

against those among us of Middle Eastern descent. Millions of Arab Americans, like those in my district, contribute daily in vital ways to our communities and our Nation in every professional class, medicine, academia, engineering, and yes, to the U.S. armed forces.

The Good Book tells us, and what does the Lord require of you? To do justice, to love kindness, to walk humbly with your God. Let us as we go into these difficult times and in the difficult days ahead rededicate ourselves to practice justice and kindness toward every American, citizen and visitor of Middle Eastern descent, that we may hold up those ideals that brave Americans fight to defend in these days.

ALLIED SUPPORT FOR WAR AGAINST IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I am confused today. I have been in Congress 17 years and I have been a strong supporter of our relations with our European friends, with parliamentarians from Russia, Ukraine, China, and every other major nation in the world. I have traveled to France and Germany several times, and have hosted scores of members of parliaments.

But what I saw occur last week and what I am hearing coming out of the President's mouth disturbs and confuses me. President Chirac of France and his counterpart, Chancellor Schroeder of Germany, have said that they will not support the U.S. effort to remove Saddam Hussein from Iraq. They have further said there is no justification for war unless it is approved by the U.N. Security Council.

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But I look at each country and I wonder what they are referring to, because it was France just 4 years ago when they wanted the U.S. to come in and assist them militarily in removing Milosevic from power in Belgrade. It was France who came to the U.S. and convinced our President to put our sons and daughters in harm's way. But in doing so, along with the French, in pushing America to fight this military battle, they would not go to the U.N. Security Council because they knew that Russia would veto any resolution.

So what did France and Germany do? Just a few short years ago, for the first time and only time in NATO's history, along with our President, at that time Bill Clinton, they used a NATO military force to invade a non-NATO sovereign nation to remove the head of state, and that head of state was Slobodan Milosevic. Now, Milosevic was a bad guy, a war criminal, he has done bad things, but everyone, includ-

ing the special rapporteur for human rights at the U.N., Max van der Stoep, including Bill Clinton's own Ambassador to the U.N., Ambassador Holbrooke, have all said publicly that, in fact, Saddam Hussein is far worse than Milosevic ever was. In fact, a U.N. special rapporteur said there has been no leader since Adolf Hitler who has done the kinds of human rights abuses that Saddam Hussein has done.

How, then, can France and Germany when just a few short years ago for their own benefit, because a neighbor was threatening in their case, they felt, their security, enticed the U.S. to come in and use our troops to remove Milosevic from power militarily and today say, in a situation far, far worse in Saddam Hussein, that force is not justified?

I am also reminded of just a year ago, President Jacques Chirac, saying it again, the U.N. Security Council is the final group that should decide the change of regimes, sent French troops to the Ivory Coast because of a coup attempt, sent French troops there, without going to the U.N. Security Council, without asking for a vote, without employing the very tactics that he is standing up now and demanding around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I am troubled. The French and Germans have been our longtime friends, and hopefully they will be once this is over; but the words coming out of the mouths of Jacques Chirac and Gerhard Schroder and their foreign ministers leave me confused and bewildered. I really wonder what France stands for. I really wonder what Germany stands for. Are they really against human rights abuses as defined by Amnesty International and every other major human rights group? Are they really convinced that people who are bad actors like Milosevic should be removed from office, as we did with their pushing and support just a few years ago militarily? And if so, why the change with Saddam Hussein? I hope it is not because of the ties to oil that France has with Iraq. I would hope that is not the case with the French. But, Mr. Speaker, I do not know what the proper response is.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD two letters which were sent by me to President Jacques Chirac last Friday and Chancellor Gerhard Schroder, also last Friday, which basically lay out the facts and then asks the question of the French and Germans, Do you have a double standard? Is it okay to entice America to come in and fight a battle in front of you in your backyard to remove a leader that you have said publicly is a human rights abuser, even though you do not want to go to the U.N. and did not go to the U.N. to achieve the U.N.'s support? Is it okay to do that and then a few years later, after 12 years of seeing Saddam Hussein kill tens of thousands of innocent people, use chemical weapons against the Kurds, commit war crimes against our own American

POWs, 21 of them, in fact, and, in fact, commit the most horrendous crimes against the Kuwaitis and all the other minority groups inside Iraq, and then to come forward and say, "Well, in this case it's different"?

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, March 7, 2003

President JACQUES CHIRAC,

Republic of France, c/o Embassy of France,
Washington, DC.

DEAR PRESIDENT CHIRAC: As a long time friend of the French people and a steadfast facilitator of inter-parliamentary cooperation between our nations, I am compelled to contact you to express my disappointment with your government's actions. Throughout my tenure in Congress, I have hosted dozens of French parliamentarians, traveled to your country to speak to government officials and industry leaders, and endeavored to strengthen the relations between our great nations. However, I was outraged today by your Foreign Minister's statements before the United Nations opposing the use of force to uphold the United Nations Charter and the sixteen multilateral resolutions written after the Gulf War cease-fire in 1991. Your government's words and actions have done serious, if not permanent, damage to the once unshakable foundations of the great transatlantic alliance that has served our mutual interests for so long.

Your continued opposition to the use of force to disarm Iraq without the full support of the United Nations is steeped in hypocrisy of such epic proportions, that your sudden reverence for the inviolability of the United Nations is laughable. When the dictator Milosevic threatened western Europe's back door, France was entirely content to bypass the United Nations Security Council and take military action. History will forever judge your use of NATO—championing the organization's first offensive action against a non-member—without any attempt to employ the global diplomacy of the United Nations. The actions of your Foreign Minister opposing the dedication of the United States stands in stark contradiction to the practices and motivations of your government in Yugoslavia. During negotiations within the Security Council amidst the NATO engagement, Alain Dejammet justified France's actions through the enforcement of three resolutions under Chapter VII on Kosovo and Yugoslavia's refusal to fulfill its obligations under those agreements. Your opposition and veto threat sends a disturbing message to future generations that international interference is no longer desired to end genocide, obstruct terrorism or aid a suffering people under a demonic regime. Even more disturbing, is that the efforts to remove the cancer of Slobodan Milosevic could not have been accomplished without the vast majority of coalition troops, air strikes and logistical support provided by the United States. In fact, France went to great lengths to have America commit our sons and daughters for this moral purpose, and we dutifully obliged.

I am quite sure that the foreign ministers of France and Germany slept soundly while the bombs fell on Kosovo without United Nations approval. However, the historically peaceful people of France are now roused to defend the sacred honor of the Security Council, the very same Security Council whose honor they flouted just five years ago. Convenience, not principle, seems to be France's guiding compass. Your constant opposition to America's effort to remove a regime that has continually violated several, if not all of the human rights provisions within the United Nations charter and presents an increasing threat to democracies all over the world is nothing short of appalling. The dictatorship in Iraq far surpasses the practice of

murder and oppression that ever existed in Yugoslavia. Nevertheless, your country insists on turning a blind eye to the atrocities and breeding ground for terrorism that fail to occur near the borders of old Europe.

France's continued indifference to the plight of the Iraqi people, its neighbors and those who fall subject to Saddam Hussein's evil rule defies explanation. The atrocities perpetrated under Hussein's regime are well documented by organizations such as Human Rights Watch, the International Federation for Human Rights, Amnesty International, the Coalition for International Justice and even the United Nations. In fact, the former United Nations Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in Iraq, Max Van der Stoep, stated that "the brutality of the Iraqi regime was of an exceptionally grave character, so grave that it has few parallels in the years that have passed since the Second World War. . . . It is to comparisons with the obscenity of the Holocaust and Stalin's mass murders that observers are inevitably drawn when confronted with the horrors of Saddam's Iraq. . . . This is a state that employs arbitrary execution, imprisonment and torture on a comprehensive and routine basis."

The vile methods of torture inflicted upon Coalition prisoners of the Gulf War, Kuwaitis, Kurds, Sh'iit muslims, Iranians, Turkomans, and anyone else who dares to live a life contrary to the wishes of Saddam Hussein are well documented. Primitive executions, dismemberment, castration, hangings by barbed wire, the raping of women in front of family members and children, burning flesh with acid, finger and toenail extraction, boring holes into bodies with drills and the ignition of gasoline pumped into various orifices of the human body are routine measures employed by Hussein and his henchmen.

Yet France continues to make every effort to block Hussein's removal and protect a despot whose country has the highest number of disappearances and displaced persons in the World. You callously refuse to acknowledge the documented destruction of life and repeated offensive military actions against surrounding countries since the 1970's. Your actions condone the blatant disregard of United Nations resolutions since 1991, and repeatedly make it clear that international law should not be honored. The statements made today and your acquiescence may forever undermine the peaceful objectives that are the foundation of international law and serve to entice future evils.

America will not follow France's lead and remain content to concern ourselves solely with problems that border our country. We will not allow economic investments and resource dependency to impede our future judgments to alleviate the suffering of others. The American people and my colleagues in Congress will not soon forget the rank hypocrisy and blatant disloyalty displayed by your country today, and I am confident that the free people of the world will also refuse to follow your misguided lead.

Sincerely,

CURT WELDON,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 7, 2003.

Chancellor GERHARD SCHRÖDER,
Federal Republic of Germany, c/o Embassy of
Germany, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHANCELLOR SCHRÖDER: As a long time friend of the German people and a steadfast facilitator of inter-parliamentary cooperation between our nations, I am compelled to contact you. Throughout my tenure in Congress, I have hosted dozens of Bundestag members, served on the German Caucus and U.S. Congress-German Bundestag Study

Group, and endeavored to strengthen the relations between our great Nations. However, I was outraged today by your Foreign Minister's statements before the United Nations opposing the use of force to uphold the United Nations Charter and the sixteen multilateral resolutions written after the Gulf War cease-fire in 1991. Your government's words and actions have done serious, if not permanent, damage to the once unshakable foundations of the great transatlantic alliance that has served our mutual interests for so long.

Your continued opposition to the use of force to disarm Iraq without the full support of the United Nations is steeped in hypocrisy of such epic proportions, that your sudden reverence for the inviolability of the United Nations is laughable. When the dictator Milosevic threatened western Europe's back door, Germany was entirely content to bypass the United Nations Security Council and take military action. History will forever judge your use of NATO—championing the organization's first offensive action against a non-member—without any attempt to employ the global diplomacy of the United Nations. The actions of your Foreign Minister opposing the dedication of the United States stands in stark contradiction to the practices and motivations of your government in Yugoslavia. In fact, Minister Joschka Fischer himself characterized the Serbian actions as a "declaration of war against the policy of European integration. It is not only a question of morality or of human rights, it is a question of security and stability in Europe." Your opposition sends a disturbing message to future generations that international interference is no longer desired to end genocide, obstruct terrorism or aid a suffering people under a demonic regime. Even more disturbing, is that the efforts to remove the cancer of Slobodan Milosevic could not have been accomplished without the vast majority of coalition troops, air strikes and logistical support dedicated to your effort by the United States. In fact, Germany went to great lengths to have America commit our sons and daughters for this moral purpose, and we dutifully obliged.

I am quite sure that the Foreign Ministers of France and Germany slept soundly while the bombs fell on Kosovo without United Nations approval. Now, the people of Germany are roused to defend the sacred honor of the Security Council, the very same Security Council whose honor they flouted just five years ago. Convenience, not principle, seems to be Germany's guiding compass. Your constant opposition to America's efforts to remove a regime that has continually violated several, if not all of the human rights provisions within the United Nations charter and presents an increasing threat to democracies all over the world is nothing short of appalling. The dictatorship in Iraq far surpasses the practice of murder and oppression that ever existed in Yugoslavia. Nevertheless, your country insists on turning a blind eye to the atrocities and breeding ground for terrorism that fail to occur near the borders of old Europe.

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Sincerely,

CURT WELDON,
Member of Congress.

HONORING NAPERVILLE CENTRAL WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMMONS). Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Redhawks, the Naperville Central High School women's basketball team, who this weekend brought home the Illinois Class AA State championship.

Under the leadership of Head Coach Andy Nussbaum, the Redhawks on Saturday tipped Chicago Fenwick in overtime, 63-59, to capture the school's first State title and the number seven ranking in the latest national rankings as compiled by USA Today.

Who are the Redhawks? They are Rachel Crissy, Seanna O'Malley, Lauren Grochowski, Megan McNaughton, Britany Utrata, Liz Lawdensky, Tiffany Hudson, Courtney Peters, Erica Carter,