Mr. President, I rise

to briefly comment on Senator LEVIN’s

alternative proposal relating to Iraq.

Some of my colleagues for whom I have

tremendous respect have tried to address

the fact that the administration’s

proposal is simply not good enough by

emphasizing the desirability of a

United Nations resolution, thus transforming

this dangerous unilateral proposal

into an internationally sanctioned

multilateral mission. But while

I recognize that international support

is a crucial ingredient in any recipe for

addressing the weapons of mass destruction

threat in Iraq without undercutting

the fight against terrorism, I

will not and cannot support any effort

to give the United Nations Security

Council Congress’s proxy in deciding

whether or not to send American men

and women into combat in Iraq. No Security

Council vote can answer my

questions about plans for securing

WMD or American responsibilities in

the wake of an invasion of Iraq. It is

for this reason that I must oppose the

proposal of the distinguished Senator

from Michigan.