Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished ranking member

for yielding me time, and I want to associate myself with his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, at least this resolution provides us an opportunity to

pose a serious question, an opportunity that, unfortunately, Democrats

are usually denied in this people's House. I want to read some findings

of a recent poll about the realities on the ground in Iraq.

Forty-five percent of Iraqis believe that attacks against American

And British troops are justified; 72 percent do not have confidence in

coalition forces; 82 percent are strongly opposed to the presence of

coalition troops; and less than 1 percent of the population believes

that coalition forces are responsible for any improvement in security.

That is the reality.

Let me note too, by the way, that this poll was conducted by Iraqis

and commissioned by the British ministry of defense.

This data provokes a question for the proponents of this resolution:

Now that we have a free, democratically elected Iraq, are we prepared

to leave on their timetable? If the new Iraqi Government tells us, we

want you to leave immediately, will we do so? Will we listen to them?

For if we listen to the views of the Iraqi people as reflected in this

poll, we can anticipate such a request in the very near future.

Or will we insist on staying until we believe they are ready to stand

up? Will this administration attempt to influence what the

democratically elected Iraqi Government asks us to do in this regard,

or will they be pressured to be quiet on this particular issue? Because

the American people deserve to know the answer to this question now,

and the Iraqi people deserve to know the answer to this question now,

as well as the duly elected representatives of the Iraqi people from

the elections that occurred this past week.

I guess the real question is here, Will we really respect democracy

in Iraq and the democratic process, or will we simply give it lip

service?