Mr. Speaker, this election is going to be a referendum

on the President's plan to deal with Iraq.

The American people need to know what is going on. And, of course,

our press gives them one view. But I think it is important to see what

the rest of the world is saying about what is going on in Iraq today.

For that reason I am going to read some portions of an editorial from

the Daily Star of Lebanon. It is the most influential and most balanced

paper in the Middle East, and the title is ``Only Iraqis Can Keep

Sectarian Violence From Ruining Their Country.''

Now, it is clear from this editorial and from all the papers if you

read them in the Middle East that the longer we stay there, the longer

the violence goes on. If we want peace, if we want a stable government

for the Iraqi people, if we want a society to develop in a civil way,

we must begin the process of getting out. We cannot say we are going to

stay there until it is quiet because it is clear from editorials like

this one in The Daily Star and many other newspapers across the Middle

East that it will not happen as long as we stay.

We are considered the occupiers. The government is considered one

that we created. Our fear, down at 1600 Pennsylvania, is that if we go,

they will create a government that we do not like. But democracy

requires that you trust the people to choose their own government.

We will talk more about this in an hour from now.