Mr. Speaker, every American is appalled by the images and

reports of the mistreatment of prisoners at the Abu Ghraib prison in

Iraq, images which have now been shown around the world again and again

over the past week. These criminal actions have greatly undermined

America's credibility around the world, humiliated the prisoners and

their families, besmirched the reputation of our Armed Services, and

placed our troops and civilians at heightened risk. The good work of

American troops has been diminished significantly and the Arab world is

outraged.

While it's highly appropriate for Congress to condemn these criminal

actions, this Resolution does not go far enough in offering a remedy.

The Resolution does not call for a full Congressional investigation.

Indeed, the Majority has blocked the Minority today from adding a

provision that would launch such an investigation. The Resolution

ignores the necessity of an investigation to examine the role that

intelligence officials and private contractors may have played in these

crimes. We have to pursue the truth wherever it takes us and as high up

the chain of command as we must go. Finally, the Resolution does not

call on the Administration to be fully accountable and to report fully

to Congress and the American people about the scope of this most

serious issue.

The Congress has been kept in the dark for months about the abuses in

Abu Ghraib prison, yet no one from the Administration has informed

Congress or offered an apology. In fact, Secretary Rumsfeld came to

Capitol Hill to brief Congress on Iraq last week, but never even

mentioned these serious abuses and the catastrophic fallout

internationally against the United States.

Mr. Speaker, there must be consequences. Reprimands aren't enough.

The people in charge should be replaced, beginning with the Secretary

of Defense.

A year ago I traveled to Iraq and Kuwait and met with our troops and

intelligence officers. The vast majority were doing their jobs superbly

well under very trying and dangerous conditions. Their efforts have

been made immeasurably more difficult by the actions of a small group.

While we express our outrage, we must do more. There must be a full

accounting and there must be consequences. Unfortunately, this

Resolution demands none. I vote for this Resolution with all these

reservations and concerns, but it cannot be the end of the story. We

could have done so much better on a bipartisan basis, and it is

regrettable that we did not. Congress now has its constitutional

responsibility of oversight and investigation to bring out the entire

truth and then move to shape policies that will help assure this

doesn't ever happen again.