Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the

time and commend him for his leadership, along with that of the

Chairman of the House Committee on Armed Services, a committee on which

I was privileged to serve for 6 years.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution, though I wish it

had called for a thorough investigation by Congress of the acts

described in it. Our Nation is strong, not only because of our military

might, but because of our values. In peacetime, those values may seem

easy to uphold, but in wartime, they are inevitably going to be tested.

To keep us strong, we must reaffirm to the American people and the

world that those values permeate everything we do as a Nation, at home

and all over the world.

We are not naive. We know that the fog of war is thick, and we

understand, certainly those of us on the House Permanent Select

Committee on Intelligence understand, that interrogation is an integral

part of gathering intelligence about the enemy. Good intelligence

hopefully prevents and disrupts attacks. That saves lives.

Many of us on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

care deeply that we get it right. I have traveled to Guantanamo three

times to assess the effectiveness of our interrogations and to assure

that detainees are being treated properly. While I strongly disagree

with the lack of legal status for Guantanamo's detainees, I have been

increasingly impressed by the tangible improvements in prisoner

treatment and by the yield from interrogations.

I have been to Baghdad twice, again focused on intelligence issues.

There was no hint in my second visit to Baghdad in February of this

year, a month after the devastating photos were delivered to the

Pentagon, that anything was amiss with respect to interrogations in

Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I were doing our job to make sure

things were done right, but the failure to alert us to the

circumstances that led to the request of General Taguba to prepare his

report was a failure by the intelligence community to keep our

Committee informed. It was a failure by the executive branch to keep

Congress informed.

After everything this country has been through over the past 3 years,

the horrors at Abu Ghraib made crystal clear the need for major

intelligence reform. It is not acceptable for people to retreat into

``chain of command'' stovepipes. It is not credible that a few bad

apples carried out what the Taguba report calls ``numerous incidents of

sadistic, blatant and wanton criminal abuse'' without any explicit or

implicit tolerance from those who supervised them.

Tom Friedman writes today, ``We are in danger of losing something

much more important than just the war in Iraq. We are in danger of

losing America as an instrument of moral authority and inspiration in

the world.''