(Wednesday, February 7, 2007)]

[House]

Perlmutter

Mr. Speaker, last week, the White House received a

new National Intelligence Estimate from our intelligence agencies that

confirms what we already know: The situation in Iraq is bad and likely

to get worse. The NIE report concluded that the U.S. has little control

over the day-to-day developments in Iraq and that there is a strong

possibility of further deterioration.

The report also refutes the President's claim that we could begin to

see progress from his troop escalation within the next 6 months.

Instead, the President's own intelligence experts expressed deep doubts

that the Iraqis will be able to gain any real control over their

militias within the next 18 months.

They also stressed that the major security problem is not the

presence of al Qaeda but instead is the Iraqi-on-Iraqi violence. The

intelligence officials make clear that the political accommodations are

crucial to reducing sectarian tensions, but the report concludes that

the parties are unwilling or unable to make them at this point.