Mr. President, I

would like to address one more issue,

with the agreement of my colleagues. I

see a number of them on the floor—

Senator BYRD—so I will try to be very

brief. But I want to talk a little bit

about our national security interests

and what is occurring in North Korea.

It does not just affect my State of

Alaska, although this recent threestage

rocket did generate a little interest

in my State because on August 31,

1998, the North Koreans fired a rocket

which we now believe is a three-stage

rocket carrying a satellite over the

sovereign territory of Japan and it evidently

came down very close to my

home State of Alaska.

Although initial reports indicated

that this was a two-stage rocket with a

range of approximately 1,200 miles, now

there is acknowledgment in the U.S.

intelligence community that it was

likely a three-stage rocket carrying a

satellite. The third stage malfunctioned,

consequently the satellite was

not launched. But the point is that it

has been identified that, indeed, the

North Koreans have the rocket capability

to carry some type of armament to

the shores of the United States.

The Asian press reported that the

rocket traveled 3,700 miles, or 6,000 kilometers,

and landed in the ocean near

Alaska. On September 17, the U.S. Department

of Defense spokesman Kenneth

Bacon responded to this report by

saying:

Let’s think about what this really

means. The only way we have to track

this is by radar tapes; in other words,

after the fact. But intelligence sources

have been quoted as acknowledging

that a three-stage rocket could have a

range three times that of the two-stage

Taepo Dong I rocket. Particularly concerned

about this latest missile test, a

number of us have recognized that

there seems to be a breakdown on

whether the administration was either

caught off guard by the sophistication

of the North Korean technology, or was

reluctant to share this information

with lawmakers.

I am reminded of President Clinton’s

comments last year, when he said

‘‘[t]he possibility of a long-range missile

attack on U.S. soil by a rogue state

is more than a decade away.’’

That does not appear to be the case—

as a consequence of the occurrence in

August, the last day of August, relative

to the North Korean missile

which did land within shouting distance

of my State of Alaska.

This would ignore the testimony in

1994 by John Deutch, then-Deputy Secretary

of Defense:

It appears the North Koreans have

gone beyond even what Mr. Deutch envisioned

by launching a three-stage

rocket carrying a satellite.

There is truly an immediate need for

missile defense, Mr. President. MIT

professor Daniel Fine has an interesting

take on why we need immediate action

on a National Missile Defense System

which protects all of the United

States, including Hawaii, Alaska and

our territories. He conclusion is that:

Well Mr. President, I for one do not

think it is far fetched to think of

Prudhoe Bay as a potential target.

After all, it accounts for approximately

20 percent of the total domestic production

of crude oil in the United

States. While I have not reviewed how

the professor reaches the $4 to 6 billion

figure, I think it should serve as a

wake-up call to those who continue to

oppose a National Missile Defense System.

It is not just Alaskans, Hawaiians

and those in Guam who should be concerned

about the launch. Monday’s test

was the first of a multistage missile.

According to experts, the ability to

build rockets in stages opens the doors

to intercontinental missiles that would

have virtually unlimited range and

which would carry payloads capable of

nuclear, chemical or biological weapons.

Such missiles, and the threat of

them, certainly puts U.S. citizens at

risk as a consequence of any attack

coming from North Korea or any other

area with a missile that carries weapons

of mass destruction.

I think we have to reflect a little bit

on the North Koreans. Some would dismiss

the threat from North Korea because

that country is on the verge of

an economic collapse. But I remind my

colleagues that North Korea has a history.

Mr. President, we have seen in the

past, irrational actions by the North

Koreans. You recall this is a country

that in 1950 launched an invasion on

South Korea, resulting in the deaths of

3 million of her countrymen and 54,000

American troops.

Recall the detonation of a bomb in

Rangoon killing 16 South Korean officials;

a country whose agents blew up a

Korean Airlines flight killing 115 passengers

and crew; and a country whose

military hacked U.S. personnel to

death in the DMZ.

I think we have to recognize there is

still a great deal of uncertainty relative

to the objectives of North Korea.

Furthermore, as we look at the crisis

on the Korean peninsula, the United

States has given over $250 million in

combined food aid and support for

KEDO. The North Koreans have received

1.3 million metric tons of heavy

fuel oil.

While the United States has provided

humanitarian assistance from time to

time, as well as technical assistance,

we have also promised large contributions

to the $5 billion light water reactor

program and also have given food

and aid and contributed over $50 million

to KEDO.

What have the North Koreans done in

return for this assistance? They

launched a missile in August. Intelligence

photos show work on vast underground

construction complexes.

In July of 1998, GAO reported that

North Korea has taken actions to

hinder work of international inspectors

sent to monitor North Korea’s nuclear

program.

It goes on and on.

As a consequence, I think it is fair to

say the administration has treated

each of these incidents as if North

Korea is merely an innocent child

throwing a harmless tantrum, not a

terrorist nation home to the world’s

fourth largest army, just miles away

from the 37,000 American troops.

Incident after incident is dismissed

by this administration as ‘‘not intentional’’

or not ‘‘serious’’ enough to derail

U.S. assistance under the Agreed

Framework.

The administration called latest missile

launch ‘‘ a matter of deep concern

to the U.S. because of its destabilizing

impact in Northeast Asia and beyond,’’

but reiterated its commitment to provide

funds under the Agreed Framework.

The administration refuses to say

that newly disclosed evidence of underground

facility would violate the 1994

accord because ‘‘concrete has not been

poured.’’

When a sub full of North Korean commandos

landed in South Korea, the administration

asked both sides to ‘‘show

restraint’’—as if South Korea was in

the wrong.

The administration responded to violations

of the Military Armistice

Agreement by asking that the issue

not be ‘‘blown out of proportion.’’

Issuing polite reprimands from the

State Department, while the Administration

continues to seek increased

funds for activities that benefit North

Korea, only encourages bad behavior.

Mr. President, enough is enough.

Congress should block further funding

for KEDO until the President can certify

that North Korea’s nuclear program

is, indeed, frozen and not simply

an ongoing clandestine operation. The

United States is a global power with

vested interests both politically and

commercially all over the world. We

simply cannot allow policy to be determined

by those who practice missile

blackmail.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and

wish the President a good day and a

good weekend.