following through

with them to see that the pro freedom

elements were supported.

That is what this resolution is all

about, making sure that we support

those people in that region, in the Gulf

region, and in Iraq itself who are our

natural allies. Let us hold Saddam

Hussein accountable rather than putting

ourselves in a place where we let

the situation go to such a degree that

we end up having to kill hundreds of

thousands of people in the regions,

Iraqis who are not even our enemies.

So let us support those people in Iraq

who are our friends and in the region

who are our friends, and let us push for

democracy.

Even in Kuwait today, we can be

proud that there has been some democratic

reform as compared to what the

system was before when we were there.

So I stand in support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker,

will the gentleman yield?

Mr. Speaker,

the gentleman does not think it is

proper for us to offer those people who

are struggling for freedoms in Iraq

against their dictatorship a helping

hand?

Well, if the

gentleman will further yield, it was

just not handled correctly.