Mr. President, I

know that—and what we have heard

this morning—what is rightfully at the

forefront of all of our minds this week

is the debate about whether to authorize

the use of force in Syria. This is a

very serious matter, as we all know. It

raises a number of geopolitical and national

security issues.

The decision to undertake military

action is not one to be taken lightly. I

am very aware that people are warweary,

that they are concerned about

the consequences of the use of military

force. Consequently, I believe we

should pursue every possible diplomatic

solution prior to engaging in

military action.

I welcome the possibility of international

cooperation to secure and destroy

Syria’s chemical weapons stockpile.

I hope that Russia is being serious

and that they will take real, legitimate

actions to quickly follow through on

what they have raised with their effort

to try to encourage Asad to give up his

chemical weapons to international control.

I am working with some of my

colleagues on the Senate Foreign Relations

Committee on an amendment to

the resolution that would incorporate

this new development and pressure the

Syrians to ensure that we see credible

concrete steps in any possible effort to

place their chemical weapons under

international inspection. I look forward

to hearing from the President

today and this evening, and I look forward

to the debate later this week as

we consider the situation in Syria.