Mr. Speaker, yesterday the President told the world that

building a more hopeful future in the Middle East is

There is no question the President's policies in Iraq have created

the greatest foreign policy challenge of a generation. What started off

as a battle between democracy versus stability has now become a civil

war between the Shiite and the Sunni. It became that way because of our

incompetence and failure to plan.

We shouldn't expect a plan soon, because the President's Iraq Study

Group just announced they will not release their plan for Iraq until

after the November midterm elections.

Quote:

This is how we are teaching democracy in the Mideast. Keep the voters

in the dark until it's too late.

I will end the suspense. The new plan for Iraq, there is no plan and

there never has been one. According to Brigadier General Mark Scheid,

Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld threatened to fire anyone who tried to

come up with a plan for the postwar and hostilities.

The President tells us we're in a long war, but thanks to this White

House's refusal to plan, it has become an endless war.

It's time for a new direction.