Mr. Speaker, this Member is absolutely not satisfied

with the language of H. Res. 627, as I believe it does not adequately

convey how intensely this House and the American people feel about the

exceptionally repugnant, insensitive, and damaging the alleged, but

obviously documented, actions of the abusers of the Iraqi detainees are

to all of us.

From Abu Ghraib prison, and perhaps from elsewhere, we have reports,

with photographs, graphically telling and showing the outrageous abuses

of Iraqi detainees by U.S. military personnel and possibly by military

contractors. The international damage to the credibility and reputation

of our country and our military absolutely cannot be overstated,

especially in the Arab and Islamic communities. The alleged actions by

at least a few members of our military, already confirmed by very

recent disciplinarian action, makes the job being done by our dedicated

and courageous military personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan just that

much harder and much more dangerous. The extraordinary gravity of this

matter, the insensitivity and the degrading abuse, which has apparently

been visited upon Iraqi detainees, call for swift and just

accountability.

What has allegedly happened is so foreign to our country's principles

and traditions and

those of our Armed Forces that these people conducting or condoning

such abuse do not deserve to be called Americans. If the use of such

tactics of physical abuse and sexual humiliation is not dishonorable

conduct, this Member does not know what is. If supervisors of such

military personnel were inappropriately unaware or unconcerned about

such conduct, then this is a clear case of dereliction of duty, and

this accountability should apply several levels up the chain of

command. If military contractors were involved, at a minimum, the

contracts with the firm which employed them should be immediately

terminated.

Mr. Speaker, it is hard to imagine a more politically damaging set of

actions, hopefully by just a few individuals, for American and for

coalition efforts to replace the brutal regime of Saddam Hussein and to

win the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people. We must have swift

accountability, justice, and a demonstration that the American people

repudiate such conduct and will not let it continue or happen again.

While the resolution fails to convey an important part of what needs

to be said, or is at least inadequate in the aforementioned manner, it

is probably impossible to vote against this resolution without seeming

to denigrate the dedicated, courageous, and patriotic actions of the

members of the armed forces of the United States. This Member wants our

armed forces to know that their extraordinary service is greatly

appreciated by this Member and the American people despite the

horrendous conduct of a few service personnel, despite the failures of

command and active notification procedures. Therefore, this Member will

vote for the inadequate resolution as his only choice to avoid a

misunderstanding by the members of our armed forces.