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BODY:

To the Editor:

Re "U.S. Hurries; World Waits" (news analysis, front page, Sept. 18):

In using weapons of mass destruction to murder tens of thousands of Kurds and also instigating a war against Iran that killed or maimed at least a million people, Saddam Hussein has incontrovertibly earned the title of mass murderer.

Though many of the world's countries support the creation of a permanent world court for trying those who have committed war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide, they display an inconsistent and hypocritical reluctance to do anything about one of the world's most egregious perpetrators.

Besides the valid security threat that Saddam Hussein poses, the humanitarian concerns compel us and the rest of the world, as we have with Slobodan Milosevic, to depose the Iraqi leader and bring him to justice.

ZACHARY D. KAUFMAN
Washington, Sept. 18, 2002

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