Madam President,

as Senator BYRD mentioned, we have

serious issues to contemplate concerning

Iraq. This is a country we have

had conflict with before, a country

that has weapons of mass destruction.

Iraq has been at war with itself and its

neighbors for 22 of the 23 years that

Saddam Hussein has ruled that country.

The people of Iraq have not known

peace under Saddam Hussein.

History reveals repression at home is

often the breeding ground for outside

aggression. Iraq is certainly a case in

point. There has been no peace in Iraq

since Saddam Hussein came to power

more than two decades ago. First, he

declared war on Iran, a war that lasted

nearly a decade. He then declared war

on the Iraq Kurdish population in the

north. He even used chemical weapons

against them in his pursuit of total and

absolute control of Iraq.

After the war with the Kurds, he declared

war on Kuwait, calling Kuwait

an integral part of Iraq. Since his defeat

at the hands of the U.S.-led coalition,

Saddam has spent the past decade

defying the United Nations and the

United Nations imposed agreements

and building weapons of mass destruction

to use against his next victims.

History has also shown that authoritarian

dictators do not successfully become

integrated into civilized society.

On the contrary, they seek any and all

means to pursue their goals and perceive

any positive overtures towards

them as acts of weakness on the part of

their adversaries. It has been the policy

of the U.S. Government to seek the

overthrow of Saddam Hussein since the

passage of the 1997 Iraq Liberation Act.

This policy is strongly supported—it

was then and is now—by both Houses of

Congress and both parties. It was also

embraced by President Bush in the Republican

Party platform.

This is going to be a key issue as we

continue to look at what we are going

to do to remove Saddam Hussein from

power. We are not safe. That region of

the world is not safe as long as Saddam

Hussein rules in Iraq. This situation is

not tenable over the long term. I am

hopeful we can move forward to see

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some stability established in the region

without Saddam Hussein in power.

I yield the floor.