Mr. President, I

rise to talk about the situation in

North Korea and about the dire situation of the people of North Korea and

the human rights abuses that are taking place. I think most of my colleagues know about the missile testing

that has been occurring in North

Korea, about the difficulty in getting

negotiations going on the six-party

talks. I applaud the administration for

their efforts on getting these six-party

talks moving on North Korea.

I also wish to draw the attention of

my colleagues to the human toll that

is taking place in North Korea. Kim

Jong Il, the leader of North Korea, has

been a weapon of mass destruction

against his own people, killing 1.5 million of his own people in prison

camps—nearly 10 percent of their en-

tire population—over the past 15 years.

In particular, I draw to the attention

of my colleagues an article that is in

today’s Asia Times Online because I

think this actually summarizes the

overall situation pretty well.

North Korea and South Korea have

been talking quite a bit, and the South

Koreans have actually sided with the

Chinese and the Russians on a weaker

U.N. Security Council resolution. The

North Koreans just walked out of ministerial talks with the South Koreans,

saying that they want to pursue a missile weapons system—the North Koreans do—for the protection of the entire

Korean peninsula, including South

Korea, which is absurd. This will be

used against the South Koreans. At the

same time they want to pursue missiles, nuclear technology, the North

Koreans are demanding from South

Korea half a million tons of rice and

several hundred thousand tons of fertilizer to help feed the starving North

Korean people at a time when the Government is investing heavily—millions

and billions of dollars, perhaps—in missiles and nuclear weapons which they

can then sell to other countries, such

as to the Iranians, where the missile

technology in Iran is based upon the

North Korean missile technology sys-

tem. And then they have the gall at

the same time to demand food out of

South Korea to feed their starving people in North Korea and fertilizer to be

able to grow their crops.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous con-

sent to have this article printed in the

RECORD at the end of my statement.

Mr. President,

this is just amazing gall, that they

would do something like that, and it

also highlights the situation and what

is taking place.

I hope North Korea knows by now

that their behavior has consequences.

The Security Council is considering a

resolution. I hope we are able to get

the tougher one that the Japanese are

pursuing. The one from China and Russia clearly does not go far enough. We

should work with our allies to attempt

to defend against the North Korean

threat.

Our missile defense programs now are

more important than ever. Thank-

fully—thankfully—we have put a missile defense program in place that is

not fully operational but should help

us against these rogue regimes such as

North Korea and Iran which are far less

predictable—I think one could probably use that term—than what the

former Soviet Union was, even though

the Soviet Union had a bigger threat

capacity.

What the President of Iran will do

and what Kim Jong Il will do is hard to

predict. These are very erratic leaders

and ones who don’t respond well, if at

all, to a mutual destruction type of

threat that we used against the Soviet

Union. We need the missile defense sys-

tem.

The basic problem is the North Korean regime itself. The regime has

turned North Korea into a failed state.

I had hoped to bring over to the Senate

floor this morning a picture that is

pretty well known by most people. It is

a night photograph of the Korean peninsula, and it shows lights in South

Korea, it shows lights in China, and it

shows darkness in North Korea, which

highlights the nature of the failed

state. This is just so amazing, that we

have the Korean peninsula divided into

two countries—South Korea, the 12th

largest economy in the world, democratic and free, growing, robust; and

North Korea, having killed 10 percent

of its people in the last 15 years

through starvation and a gulag sys-

tem—on the same peninsula.

North Korea is a failed state. The

North Korean regime engages in illegal

activities, including counterfeiting

American money as well as producing

missile systems and expanding its

WMD programs. It has a humanitarian

crisis. I noted earlier that an estimated

1.5 million prisoners have been killed

in North Korea’s prison camps. The

gulag remains. Approximately 200,000

are currently in prison—political prisoners in North Korea.

The assistance China and South

Korea provide to North Korea makes

them complicit in North Korea’s missile development program. The assistance keeps their economy on life sup-

port, and thanks to North Korea’s lack

of transparency, even humanitarian aid

is often diverted from the North Korean people for military use.

North Korea’s symptomatic human

rights abuses are often lost amidst our

discussion of its nuclear and missile

programs. We should set a longer term

goal to bring to light the humanitarian

abuses that are taking place. We need a

Helsinki-type of discussion on human

rights. We should not just discuss missile technology or nuclear technology;

we need to discuss the humanitarian

crisis that is in North Korea.

I also believe we need to discuss the

elephant that is in the room that no-

body will discuss. North Korea is a

failed state. Hundreds of thousands

have walked out of North Korea into

China. Some are now finding a way

into the United States as refugees.

They tell horrific stories of what is

taking place.

The natural state of the Korean peninsula is one country, whole and free.

That is the long-term goal for the natural state of the Korean peninsula—one

country, whole and free. We should set

that as a long-term objective—the

spread of democracy throughout the

Korean peninsula.

I urge the Bush administration to

fully fund the programs authorized by

the North Korean Human Rights Act of

2004, and I urge my colleagues to fund

those programs as well in the appropriations process. We should be pre-

pared to accept those North Koreans

who voted with their feet and escaped

the regime into this country and others as well.

We had our first group, a small group

of six North Korean refugees, and four

were women. The women said that the

refugees that make it out of North

Korea into China, 100 percent are trafficked into some form of sexual bond-

age or sexual slavery. They get out of

North Korea into China—that is relatively simple—and then they are captured, almost hunted like animals in

China. When they are captured, the

people who catch them say: Look, you

are going to do what I say or I am turning you in to the Chinese authorities;

they will repatriate you to North

Korea, and you will end up in the

gulag. So they do what they say, and

they are sold. They are caught like

wild animals and sold to people in some

form of sexual bondage and sexual slavery in that portion of China.

We should push China aggressively to

stop repatriating North Korean refu-

gees. They are going back into the

gulag. They are going back into the

death camps. The Chinese should be

forced not to do that. It is called

refoulement. It is against the U.N.

agreements on human rights that they

entered into. They should be forced not

to do that, not to send them back. We

should begin discussions with China

and South Korea on what the Korean

peninsula should look like in the future—one country, full and free.

The bottom line is that our problem

isn’t just the missile or nuclear capacity of North Korea, it is the North Korean regime itself. We must address the

root problem if we are ever to find a solution.

I might remind my colleagues as well

that it is not just the missile tests, it

is not just the nuclear technology in

North Korea, because then they look to

sell it, as they have, and spread it to

Iran, which multiplies our sets of problems. We must look also at what hap-

pens to the North Korean people, and

much of our focus must be placed on

China. China is the one that is primarily keeping North Korea on life

support systems now. They are funding

them. The Chinese, by not refouleing

refugees, by allowing North Koreans to

come out and pass freely through there

to third countries, would really help a

great deal in this crisis, and China

bears much of the responsibility.

Mr. President, I thank my colleagues

for the chance to address the body. We

are looking at putting forward a reso-

lution calling on any future dialog

with North Korea to include a human

rights component. Along with the dis-

cussion of missile technology and nu-

clear technology, it desperately needs a

human rights component, as we did in

negotiations with the former Soviet

Union on missiles and nuclear weapons.

We also included a Helsinki human

rights component. This discussion

needs a human rights component as

well.

Mr. President, I thank my colleague

from Connecticut for allowing me to

step in front of him to speak, and I

yield the floor.