Mr. President, the crisis

in Iraq has been created because of the

appalling behavior of a man bent on defying

the legitimate directives he

agreed to as the defeated leader of a

ruthless and rogue army. For months,

if not years, Saddam Hussein has been

developing and hiding the very weapons

he explicitly vowed to excise from

his country’s arsenal. These are weapons

which he has demonstrated the will

to use and which, in a slightly more sophisticated

delivery system, may

threaten the entire world. He has

starved his people in order to gain sympathy

from a compassionate world

community, he has gassed his own citizens

to silence their cries for freedom,

he has ruthlessly attacked his neighbors,

massacring thousands through

chemical warfare, and he has threatened

to incinerate an entire people of a

neighboring sovereign nation.

This crisis needs to be ingrained into

our psyche as a case study of how a bellicose

and unrepentant government can

circumvent its obligations to the world

community and world peace, and avoid

the reasonable consequences for those

actions. Even more so, this is an object

lesson of how our ‘‘allies’’ will respond

to such behavior. They seem willing to

curry favor with a dictator by compromising

and redefining critical enforcement

procedures. Compromise?

What is there to compromise? Saddam

has broken his covenant with the

world. We know it. The world knows it,

and our collective governments have

been ineffectual in dealing with him.

To the President and the leaders of the

other nations of the world, I ask three

very basic questions and give you three

very basic ‘‘heartland of America’’ responses.

First, has Saddam honored his commitment

to the world in freely and

openly ridding Iraq of weapons of mass

destruction? No.

Second, will he? Not if we don’t have

the courage to force him, with extreme

prejudice to his military, if necessary.

And third, is he more dangerous

today than yesterday because of a

basic weakness and willingness to compromise

something which should be enforced

without compromise? And that

answer is, yes he is more dangerous.

We have wasted critical time. We

have allowed Saddam the opportunity

to develop the very things he has sworn

not to and the very things we swore we

wouldn’t permit. The current situation

must not continue. We must and I believe

we can, convince a nervous and

wary cadre of allied nations to stand

up for what is right and what is demanded

to preserve the stability of the

world. But if not Mr. President we may

have to go it alone or with but a few

courageous colleagues from the league

of nations.

I am sure we will support the President’s

decision for decisive action,

whatever it may be. Therefore, I join

with the majority and minority leaders

of this great body and ask that they

would consider adding me to the list of

co-sponsors of their concurrent resolution

number 71 concerning the current

crisis in Iraq