Is it not correct that was one issue upon which

everyone was in agreement prior to the Iraq war, the French, the

Germans, the Russians, the British, ourselves, the United Nations, the

world in its entirety? The one thing they agreed on prior to the Iraq

war was the point the Senator from Arizona was just making.

So if there were any effort to mislead the public, an

awful lot of countries were complicit in this effort, were they not?

I thank the Senator from Arizona and appreciate so

much his contribution to this important discussion about the war in

Iraq and how we got into it and what people understood at the time.

It has occurred to me there is a criminal analogy that summarizes the

debate we seem to be having. So let's pose a hypothetical question to

all of our fellow Senators. Say the FBI has received a credible tip

that a domestic terrorist group is planning to bomb the Capitol. This

group is responsible for previous deadly terrorist attacks, we know

that, but has been able so far to avoid capture. When the FBI breaks

down the door to the group's rural compound, they find all sorts of

prohibited weapons--machine guns, sawed-off shotguns, and grenade

launchers. They also find detailed plans to gun down lawmakers,

diagrams of the Capitol, and information on how to construct a large

bomb capable of destroying the Capitol Building. But they do not find

the bomb itself or any grenades or the grenade launchers. They found

all of the other things, but they did not find the bombs themselves or

the grenade launchers.

Should the FBI apologize to the terrorists and offer to replace their

door, even though they just caused the apprehension of the terrorists?

Since they had yet to construct the bomb, should the terrorists go

free? Should we fret that we acted before the bomb was ready, even

though the terrorists' intent to attack the Capitol was absolutely

clear?

The answer is obviously and definitely no; we should not wait until

terrorists roam our streets before responding. We should not wait until

the planes have been hijacked or until the bombs have been assembled.

We should not have waited until Hussein's army once again stood ready

at the border. We should not have waited until the threat he posed to

the United States and its allies was imminent. We should not have

waited for the French to say it was OK to act to defend the free world.

Some seem to suggest that even though we know Saddam Hussein

continued to develop ballistic missiles prohibited by the U.N., our

military effort was illegitimate because we have not yet found WMD

warheads or the missiles. I can confidently state that Saddam's

ballistic missiles were not for the Iraqi space program.

On another note, I am fairly confident that the Iraqi people do not

believe for a minute that their liberation is any less legitimate

because we have yet to find stockpiles of WMD. I raise this simple

analogy because the fundamental questions about our policy in Iraq are

fairly basic. The crux of the matter is that Saddam Hussein posed a

growing threat to the United States, to our allies, and to his own

people. There is no doubt that Iraqis and Americans alike are better

off now that Saddam Hussein is in prison and his evil sons have met

their end.

Now it occurs to me, we have also lost sight of the moral dimension

that accompanied our liberation of Iraq. I represent in my State Fort

Campbell, KY, the home of the 101st Airborne. I followed their efforts

in that country very closely. This is the unit whose brave soldiers

brought to justice Usay and Quday Hussein. The 101st Airborne got them.

My colleagues are surely not unaware of how vile these two murderers

were and how deserving they were of the tow missiles that ended their

brutish lives.

In case we have forgotten that, let me recount a little bit of their

evil legacy. According to many reports, Usay Hussein routinely ordered

his bodyguards to snatch young women off the streets so that he could

rape them. He also ordered political prisoners to be dropped into tubs

of acid to punish them. Usay was also in charge of Iraq's olympic

committee where he oversaw the training of that country's professional

athletes. Usay's training regimen included torturing and jailing

athletes for poor performance. Usay would sometimes force Iraq's track

stars to crawl along a strip of newly poured asphalt, and once required

soccer kickers to kick a concrete ball until their feet were broken

after they failed to reach the 1994 World Cup finals. This was Usay

Hussein.

Although it is difficult to think of an individual more brutal and

evil than Usay Hussein, his brother, Quday, who was known by many

Iraqis as ``the snake'' for his blood thirsty manner, surely comes

close. Quday was responsible for the massacre of tens of thousands of

Shiite Muslims in the wake of the first gulf war. Maybe some of our

colleagues have forgotten about the marsh Arabs who live in southern

Iraq. These Iraqis used to live in the Iraqi wetlands that covered

nearly 3,200 square miles. They had lived in these marshes for hundreds

and perhaps thousands of years until Quday ordered them drained in a

massive ethnic cleansing operation. Quday was also responsible for

horrible cleansings of Hussein's prisons.

When Hussein's prisons became overcrowded, the regime did not build

more jails or let prisoners go. Instead, Quday ordered mass executions

in order to reduce overcrowding. A London-based

human rights group reports that these unlucky prisoners were sometimes

put feet first into massive shredders at Quday's request.

We do not hear much about these awful crimes anymore, so maybe some

of our colleagues have forgotten, if they ever knew, about the extent

of the Hussein family's brutality. I highlight their brutality in order

to ask a serious question about the reality of the international system

in the absence of American action. Does anybody seriously believe that

had the 101st Airborne not banged down their door, Usay and Quday would

have been brought to justice? Of course they would not have. Without

the 101st Airborne going after them, they would not have been brought

to justice. Absent U.S. leadership, I cannot imagine a situation in

which the U.N. would have been able to arrange for the apprehension and

trial of the Hussein family.

Had the United States not acted in Iraq, who could say with any

confidence that Usay and Quday would not this very day be raping young

Iraqi girls and torturing Iraqi dissidents. Of course they would still

be doing that. That is what they did.

Had the United States not acted in Iraq, could anyone say with any

confidence that Saddam would not be plotting our doom, that his sons

would not be torturing the Iraqi people, and that his regime would not

be preparing to rebuild the WMD infrastructure we all have agreed

Hussein once had?

In conclusion, Madam President, it is more than enough to justify the

war in Iraq and the liberation of the Iraqi people.

I yield the floor.