Madam Speaker, many of my colleagues are eagerly waiting

for General Petraeus's report on the situation in Iraq this September.

But I don't know why we are waiting because we have already heard from

General Petraeus in September; September of 2004, that is.

On September 26, 2004, General Petraeus wrote an op-ed piece in The

Washington Post giving his assessment of the situation in Iraq at that

time. I think it would be very constructive for us to review that

article, and I would like to read pieces from it.

Near the beginning General Petraeus says:

He goes on to recognize that the Iraqis face a violent insurgency,

but he says:

And after citing many other examples of progress, the general ended

his piece this way:

Obviously, the general could not have been more wrong.

Madam Speaker, we can only hope that when General Petraeus reports to

us this September that he will take off his rose-colored glasses and

see things more clearly. The American people deserve a full accounting

of what is really going on. But it actually looks like we won't get it.

Ambassador Crocker has said that the report will be just a

``snapshot.'' So it looks like the White House spin machine is already

trying to lower expectations and do preemptive damage control again.

But the damage in Iraq has already been done, and the American people

deserve more than spin. What we need is a national security plan that

is based on what will actually make our Nation safe. Such a plan must

include diplomacy, strong international alliances against terrorism,

initiatives to address the root cause of terrorism, and a new approach

to foreign policy, an approach that restores America's credibility and

moral leadership in the world.

I have proposed such a national security plan. It is called SMART,

which stands for Sensible, Multilateral American Response to Terrorism.

I invite all my colleagues to learn about it and consider this plan.

In the meantime, the run up to General Petraeus's report continues. I

hope that this September he will be more accurate than he was in

September 2004. But I am not holding my breath. In fact, I will not

breathe easily until all of our troops are home safely.