Mr. Speaker, our intelligence agencies have

confirmed that al Qaeda is stronger in numbers and effectiveness than

it has ever been. And that's because 5 years ago, when we had bin Laden

cornered and crippled, we outsourced the job of capturing him. And then

we diverted our focus and our resources to Iraq, which turned out to be

his greatest dream realized because it gave him so many propaganda

tools as a rallying cry and a recruiting tool. And that's just what

happened.

And now, when President Bush says that he envisions a military

presence in Iraq similar to South Korea, well, we've been in South

Korea for 50 years, this plays into their propaganda. We need to make

clear there will be no permanent military bases in Iraq; that we are

not there as occupiers, but rather as liberators.

Let's start getting serious about winning this global war on

terrorism. We can start today by passing the resolution declaring that

the Congress is unequivocally opposed to permanent military bases in

Iraq.