Mr. Speaker, I will vote for this resolution

because I strongly agree with most of what it says. But I think its

focus is too narrow and it does not say all that needs to be said.

The portions of the resolution calling for action are addressed

solely to the Secretary of the Army. Intentionally or not, that

suggests that the Army alone--not the Defense Department as a whole,

and not any other part of the Administration--bears responsibility for

the shocking abuses the resolution rightly condemns.

But what's involved here is not just an Army problem. It is much

bigger than that. It involves not just the armed forces but civilian

members of the intelligence community as well as civilians working for

private companies under contract with the government.

This morning's newspapers report that President Bush has privately

admonished the Secretary of Defense and that the Justice Department is

examining the involvement of Central Intelligence Agency personnel as

well as contract employees in suspicious deaths of detainees.

Clearly, the events at Abu Ghraib prison are only part of a bigger

picture.

The resolution rightly complains about the fact that Congress was not

properly informed of the abuses at that prison or the investigation of

those abuses. But I am concerned that this failure to inform the

Congress and the American people may not have been an isolated failure

but just another instance of the Bush Administration's standard

operating procedure.

In short, while this resolution is right in condemning the abuses at

Abu Ghraib--and accurate in saying that they are offensive to the

principles and values of the American people--passage of this

resolution, by iself, is not an adequate response on the part of the

House of Representatives.

We need to insist that the Administration--all of it, not just the

Secretary of the Army--take strong action to change the policies and

attitudes that made the abuses at Abu Ghraib possible. And we need to

insist that all those responsible for those policies and attitudes be

held accountable.

And that means Congress itself must do more than make speeches and

pass resolutions. We must insist on finding out for ourselves; and for

those we represent--the American people. They must bear the costs--in

blood and treasure--for the Administration's actions in Iraq and around

the world.

Those costs will be made all the greater by abuses like those cited

in this resolution and the policies and attitudes that have produced

them, and Congress must take an active role in making necessary

changes.