Good morning. With the resolution just

passed, the United Nations Security Council

has met important responsibilities, upheld its

principles, and given clear and fair notice

that Saddam Hussein must fully disclose and

destroy his weapons of mass destruction. He

must submit to any and all methods to verify

his compliance. His cooperation must be

prompt and unconditional, or he will face the

severest consequences.

The world has now come together to say

that the outlaw regime in Iraq will not be

permitted to build or possess chemical, biological,

or nuclear weapons. That is the judgment

of the United States Congress. That is

the judgment of the United Nations Security

Council. Now the world must insist that that

judgment be enforced.

Iraq’s obligation to disarm is not new or

even recent. To end the Persian Gulf war

and ensure its own survival, Iraq’s regime

agreed to disarm in April of 1991. For over

a decade the Iraqi regime has treated its own

pledge with contempt. As today’s resolution

states, Iraq is already in material breach of

past U.N. demands. Iraq has aggressively

pursued weapons of mass destruction, even

while inspectors were inside the country.

Iraq has undermined the effectiveness of

weapons inspectors with ploys, delays, and

threats, making their work impossible and

leading to 4 years of no inspections at all.

The world has learned from this experience

an essential lesson: Inspections will not

result in a disarmed Iraq unless the Iraqi regime

fully cooperates. Inspectors do not have

the power to disarm an unwilling regime.

They can only confirm that a government has

decided to disarm itself. History has shown

that when Iraq’s leaders stall inspections and

impede the progress, it means they have

something to hide.

The resolution approved today presents

the Iraqi regime with a test, a final test. Iraq

must now, without delay or negotiations, fully

disarm, welcome full inspections, and fundamentally

change the approach it has taken

for more than a decade.

The regime must allow immediate and unrestricted

access to every site, every document,

and every person identified by inspectors.

Iraq can be certain that the old game

of cheat-and-retreat, tolerated at other times,

will no longer be tolerated. Any act of delay

or defiance will be an additional breach of

Iraq’s international obligations and a clear

signal that the Iraqi regime has once again

abandoned the path of voluntary compliance.

With the passage of this resolution, the

world must not lapse into unproductive debates

over whether specific instances of Iraqi

noncompliance are serious. Any Iraqi noncompliance

is serious because such bad faith

will show that Iraq has no intention of disarming.

If we’re to avert war, all nations must

continue to pressure Saddam Hussein to accept

this resolution and to comply with its

obligations and his obligations.

America will be making only one determination:

Is Iraq meeting the terms of the

Security Council resolution or not? The

United States has agreed to discuss any material

breach with the Security Council, but

without jeopardizing our freedom of action

to defend our country. If Iraq fails to fully

comply, the United States and other nations

will disarm Saddam Hussein.

I’ve already met with the head of the U.N.

inspections program and the head of the

International Atomic Energy Agency, which

has responsibility for nuclear matters. I’ve assured

them that the United States will fully

support their efforts, including a request for

information that can help identify illegal activities

and materials in Iraq. I encourage

every member of the United Nations to

strongly support the inspection teams. And

now the inspectors have an important responsibility

to make full use of the tools we

have given them in this resolution.

All patriotic Iraqis should embrace this

resolution as an opportunity for Iraq to avoid

war and end its isolation. Saddam Hussein

cannot hide his weapons of mass destruction

from international inspectors without the cooperation

of hundreds and thousands of

Iraqis, those who work in the weapons program

and those who are responsible for concealing

the weapons. We call on those Iraqis

to convey whatever information they have to

inspectors, the United States, or other countries,

in whatever manner they can. By helping

the process of disarmament, they help

their country.

Americans recognize what is at stake. In

fighting a war on terror, we are determined

to oppose every source of catastrophic harm

that threatens our country, our friends, and

our allies. We are actively pursuing dangerous

terror networks across the world. And

we oppose a uniquely dangerous regime, a

regime that has harbored terrorists and can

supply terrorists with weapons of mass destruction,

a regime that has built such terrible

weapons and has used them to kill thousands,

a brutal regime with a history of both reckless

ambition and reckless miscalculation.

The United States of America will not live

at the mercy of any group or regime that

has the motive and seeks the power to murder

Americans on a massive scale. The threat

to America also threatens peace and security

in the Middle East and far beyond. If Iraq’s

dictator is permitted to acquire nuclear

weapons, he could resume his pattern of intimidation

and conquest and dictate the future

of a vital region.

In confronting this threat, America seeks

the support of the world. If action becomes

necessary, we will act in the interests of the

world. And America expects Iraqi compliance

with all U.N. resolutions.

The time has come for the Iraqi people

to escape oppression, find freedom, and live

in hope.

I want to thank the Secretary of State

Colin Powell for his leadership, his good

work, and his determination over the past 2

months. He’s worked tirelessly and successfully

for a resolution that recognizes important

concerns of our Security Council partners

and makes Iraq’s responsibilities clear.

I also thank our Ambassador to the United

Nations, John Negroponte, and his team at

our U.N. mission in New York for their hard

work and outstanding service to our country.

Secretary of State Powell’s team has done a

fine job.

The American people are grateful to the

Security Council for passing this historic resolution.

Members of the Council acted with

courage and took a principled stand. The

United Nations has shown the kind of international

leadership promised by its charter

and required by our times. Now comes the

hard part. The Security Council must maintain

its unity and sense of purpose so that

the Iraq regime cannot revert to the strategies

of obstruction and deception it used so

successfully in the past.

The outcome of the current crisis is already

determined: The full disarmament of

weapons of mass destruction by Iraq will

occur. The only question for the Iraqi regime

is to decide how. The United States prefers

that Iraq meet its obligations voluntarily, yet

we are prepared for the alternative. In either

case, the just demands of the world will be

met.

Thank you all.