Mr. Speaker, there is hardly anyone asking the right

question at this time, and it is whether the U.S. involvement in Iraq

will end as it did in Vietnam or last forever as it has in Korea. Last

week, the President declared his intention to keep America in Iraq

forever. That's a sure sign the President's been talking to the Vice

President again.

Iraq looks nothing like Korea did in 1952. There is no DMZ and no

38th parallel separating the opposing forces. In Iraq, the war is

everywhere. In Korea, the DMZ is one of South Korea's most popular

tourist destinations, with buses hauling people back and forth. It's so

popular you have to book the

trip weeks in advance. It costs $42, by the way, and that's without

lunch.

At the DMZ, you can visit the small building where an armistice was

signed, and risk stepping across a painted line on the floor separating

North and South Korea, which remain technically at war. Is this the

President's vision of Iraq? Hardly, but that's what he would like the

American people to believe.

It sounds so simple and so safe and so utterly detached from Iraq,

where every street corner in Baghdad is a war zone. The President wants

an indefinite military presence in Iraq, but a majority of the Iraq

parliament signed a petition demanding a timetable for the U.S. to

leave, which the President ignores.

The President wants permanent military bases in Iraq despite the

thoughtful and bipartisan conclusion of the Iraq Study Group. That

group said,

But the President rejected their common sense and ordered the base

building to go forward. What exactly are we protecting with the Iraqi

people fleeing by the millions? South Korea never looked like this.

In Iraq, students graduating from college used to dream about getting

a good job and raising a family. Now they dream of getting out of Iraq

alive and as quickly as possible.

Just today, the United Nations issued a new report that says 4.2

million Iraqis have been displaced, half driven out of their homes by

rampant and unrelenting bloodshed, and the other fleeing the country.

It's estimated by the U.N. that 30,000 Iraqis cross into Syria every

month, and Syria says the actual number is much higher. Jordan,

meanwhile, has already taken over 1 million Iraqis. What have we done?

We have granted 701 Iraqi refugees asylum in the United States.

The President recently announced we're willing to accept up to 7,000

Iraqis. Over 2 million Iraqis have fled their homeland so far, and

we're going to take in a few thousand.

When we left Vietnam, we took hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese

with us. Within a few months 130,000 Vietnamese had resettled here, and

within a few years the number topped 320,000. These were our Vietnamese

friends, people who had risked their lives to help us in Vietnam. We

didn't desert them and they didn't desert us.

In Iraq, the President says we're willing to take a few thousand in a

Nation losing millions of its people. The Iraqi people are fleeing

their homes and their homeland in increasing numbers, flooding into

nearby countries unable to cope with the refugee crisis.

Millions of peaceful, law-abiding Iraqis from its intellectual

establishment, to its merchants, professionals, civil servants, and

ordinary citizens are doing whatever they can to leave. And the

President is doing everything he can to stay, building bases and

demanding a so-called law to gain access to Iraqi's oil.

The President's stay-the-course strategy has evolved into his stay

forever strategy. It hasn't worked before and it won't work now.

The President's military escalation is an absolute failure, and the

sooner the President admits his mistake, the faster we can develop a

national exit plan that protects our soldiers and gives Iraq back to

the Iraq people, no strings or military bases attached.

Mr. Speaker, please pass the message to our President. It's time to

bring the troops home. A hundred a month are dying, more and more. Last

month, the third highest month in the war. It's not getting better.

We've got to bring the troops home.