Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Arizona for his

leadership on this important matter. I feel very strongly that our

country is not fully aware--at least the public debate on the

television and so forth have not shown a full awareness of the

leadership that President Bush has given this country to help us deal

with the challenges facing us.

I thank Senator Chambliss for his comments about the intelligence-

gathering functions. I wish to share some of my insights into where we

are and where we can expect to be going.

After 9/11, the President of the United States was a challenged

leader. He faced difficult times. We lost 3,000 people. Some decisions

had to be made. He decided that business as usual would not continue

and the United States was going to have to take a leadership role

against terrorism.

About that time, former Secretary of Defense and former Secretary of

Energy, James Schlesinger, who served in President Carter's Cabinet,

testified before our Armed Services Committee, of which the Chair is a

member. Mr. Schlesinger talked about the U.N. and its inability to make

decisions and take action. He referred, quoting another writer, to the

UN as being ``an institution given only to talk.''

Well, in the last decade, before President Bush took office, during

the 8 years under President Clinton's leadership, we did a lot of

talking about the problems facing the world. We did a lot of talking

about Iraq. We passed a resolution in this body that declared it to be

the policy of the United States to effect a regime change in Iraq.

President Clinton signed it but we didn't do anything. We talked but we

didn't do anything.

We now have a President who decided that we need to show some courage

and leadership, and he did that. One of the first things he did, and I

ask the American people to recall, was that he confronted a great

country, Pakistan. Pakistan's intelligence agencies, Senator Kyl knows

as a senior member of the Intelligence Committee, were collaborating

with the Taliban government in Afghanistan. Everybody knew that and

that there was a lot of partnership there. We now know they were

participating in the proliferation of nuclear weapons. President Bush

challenged them and he said: President Musharraf, you have to choose.

This is very serious. Are you going to allow Pakistan to be a country

associated with the Taliban and terrorism, or are you going to stand

your country in the future against that kind of activity?

To his credit, President Musharraf made a decision. It was not

academic. It was not talk. It was: Mr. Musharraf, you must make a

decision.

Since that time, he has been helpful to us in many ways, at risk of

his own life. His opponents have attempted to assassinate him. Would

anybody suggest that had our President been weak and waffling and

vacillating, that the President of Pakistan would have made that

decision, would he have put his very life on the line against

terrorism?

Then he made the same challenge to Mullah Omar in Afghanistan where,

as you remember, Bin Laden was training his terrorist soldiers. He

said: You must reject that; you must turn against the al-Qaida; you

must turn to your country; and you must choose. Mullah Omar chose. He

chose to remain friends with Bin Laden and al-Qaida terrorist groups.

He chose not to side with the nations who turned against terrorism.

Mullah Omar, I suppose, is hiding in some cave somewhere in

Afghanistan. His government is completely gone. Yes, Bin Laden, who was

in his country, attacked and damaged our Pentagon, and killed our

soldiers right out here at the Pentagon. But his pentagon no longer

exists. It is rubble. And there is a new government with a new

constitution in the works to preside over a new Afghanistan where women

have a chance to have freedom and prosperity; when I was there I saw

that the people are re-building all over that country. Houses that had

been destroyed are being refurbished, and people seemed to be making

real progress there. That is such a tremendous step forward for the

world.

Then the challenge was placed before Saddam Hussein. We had the U.N.

try to find these weapons. We know he used these kinds of weapons. We

know he was not complying with the U.N. resolutions. The U.N. found him

in violation of those resolutions and voted in 1441 that he was in

violation of the resolutions. We gave him every chance to renounce

weapons of mass destruction, and to demonstrate that he had complied

with multiple U.N resolutions. Because he lost the first gulf war he

made a commitment to eliminate these kinds of weapons and to comply

with U.N. resolutions, but he refused to do so. And President Bush

acted.

Saddam Hussein was dug out of a hole in the ground and is now in the

Bastille where he used to put his people and kill them. But he is not

going to be killed. He will be given a fair trial.

The people of Iraq are forming a new government. Production is up.

Electricity production is up. I know the chief of police there, and

there are 70,000 new police officers, some of them being killed this

day, but they are standing firmly for freedom in a new Iraq.

Lo and behold, after we dug Saddam Hussein out of the ground, Muammar

Qadhafi of Libya, known as one of the world's most significant

terrorists in the past, renounced his terrorism and called for the

United States and Great Britain--he did not talk to the U.N., but he

wanted us to be involved in his renunciation of terrorism and he has

allowed inspections.

During the former administration--and I am not criticizing, but I was

frustrated--when President Clinton was in office, we talked all the

time about nuclear proliferation but accomplished little. But only

recently, we had Abdul Khan, the chief nuclear scientist in Pakistan

come forward. What did he say? He said he was proliferating weapons

from Pakistan to North Korea to Iraq to Libya and to Iraq. That had

been going on but it is not going on now because he has renounced it

and told all that he had done to the world.

Iran is now allowing the United Nations to come in and inspect their

nuclear program. The nations in the East--China, Japan, and South

Korea--are confronting North Korea. We are not going to keep rewarding

North Korea for bad activity, as has been done in the past. We are

going to insist they step up like these other nations and assume a

place among the decent nations in the world, or they are not going to

get any benefits from us. We are going to keep the pressure on, and

that is exactly the right thing for us to do.

These events have occurred for one reason and one reason only: We

have a President of the United States who loves this country, who

believes in our values. He believes in freedom. He believes in

democracy. He wants to see the world be a better place. He does not

want to just preside over the office of President. He wants to do

something good for this world, and he is doing it.

As a direct result of his leadership, we made extraordinary progress

in just 2 years, progress not seen in decades.

It has been tough. Our soldiers are at risk, and they are putting

their lives at risk every day to effect a policy that those of us in

this Senate voted for by an overwhelming vote. Some of them voted for

it and then turned around and voted not to support our troops. But most

of the Senators here, Republicans and Democrats, have stayed. Yes, we

have had complaints, but when has there ever been a war when everything

has gone perfectly smoothly?

I urge the Members of this body, my Senate colleagues, to look at

what has occurred, to recognize that we are seeing the benefits of

extraordinary and courageous leadership. When they do so, we shall hear

less carping, less complaining, less whining, and less second-guessing

than we have heard. We are making progress. We are going to continue to

make progress. We are going to make this world a better place and safer

place for the people of the United States.

I thank the Chair. I yield the floor.