Mr. Speaker, I am here to talk on behalf of three doctors

and myself. I was a physician during the Vietnam War. I was in Long Beach.

I saw the troops coming back from the Vietnam War, and I saw what the war

did to them. I also have been in government since then and have seen how our

government for many years denied that

Agent Orange had any effect whatsoever on the troops.

In 1984 we settled a claim for all of the problems created by Agent Orange,

which we finally admitted. Now we

have a case before the Supreme Court

at this very time where they are trying

to reopen that claim on behalf of people who are suffering even 40 years after the war.

It is for that reason that I raise the issue today of depleted uranium in

Iraq. I was there. I was in Iraq in 1991,

and I was there again this year; and the evidence is overwhelming of the impact

of what Iraq has suffered from depleted uranium and what we, the United States, are about to suffer.

Dr. Al-Ali said that before the Gulf

War they had only three or four deaths

a month from cancer. Now it is 30 to 35

patients dying every month, and that

is just in his department. That is a 12-fold increase, 1,200 percent increase in

cancer mortality. Studies indicate that

40 to 48 percent of the population in that area will get cancer in 5 years.

That is almost half the population.

A woman doctor, Dr. Ginan Hassen,

said, ‘‘I studied what happened in Hiroshima. It is almost exactly the same

here. We have an increased percentage

of congenital malformaties, an increase of malignancy, leukemia, brain

tumors, and the rest.’’ Under the economic sanctions imposed by the United

Nations Security Council, now in its 14th year, Iraq is denied the equipment

and expertise to decontaminate its battlefields from the 1991 Gulf War.

These are two Iraqi doctors talking.

Let me quote an American doctor, Dr. Doug Rokke, who was appointed by Norman Schwarzkopf to go in as a part

of the decontamination team and clean

up what we did. We dumped 300 tons of munitions with depleted uranium in this area that he was sent in to clean

up. He says: ‘‘I have 5,000 times the recommended level of radiation in my

body. Most of my team are now dead.’’ Eighteen out of 24 people, American

soldiers sent in to clean that up, are now dead.

Dr. Rokke says, ‘‘We face an issue to be confronted by the people in the West, those with a sense of right and

wrong.’’ First, a decision by the United States and Britain to use weapons of

mass destruction, depleted uranium. When a tank fired a shell, each round

contains 4,500 grams of solid uranium.

What happened to the Gulf was a form of nuclear war. That was 1991. We are

about to do it again. People are talking about 3,000 missiles into Baghdad in the first day and 3,000 on the second

day, all with depleted uranium on the point. Why is that used? Because it is

so penetrating, when it explodes, it creates a white dust, uranium oxide, and

people walk around, it gets in their

lungs and reproductive organs. Children died. That is where those figures

come from for the children. That is why we have so many malformations at birth among Iraqi women. It is to

the point today where Iraqi women say, Is my child normal? Mr. Speaker, we did that once to

them, and we are about to do it again. We are about to do it again, and we are

about to do to our own troops, hundreds of thousands of them, what we

did to Doug Rokke. Dr. Rokke marched

in there and did his duty. I am here talking for the veterans of our country

and for the women and men who are on the line for us out there. I do not want them sent into that.

We are going to march troops right

through the very place where this happened to the Iraqi people. Will our government admit what they are doing?

No. They will not talk about what is

going on with depleted uranium. Here is the issue. The Secretary of

VA, Mr. Principi, remember the Bush

administration, writes a letter to the Department of Defense and says please

do preservice evaluations on all of the

men and women so we can look at, when it is over, what the difference is.

How can we send 300,000 American

people into war that kills Iraqis left, right and center with impugnity? This

is an unjust war. There are many reasons to be against this war; but this

reason, the soldiers and Marines and sailors of the United States are the

major reason we should not be doing it. We are exposing our own people to

something that we will not admit we are doing.