Mr. Speaker, the unspoken inevitability we

face is that U.S. troops will eventually leave Iraq.

Eighty percent of Iraqis want us to leave now. They now see us as

occupiers, not liberators.

American politicians say we must save Iraqis from an even more

violent civil war.

But that civil war is underway because of the American presence. It

is fueling Sunni hostility toward Shia collaborators.

If the American forces weren't there, Iraqi Shia security forces

would no longer be serving the interests of foreign infidels against

other fellow Iraqis. It would open the door to the reenlistments of

many of the best trained and experienced former Iraqi military and

police professionals.

The preponderance of power now lies with the Shia and the Kurds. The

Sunni fighters have only small arms and make-shift explosive devices.

The insurgents don't have access to Saddam's tanks and helicopters.

Furthermore, we have equipped the Shia and Kurds with much superior

weaponry and they are vastly superior in number.

If the Americans end their occupation, the insurgents' resistance

will lose its purpose.

The foreign jihadi element in Iraq is numerically insignificant. The

vast bulk of the resistance has little connection to al-Qaeda or its

offshoots. The colonel in charge of cleaning out the insurgency in Tall

Afar said they were fighting foreign jihadi fighters coming in from

Syria. Yet, when they interrogated the more than a thousand captives,

not one--not one was a foreigner--all were native Iraqi insurgents.

But al Zarqawi and his followers have benefited mightily from this

misguided war because he is being given credit by American politicians

for heading the resistance. We, in America, have been his best

recruiting aid.

But what Zarqawi and al-Qaeda want is wholly different from what the

Sunni insurgents want. Zarqawi wants to see a Muslim caliphate and a

violent struggle against Christian and Jewish infidels around the world

until Judgment Day.

The Sunni insurgents want an independent Iraq that will enable them

to regain the wealth and power they experienced under Saddam.

Foreign fighters will be harshly treated by Iraqis once American

troops leave. The jihadists need a failed state to function. That's why

they were not in Iraq until we entered Iraq and broke up the effective,

albeit horribly repressive government of Saddam Hussein.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in opposition to H.

Res. 571, and to urge my colleagues--in the strongest possible terms--

to vote against this resolution. As with other members who have risen

here today, I also served in our military. I'm a veteran of the United

States Navy, and served one year in the Vietnam War on swift boats.

But, Mr. Speaker, I do not stand before you tonight and suggest that

past military service is a requirement for one to have a credible

opinion on this important issue. All Americans have a right to be heard

on this matter--and should be heard.

Mr. Speaker, with all my heart and with all my mind, I believe that

to pull our troops from Iraq immediately would send a clear and

unmistakable message to every potential enemy worldwide that the United

States has no backbone, no willingness to see a tough struggle through

to the end. It would be a message to our allies that the United States

does not honor its commitments. And it would send a message to the

families of every member of the armed forces selflessly serving to

defend our liberties, especially those who have paid the ultimate

sacrifice that their service, their sacrifice, has been in vain.

Look to our past history: In the face of relentless opposition from

abroad and ever here at home, the United States honored its commitments

to Germany, Japan, and South Korea after World War II and the Korean

War. Today they are our strongest allies. On the other hand, Osama bin

Laden himself wrote that evidence of the United States' weakness could

be found in our departures from Vietnam, Beirut, and Mogadishu. ``The

United States is a paper tiger,'' he was saying. ``Smack them in the

face and they run.''

To pull our troops from Iraq immediately would be an abrogation of

our responsibilities in the world.

History will not define this great nation by our decision to enter

Iraq--it will define us by how we leave Iraq.

Whether or not you supported the decision to go to war against Iraq

in the first place, we have an obligation to leave Iraq a safer, freer

country than it was under Sadam Hussein. Spreading freedom and liberty

is not something America has ever avoided, nor should it.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this resolution.