Mr. Speaker, the plan for General

Petraeus' surge was designed to improve Iraq's security so that

political and economic progress could follow. Stability measures

implemented in violent areas in and around Baghdad and across the

nation have produced recognizable results.

There is an increased security in Iraq, and optimistic reports are

traveling back from Members of Congress, war critics, and, yes, even

the liberal press. Areas once considered terrorist strongholds are now

relatively secure. Progress. Sunni and U.S. forces are working together

for victory. Progress. Tribal leaders are turning their backs on

terrorist insurgents and helping American forces. Progress.

Next week, General Petraeus will deliver a comprehensive report on

Iraq and what the surge has produced since he has been on the ground,

and I am confident his report will be detailed and honest.

Mr. Speaker, the level of progress is evident, and I believe the

continued success of the surge will pave the way for the only way out

of Iraq: Victory.