Mr. Speaker, the Iraq Oil-for-Food Program was

established in 1996 to ensure adequate food, medicine, and supplies

were available for the Iraqi people despite U.N.-imposed sanctions. It

was meant to keep food on the table of the oppressed, not money in the

hands of the oppressors. We are now finding out the program was filled

with corruption and the Iraqi people were not in fact the

beneficiaries.

The very leader that kept them in utter poverty was using the program

to line his own pockets and enrich his friends. This corruption was

made possible by U.N.-member countries and senior U.N. officials.

Saddam Hussein stole $10 billion; and, in exchange for their help,

several members of the U.N. Security Council secretly received billions

of barrels of Iraqi crude at cut-rate prices. These nations publicly

supported the goals of the Oil-for-Food Program while privately

undermining it.

For the United Nations to allow this to go on for 7 years is

unconscionable. The U.N. was responsible for overseeing a program

designed to provide aid to Iraqi citizens; and, instead, on the U.N.'s

watch, the program strengthened the Hussein regime.

Now some are calling for increased reliance on the United Nations to

determine our foreign policy? I do not think so.