Mr. President, I,

too, want to commend our two leaders

for working together on this very important

issue. I think all of us believe

that it is our responsibility, as the U.S.

Senate, to work in a bipartisan way

with the President of the United States

on an issue as grave as attacking another

country and sending our troops

into harm’s way. I believe the administration

will work with this Congress

and I believe we will have a comfort

level that there is a plan and that our

troops will be sent on a mission that is

very clear. That is what this is all

about.

The message we are sending to Saddam

Hussein today is clear: You may

either join the community of nations,

abide by the resolutions of the United

Nations, or there will be serious consequences.

I don’t know anyone who

disagrees with that proposition.

We have often debated the importance

of international arms control

agreements, such as the Chemical

Weapons Convention, the Comprehensive

Test Ban Treaty among others.

What is clear is that without the resolve

of the international community

to enforce these standards, they are

meaningless. Saddam Hussein has

threatened the peace in the Middle

East before. His people have suffered

mightily for it. But even at that time

he did not deploy weapons of mass destruction.

We cannot provide him a

second chance.

International inspectors have concluded

that he is continuing to develop

an arsenal of these horrible weapons.

He has used them in the past, so why

wouldn’t we believe that he would use

them again, unless he is stopped? Just

to put this in perspective, when you

talk about chemical weapons or biological

weapons, someone may say,

‘‘So, what is that? Does that make that

much difference? Is that really something

that could harm the neighbors of

Iraq, or harm the people of any other

country?’’

Anthrax is one of these weapons. A

few pounds—think of what that is. It’s

something that is about this big. A few

pounds of anthrax could wipe out a city

the size of Washington, DC. We know

that Saddam Hussein has the capability

to produce this type of weapon. We

know he has Scud missiles, we have

seen them. Put that on top of a Scud

missile and what does that do to the

security of the neighbors of Iraq?

Chemical or biological agents could

be introduced into the water supply of

any city and kill thousands of people.

That is the kind of weapon we are talking

about. So, if you are talking about,

is this really an issue? Is this something

that we need to stop? I just ask

you, if a few pounds of this kind of

agent can kill the inhabitants of a city

the size of Washington, DC, who in the

world is safe, if someone is manufacturing

these and has used them on innocent

people before?

The United States led in the gulf

war. We will lead again. And we will do

so with the support of the American

people. We are going to stand against

nuclear, chemical or biological weapons

in the hands of someone so irresponsible

as Saddam Hussein, who has

a record that is known of killing innocent

people. We look for support from

the international community as we had

it in Desert Storm, and as I hope we

can count on for the future.

We must not let there be a doubt of

the resolve of the American people.

Saddam Hussein must know that we

speak with one voice. We need the resumption

of inspections, for Saddam

Hussein to show that he wants to be a

part of the international community.

Military force is justified as part of an

overall strategy. Our leader has said

that. What Congress will be looking

for, what the American people will be

looking for from the President and his

advisers, is an overall strategy so we

know what we are looking at, what our

troops are going to be asked to do; so

that we can provide our troops with all

the means they need to do the job and

the protection they need when they are

in the field.

I hope that part of an overall strategy

will be the beginning of the communication

directly with the people of

Iraq, with the good and decent people

who have fled the country, to say we

want to support you and we want you

to know that the weapons that are

being held could be totally deadly to

you, to your children, and to the people

that live throughout the country of

Iraq. What we want to do is make that

a safe area so the people will be free

and so they can join the community of

nations for a lasting peace in the Middle

East. Our forces are prepared. They

will be capable of dealing a harsh lesson

once again. I hope it will not be

necessary.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.