meet new challenges. Renewed arms inspections of Iraq should be part of that new matrix, but smarter sanctions and humanitarian engagement must also be undertaken.

Engagement is crucial. We should work with our allies to forge a policy that strengthens the cause of peace and stability in the Middle East.

There are some who call for an invasion of Iraq. I am strongly opposed to such a step.

Opposition to a United States assault on Iraq is found not only in the capitals of the Middle East but throughout much of the rest of the world as well.

International leaders such as United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan and former South African President Nelson Mandela have strongly voiced their opposition to such an attack, arguing that the only lasting solutions lie in collective international efforts.

As Kofi Annan said earlier this month, ''Any attempt or any decision to attack Iraq today will be unwise and could lead to a major escalation in the region.'' President Mandela warned that bombing Iraq would be a disaster that would inject ''chaos into international affairs.''

Therefore, I must oppose this resolution not because I oppose inspections but because I believe it is too inflammatory and will make inspections less likely, not more likely.

This is the wrong resolution at the wrong time. At this moment we face a crisis in the Middle East as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict threatens to spin out of control. That must be the epicenter of our concern right now. Yes, we want inspections, but this is not the best way to achieve them.

TERRORIST BOMBINGS CONVENTIONS IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, while I support the ratification and implementation of the International Conventions for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings and the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism in H.R. 3275, I cannot support the overall bill. I am concerned that bill includes controversial language that will jeopardize future enforcement of these Conventions.

I believe that the provision in title I that authorizes the imposition of the death penalty for the offenses set forth in section 102.2 is superfluous and unnecessary. Our experience with other nations, as it pertains to the U.S. death penalty, should guide our actions on the floor today. Courts in Canada and France have refused to extradite criminals to the United States, citing our continued insistence on the imposition of the death penalty. A South African Constitutional Court ruled that a suspect on trial in Manhattan in connection with the bombing of the American Embassy in Tanzania should not have been turned over to United States authorities without assurances that he would not face the death penalty.

At a time when we are seeking the cooperation of nations to bring international criminals to justice, it makes no sense to authorize this death penalty provision, which may, in fact, impede the extradition of criminals to U.S. jurisdiction. The administration acknowledges that capital punishment is not required to implement the Conventions. Yet, even while admitting that the provision is unnecessary to implement the Convention, the administration justifies the inclusion of this new death penalty provision by claiming that it simply tracks current law.

This justification is without merit. Under U.S. law, the death penalty is justified for its deterrent effect. Surely in this case there is no punitive or deterrent basis for the death penalty. In this instance, those that the Conventions target are willing to commit suicide for their criminal causes. In this instance, it cannot be argued in good faith that fear of the death penalty will prevent terrorists from carrying out acts of terrorism.

TERRORIST BOMBINGS CONVENTION IMPLEMENTATION ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings was initiated by the United States in the wake of the 1996 bombing of Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia. It requires signatories to criminalize terrorist bombings aimed at public, governmental, or infrastructure facilities and to prosecute or extradite those responsible. The United States has not yet ratified the convention, which went into force in May of this year. The legislation before us, H.R. 3275, implements the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings,

Specifically, H.R. 3275 makes it a Federal crime to unlawfully deliver, place, discharge or detonate an explosive device, or to conspire or to attempt to do so, in a public place, public transportation system, or in a State or Federal facility. It provides penalties of up to life in prison, or death for perpetrators if the bombing resulted in fatalities, and also provides for the prosecution or extradition of perpetrators who commit crimes outside of the United States, but who are subsequently apprehended in this country.

Additionally, H.R. 3275 implements the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, which requires signatories to prosecute or extradite people who contribute to, or collect money for, terrorist groups.

It also makes it a Federal crime to directly or indirectly provide or collect funds to carry out , in full or in part, specific acts of terrorism. It also makes it a crime for any U.S. national or entity, both inside and outside the country, to conceal or disguise the nature, location or source of any funds provided or collected to carry out terrorist acts. It also provides for the prosecution or extradition of perpetrators who commit these crimes outside of the United States, but who are subsequently apprehended in this country.

Finally, provisions in the bill make the crimes of terrorist bombings and terrorist financing ''predicate offenses'' under U.S. wiretap laws and included on the list of Federal crimes of terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, I fully support prompt ratification and implementation of the International Conventions for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings and the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. However, I am concerned that H.R. 3275 includes controversial changes to U.S. domestic law that go well beyond those changes required to bring our laws into conformity with the requirements of those agreements.

Specifically, we must avoid the redundancy of ancillary provisions relating to the death penalty, wiretapping, money laundering, and RICO predicates. To this end, during the recent Judiciary Committee markup of this I joined my colleagues, Mr. SCOTT and Mr. DELAHUNT in their opposition to certain ancillary provisions of this bill in relation to treaty approval.

While I fully support the efforts of our law enforcement professionals in light of the recent attacks against this Nation, I am concerned that prosecutors should be limited in the extent to which they can cast the widest possible net, often to the great detriment of those who were not initially target by Congress when the legislation was enacted.

Many of these provisions have already been included in the anti-terrorist bill which has since been passed into law on October 26, 2001. Therefore, to include the same provisions in H.R. 3275 would be redundant and would serve no purpose. As a matter of fact, Mr. Chertoff of the Department of Justice stated recently that these provisions are not even required in order to implement the treaties.

Moreover, most party states to the Conventions do not tolerate the death penalty, but are still in compliance with the treaty. This could have a profound effect on extradition and result in an inordinate burden on our criminal justice system.

These necessary changes could have easily have been facilitated on the floor by allowing amendments, and I regret that we were not allowed to address these issues due to the suspensions calendar.

Despite these concerns, it is in our best interest, as well as in the interest of the international community, that we comply with the treaty. Our message that we will not tolerate terrorism in any way, shape, or form, must be strong and clear.

I believe that this bill fulfills this obligation.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3061, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3061, the Fiscal Year 2001 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill. This legislation would provide $395 billion for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies. This $395