Mr. Speaker, as we continue the debate

of opposing reinforcements for American forces in the global war on

terrorism, I am reminded of how crucial it is that we achieve victory

to protect American families.

The current situation in Iraq reminds me of a smoldering fire in an

urban area. Proper equipment and a sufficient number of professional

firefighters are brought in to put out the fire. To sit back, overlook

the seriousness or leave the scene of the fire only enables the fire to

grow, become more intense and spread throughout the neighborhood.

This analogy is applicable to Iraq. As Secretary of Defense Robert

Gates said recently, the violence in Iraq, if unchecked, could spread

outside its borders and draw other states into a regional

conflagration. Just as we know our fire chiefs would call up additional

firefighters to contain a spreading fire, we must give our troops in

Baghdad the chance to suppress violence and stabilize the region, which

protects American families.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget

September 11.