Mr. Speaker, today I was proud to be one of the speakers

outside the United Nations in New York at a huge rally in support of

Israel. It was attended by tens of thousands of people and showed

strong support for the people of Israel as they struggle against

terrorism. I would hope that later on this week there will be a

resolution on the House floor to once again show Congress' bipartisan

support for Israel.

Mr. Speaker, Israel's fight against terrorism is our fight. The war

on terrorism is our war. It is everybody's war. We need to support

Israel in this time of struggle. It makes no difference whether

terrorists drop bombs on Haifa or send planes into the World Trade

Center or blow up innocent commuters on their way to work in India or

London or Madrid, or blow up people in hotels in Bali and other places.

Terrorism is terrorism, and those of us who think that terrorism is

only over there are certainly kidding themselves. Terrorism is

everywhere, and the only way to stomp out terrorism is to show a

resolve and to get the job done by defeating terrorists. That is

precisely what Israel is trying to do.

Let us remember who started this war. Israel pulled out of Lebanon 6

years ago, so there is no pretext of any occupation. There is no

pretext of anything other than the fact that terrorists would like to

destroy democratic societies such as Israel, and Israel remains the

only democracy in the Middle East.

These terrorists want to destroy the democratic way of life, not only

in Israel, but in America and all other democracies of the world. That

is why Israel's fight is the fight of all decent nations, including the

United States of America.

These terrorists want to destroy life. Israel is standing up to them

and saying enough is enough. We should let Israel finish the job.

Israel wants to knock out the terrorist group Hezbollah for good, so

they can never return to south Lebanon and threaten Israel's

communities from the south of Lebanon on the northern border with

Israel. We should let them do that because the status quo is not

acceptable. We have already heard words from the naysayers telling

Israel to use restraint.

Mr. Speaker, I don't believe that we can use restraint, or that

Israel can use restraint, or that any country can use restraint towards

terrorists that are out to kill them and us. We should let Israel

finish the job.

Let us remember how this started. The terrorists came down from

Lebanon, raided Israel, went on Israeli territory, killed Israeli

soldiers, captured a couple of them, took them across the border. That

is how it started.

Imagine if this had happened to us, if someone came from the Mexican

border or the Canadian border, attacked U.S. soldiers on U.S. soil,

killed some of them and then took them back over the border.

Mr. Speaker, we would be just as outraged, and we would have every

right to go after those terrorists. That is what Israel is going to do.

Hezbollah is a terrorist organization. It is fighting a proxy war for

Iran and Syria. Iran and Syria lurk behind this. Iran and Syria are the

biggest supporters of terrorism.

A couple of years ago, this Congress passed and the President signed

the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act. I

wrote that act. I was the lead sponsor of that act, along with my good

friend, Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen. That act slapped sanctions

on Syria for the first time in history.

President Bush has only implemented some of the sanctions in that

act, and I call on the President to now implement all of the sanctions

on the act. Now is the time. Now we have to show Syria and other

countries that support terrorists that we are resolved to defeat

terrorism.

I was very happy when the United States vetoed the one-sided

resolution at the United Nations, once again condemning Israel, once

again discrediting the United Nations. The United States needs to be

steadfast in support, and this Congress needs to do so as well.

So in conclusion, let me say I look forward to a resolution later on

in this week. The United States needs to stand by its friend, Israel,

and Israel needs to stand by its friend, the United States, and all

peace-loving and democratic nations in the world ought to stand

shoulder to shoulder firmly against terrorism. Because if terrorism is

not contained in one area of the world, it surely will come to every

other area of the world.