Mr. Speaker, on September

20, 2001, before a joint session of

Congress, President Bush declared, and

I quote, our war on terror begins with

al Qaeda but it does not end there. It

will not end until every terrorist group

of global reach has been found, stopped

and defeated. This principle rallied the

world to support the war on terrorism.

Today, we must remind ourselves of

this principle as America considers action

against Iraq. We must remember

that the actions of Saddam Hussein are

nothing short of terrorism. Until he is

removed from a position of power and

influence, Americans will not be safe

and the war on terrorism will not be

won.

On September 16, 2002, Iraq delivered

a letter to the United Nations allowing

U.N. weapons inspectors unconditional

access to Iraq. While the recent letter

from Iraq may be received as good news

by some, it is important to place this

action in the appropriate historical

perspective.

A quick reminder of 1998 when Saddam

Hussein forced weapons inspectors

out of Iraq is enough to understand

that the latest move is nothing more

than theatrics that will only give Iraq

additional time to stockpile and hide

weapons of mass destruction to avoid

detection.

In May of 1991, Iraq accepted United

Nations resolution 687, giving inspectors

unconditional access to Iraq. In

the years that followed, Iraq contradicted

their unconditional pledge to

support resolution 687 with the following

actions:

June of 1991, Iraqi personnel prevent

inspectors from approaching by firing

warning shots.

October of 1991, Iraq refuses to accept

United Nations resolution 715 calling

for additional unconditional access for

inspectors.

February of 1992, Iraq refuses to

allow the destruction of certain facilities

used in weapons programs.

April of 1992, Iraq calls for the end of

surveillance flights and threatens the

safety of pilots.

June of 1993, Iraq refuses to allow remote

controlled monitoring cameras at

two missile engine sites.

March of 1996, Iraq refuses access to

five inspection sites designated for inspection.

June of 1996, Iraq denies access to

sites under investigation.

June of 1996, Iraq denies access to another

inspection team.

November of 1996, Iraq refuses to

allow inspectors to remove missile

remnants for analysis.

June of 1997, Iraqi personnel attempt

to physically prevent a helicopter pilot

from flying to inspection areas.

June of 1997, Iraq denies access to inspection

sites.

September of 1997, an Iraqi officer attacks

inspectors photographing unauthorized

movements of Iraqi vehicles.

August of 1998, Iraq announces that

they will refuse to agree to any United

Nations resolutions until the oil embargo

is lifted.

In fact, Iraq has violated 16 United

Nations resolutions and sanctions.

Sadly, I believe that future inspections

will once again be met with blatant defiance

and further problems.

Removing Saddam’s weapons of mass

destruction will only occur when we remove

Saddam Hussein. Just in the last

several days, Iraq stated that it will

not accept any new United Nations resolutions.

Furthermore, Iraqi officials

have already started adding conditions

to their allowance of unconditional access.

We must not allow ourselves to be led

down that same path of noncooperation

that Iraq has led the world down in the

past. We do not need to look beyond

Iraqi defectors, many from within

Saddam’s nuclear program, to learn

that Saddam Hussein is dangerously

close to obtaining nuclear weapons and

has advanced considerably in his biological

and chemical weapons programs.

I do not believe that we should

have to wait for another United States

city to be devastated, a military base

to be targeted or even to be attacked in

order to respond to the threat of Saddam

Hussein. Every minute we delay

only brings this enormous threat closer

to reality.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the President’s

actions to come to the Congress

and seek the Congress’s approval. As

freedom-loving nations continue to

eliminate international terrorism, this

war will not end until every terrorist

group of global reach has been found,

stopped and defeated.