Mr. President, I confess

a measure of regret that it has taken

the Congress this long to state the obvious

in a clear and formal way that

Saddam Hussein is a murderer, and

should be brought to justice. I recall

the occasion almost 10 years ago, when

I stood on this Senate floor and condemned

Saddam Hussein’s crimes

against his own people. Senator Pell,

then the distinguished chairman of the

Foreign Relations Committee, and I

joined in offering amendment after

amendment on various bills then being

considered by the Senate. Senator Pell

and I were dismayed that there seemed

so little interest in calling the world’s

attention to the sadistic tyranny of

Saddam Hussein.

Mr. President, anyone who believes

that Saddam is a man who ‘‘can be

trusted’’, a man with whom we can ‘‘do

business’’ and have a ‘‘human relationship’’

(I am quoting the Secretary General

of the United Nations on these

points), needs to be reminded not only

of the 148 lives lost in combat in Desert

Storm or of the 37 lives lost on the

U.S.S. Stark, but also of those pitiful

women and children of Iraqi Kurdistan

who were deliberately burned beyond

recognition by Saddam’s chemical

weapons. I remind them of the Anfal

campaign and the city of Halabja, and

the hideous deaths of tens of thousands

of innocent people.

Let’s face it, Mr. President, Saddam

Hussein is the world’s worst and most

treacherous nightmare. He is a brutal

and totally unremorseful killer with

weapons of mass destruction and he is

willing to use them at the slightest

provocation.

Mr. President, we must not be deceived.

Should Saddam Hussein escape

the yoke of sanctions, he once again

will begin to amass weapons. He will be

a threat to the United States and the

American people, and to our allies in

the Middle East, and the people of Iraq.

The Clinton Administration pretense

that all that is needed are sanctions in

order to face up to Saddam’s threat is

dangerous nonsense. Sanctions deal

with weapons—but the question is, who

is going to deal with Saddam—and

how?

It is past time to set in motion a

process of gathering evidence, forming

a tribunal, indicting and prosecuting

Saddam Hussein. He is a war criminal.

He is a murderer. Let there be an end

to the pretense that installing cameras

and finding biological weapons toxins

will end our problems with Iraq.

We need to get the weapons, yes. We

also need, one way or another, to get

Saddam.