Mr. President, I take this

opportunity to discuss the very serious

matter that is before us today and this

week. This is, I trust, going to be a

very somber discussion as we had approximately

11 years ago when this

body approved the actions which led to

Desert Storm. Unfortunately, at that

time we did not solve the problems

confronting us as a result of Saddam

Hussein and his murderous regime in

Iraq.

As we move toward a resolution authorizing

the use of force against the

threat posed by Saddam Hussein, let us

be clear about the intent. This resolution

we will send a clear message to

the world community and to the Iraqi

regime that the demands of the United

Nations Security Council must be followed.

Saddam Hussein must be disarmed.

For over a decade now we have tried

every means of diplomacy, sanctions,

and inspections to encourage Saddam

to keep the promises that he made

after the gulf war. Nothing has worked.

Saddam has made a mockery of the

United Nations resolutions and the

threat he now poses to the world is significant

and growing.

President Bush stated last night that

Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein is a

‘‘murderous tyrant’’ who could attack

the United States ‘‘on any given day’’

using unmanned aerial vehicles loaded

with chemical or biological weapons.

Iraq is unique. By its past and present

actions, by its technological capabilities,

by the merciless nature of its regime,

Iraq is unique. Iraq is a true

present danger to the United States. As

a former chief weapons inspector of the

U.N. has said:

The fundamental problem with Iraq remains

the nature of the regime, itself. Saddam

Hussein is a homicidal dictator who is

addicted to weapons of mass destruction.

The Iraqi regime possesses biological

and chemical weapons, is rebuilding

the facilities to make more and, according

to the British Prime Minister

Tony Blair, could launch a biological

or chemical attack in as little as 45

minutes after the order is given. The

regime has long-standing and continuing

ties to terrorist groups, and we

now know that there are al Qaeda terrorists

inside Iraq. In fact, senior members

of the Iraqi government and members

of the al Qaeda network have been

in contact for many years. This regime

is seeking a nuclear weapon and the delivery

capability to go with it.

There have been reports in the past

from Desert Storm that rather than

having the acquisition of a nuclear

weapon years in advance, it could have

been within a year that they could

have developed a nuclear weapon. Had

he waited until he had that nuclear device

before he invaded Kuwait, we

would have been in a far different position

as we attempted at that time to

expel him from Kuwait.

The Iraqi dictator has answered a

decade of resolutions with a decade of

defiance. In the Southern and Northern

No-fly zones over Iraq, coalition aircraft

continue to be fired on and coalition

pilots continue to put their lives

on the line to enforce these resolutions.

There is an ongoing war that Saddam

Hussein has carried out against the coalition

which is seeking to enforce

United Nations resolutions. Just this

year alone, coalition aircraft have been

fired on over 400 times. Since Saddam

Hussein made what I believe, from past

experience, will be shown to be a hollow

promise to cooperate with the

United Nations, they have fired on coalition

aircraft more than 47 times. Saddam

Hussein is a master at saying one

thing and doing another.

As President Bush has stated in the

past:

The Iraqi regime is led by a dangerous and

brutal man. We know he is actively seeking

the destructive technologies to match his

hatred. And we know that he must be

stopped. The dangers we face will only worsen

from month to month and year to year.

To ignore these threats is to encourage

them—and when they have fully materialized,

it may be too late to protect ourselves

and our allies. By then, the Iraqi dictator

will have had the means to terrorize and

dominate the region, and each passing day

could be the one on which the Iraqi regime

gives anthrax or VX nerve gas or someday a

nuclear weapon to a terrorist group.

The mantle of leadership requires

this body to act. We have seen the results

of a decade of speaking loudly and

carrying a soft stick.

We have pointed out, in past years,

the danger of this regime. We have

called for changes. We have asked the

United Nations to strengthen its resolutions.

We have asked Saddam Hussein

to readmit inspectors to assure us

there are no deadly weapons of mass

destruction being stockpiled. We have

been rejected at all points.

Let us act now and pass this resolution

in support of our President. This

resolution is needed to send an important

signal to our allies and to the

United Nations. With our leadership, I

am convinced the President will build

a robust coalition to say no to Saddam

Hussein. It will tell the world we are

serious about disarmament, and it will

reaffirm our message to Saddam Hussein.

Approving this resolution does not

mean military action is imminent or

unavoidable. The resolution will tell

the United Nations and all nations

America speaks with one voice and is

determined to make the demands of

the civilized world mean something.

If we do not act, then we face the terrible

dangers of an attack with weapons

of mass destruction. If the United

Nations does not act, it faces the prospect

of joining the League of Nations

on the dustbin of history: an international

organization, organized with

the highest purposes, and by its inaction

shown to be ineffective.

I believe and I trust we will give a

strong vote, a bipartisan vote, in support

of this resolution. I believe building

on that resolution we will build a

coalition, and our world will be a safer

place, even though we have to take the

risks that are necessary and that come

with this resolution in order to secure

that safety and that peace for ourselves,

our children, and our future.

Mr. President, I urge my colleagues

to support this resolution. I look forward

to working with them on this

matter.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.