Mr. Speaker,

we are being warned of possible military

action against the Government of

Iraq, and I remember well the last

time, or should I say the first time, because

there have probably been some

other military actions against Iraq in

the meantime, but back in 1990 when

Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait, and

so began our special relationship with

the people of Kuwait, let us note that

after hundreds of thousands of Americans

have spent time in the Persian

Gulf and after our Nation has put its

entire prestige on the line that we cannot

permit Saddam Hussein now to reverse

what we won back in 1990 and

1991.

If we do that, if we permit Saddam

Hussein to, for example, conduct a successful

lightening strike against Kuwait,

against the people of Kuwait, or

if we permit Saddam Hussein to blatantly

stockpile weapons of mass destruction,

the United States will lose

any ability to influence events anywhere

in the world. No petty tyrant or

no people seeking freedom or no opponent

or adversary or friend will trust

our word again, because even Saddam

Hussein has made a laughing stock of

the United States of America.

So, first and foremost, let us recognize

there is a special relationship with

the people of Kuwait that for the rest

of our lives we will have, because if

that war is reversed, America will lose

its ability to determine events around

the world, and Americans, when we

lose this power as the leading power of

the world, we will pay a dear price.

But I hope, if military action does

take place, that we do not make the

mistake that we made last time. Hundreds

of thousands of people, or upwards

to 200,000 Kuwaitis were killed

during the last war. Saddam Hussein

managed to escape. And I remember

during the planning phases of the last

war I said to Dick Cheney and Colin

Powell personally that they would

have my support because American

troops were in harm’s way, and I would

support them in that effort to protect

the lives of Americans and to make

sure it was a successful mission. But as

I told them at that time, when this is

over, make sure Saddam Hussein is

dead.

And I hope that if have to take further

military actions against the people

of Iraq that we do not waste our

weaponry on ordinary citizens, on people

who probably like the United

States of America; and I hope that our

goal is not simply containing Saddam

Hussein or punishing him. Our goal

should be the overthrow and elimination,

one way or the other, of Saddam

Hussein.

First and foremost, if we are willing

to commit our military to that part of

the world, we should at least be able to

declare this man a war criminal. After

all, he was an environmental criminal,

an eco-criminal, for what he did to the

environment, the destruction of the oil

wells and the seas and the other pollution

that he caused back then, not to

mention the hundreds of thousands of

lives that he caused to die, the people

he caused to die because of his aggression.

And if he commits other acts of

aggression and does not go along with

the agreement, we should make sure

that we declare him a war criminal and

that the goal of our action is not punishing

the Iraqi people, but working

with the Iraqi people in order to help

them establish a government that is

responsive to their will.

Who knows if it would be an absolute

democracy or not, but if the people of

Iraq who live under the oppression of

Saddam Hussein had the ability to direct

their own government, there

would be no problem because they

would not risk the lives of hundreds of

thousands of their family in order to

make a point of the way a dictator, the

way a brutal egotistical dictator like

Saddam Hussein does.

As I say, we are tied to the people of

Kuwait because the people of Kuwait

now, having saved them once, if we permit

them again to be taken over by

this tyrant, not only will be lose those

people, but we will lose our ability to

maintain peace throughout the world,

a dreadful price that we cannot afford

to pay.

So I wish the President of the United

States guidance from God and support

from the United States Congress, as

much as this Congressman can do to

make sure that we are doing the right

thing, only this time I would hope the

President of the United States, unlike

George Bush, does the job right and

completes the job before bringing our

troops home. And I would hope that

hundreds of thousands of troops do not

need to be sent there, but instead, this

could be handled in a better way than

that perhaps.

Mr. Speaker, I

would ask unanimous consent for 2

more minutes.

Appealing the

ruling of the Chair, Mr. Speaker, the

Chair on many occasions has extended

unanimous consent for an extension of

2 minutes.

Yes, that is

correct. But last night I was given a 5-

minute unanimous-consent request.