Mr. President,

today the Bush administration is taking

an action that is almost incomprehensible.

Frankly, it is outrageous,

when you think about it. The administration

is removing Libya from the

State Department’s list of state sponsors

of terror even though Muammar

Qadhafi has not fulfilled his commitments

to the American victims of Libyan

terror. Even though Qadhafi is not

keeping his promise to Americans who

lost loved ones when agents of his government

bombed Pan Am flight 103, the

administration is going to give Libya

full diplomatic privileges.

The President is taking this action

even though this Senate recently

passed my resolution which said that

diplomatic credentials should not be

given to Libya until Qadhafi provides

all of the restitution promised to the

families of the victims of the Pan Am

Flight 103 bombing and other acts of

terror supported by Libya. I know a lot

of those families, families from New

Jersey and in the area generally, who

lost loved ones on that flight. Many of

the victims were young college students

from Syracuse University. I have

a nephew who went there. He was to

take that trip but at the last minute

had to change his plans. He lost several

very good friends.

I have been to Lockerbie, Scotland,

and know too well what happened that

fateful day when 270 people were killed,

with the airplane and human remains

falling onto that beautiful little community,

Lockerbie, in Scotland. I have

seen the remnants, the souvenirs that

the victims had bought on that trip

that was during the Christmas period. I

saw Mickey Mouse hats and things

that college kids enjoy. Even bottles of

wine that survived were then put in a

warehouse of things that were collected

on the ground but could not be

assigned to any single family because

they didn’t have any sort of identification

attached to them.

It was a sad moment for mankind, for

sanity in our world. Libya ultimately

was convicted of providing the resources

for those terrorists who

brought that airplane down. Libya has

not paid all of the claims that were

awarded to the families of the victims;

Libya has not paid the last installment

of compensation due as a condition of

being removed from the list of state

sponsors of terror. That was the agreement.

That was the understanding.

No matter how many years pass,

these families will never forget their

loss, their grief; neither will anyone

who knows these families, who knows

the pain visited upon these people

when they heard that their son or

daughter was killed in the downing of

that airplane.

If Libya has indeed renounced terrorism,

that is great news, as is the

fact that Libya, which was thought to

be engaged in the development of weapons

of mass destruction, has agreed to

stop that pursuit. Still, the Libyan

government has an obligation it agreed

to meet so that it could rejoin the community

of nations, to achieve a level of

acceptance around the world. Their

past behavior cannot be excused. They

murdered Americans and they must be

held fully accountable.

Today, the Bush administration has

rejected accountability for Libya.

Today, the administration has put

other interests ahead of the interests

of the American victims of terrorism.

What are those interests that prevailed

in the end? We will let the investigative

journals figure that one out.

But when leaders of our country say

‘‘we must never forget the lessons’’ of

acts of terrorism, I think they should

mean it. Libya should fulfill its promise,

its commitment to the families of

the victims of Pan Am 103 and not let

that commitment be forgotten because

part of it has been fulfilled but not all

of it. We must not forget that Libya

has failed to comply entirely with the

basic promise to those families.

We urge the President and the administration

to hold fast and insist

that Libya pay its bills. The money

will never compensate these families

for the loss of their child, brother or

sister, father or mother—never. But at

least it shows that Libya is serious

about honoring it commitments, something

that is essential before it can

achieve anything approximating the

status of nations that follow the rule of

law. So we must insist on that.

I yield the floor.