Members of the House, Senate and the media should

obviously be aware that Iran, a neighbor that shares decades of vibrant

history with Iraq, is heavily involved in shaping the future of Iraq

through illegal activities.

The president of the Strategic Policy Consulting company here in

Washington, DC; Mr. Jafarrzadeh, recently stated, ``Al-Quds Force of

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards is stepping up terrorism and

encouraging sectarian violence in Iraq.'' Now this is a man to listen

to when it comes to Iran. He is the Iranian dissident who first

revealed the existence of the clandestine nuclear sites in Iran in

August 2002. He says that Iran's goal is to create insecurity to compel

coalition forces to leave in order to establish an Islamic theocracy in

Iraq.

Iranian forces have been heavily involved in sending arms,

ammunition, IED materials, training militia and sending its own

intelligence agents into Iraq since 2003. My colleagues, it is a sad

twist of irony; Al-Quds now coordinates insurgent attacks on our forces

in Iraq from the national headquarters in Iran out of the old U.S.

Embassy building, the same building where American diplomats were held

for those horrific 444 days that began in the year 1979.

One of five Iranians arrested by U.S. forces in a raid on Iran's

consulate in a city in northern Iraq on January 11 was an envoy of the

former Iranian President. The man, Mr. Sharoudi, is wanted in Austria

on charges that he took part in the assassination of an Iranian Kurdish

leader and his aids in Vienna in 1989. This historic leader of Iranian

Kurds was killed in an apartment in the outskirts of Vienna when he was

scheduled to meet a delegation from Iran. According to the Austrian

police, the killer escaped arrest by hiding in Iran's embassy in

Vienna. Austrian sources claim that the Iranian president, Ahmadinejad,

was the logistics head of the commando groups responsible for the

Kurdish leader's death, and Sharoudi was one of the killers. It is

curious, then, that this same man was recently found operating with

four other Iranians in northern Iraq.

There is also an Al-Quds force in Iraq under the command of Mehdi

Mohandes. According to a recent Washington Times article, it was

Mohandes who was responsible for the attacks on the U.S. and the U.K.

embassies in Kuwait in the eighties. Interpol placed Mohandes on a

wanted list in 1984, and since then Mohandes has remained inside Iran's

borders--until now. The new terror network which he commands in Iraq is

curiously named Hezbollah, a deliberate linkage to Lebanon's own terror

movement with which Mohandes has connections. The Iraqi network

operates in Basra and Baghdad. Members are trained in military and

terror tactics in Basra, and they receive armed shipments there that

were smuggled across the border from Iran.

To maintain this network, obviously it is expensive, has a huge cost.

According to the Washington Times article again, Brigadier General

Abtahi of the Iranian Revolutionary Forces in southern Iran send

millions and millions of dollars from a small border town in Iran into

Iraq every month. My colleagues, we have little hope of success in Iraq

if we neglect to address this growing interference by Iran.

In related news, the Iraqi President has changed his stance and has

publically pledged to fight terror and insurgent groups within Iraq,

whether they are Sunni or whether they are Shi'a, which includes the

Sadr militia. In turn, this has motivated Sadr forces to end the

boycott from the Iraqi government, a move towards greater participation

in the political process there. My colleagues, it is a hopeful sign

that perhaps with greater political participation, the popular support

of the terrorists in the Shia community will decline.

We must maintain this diplomatic and military pressure against these

terrorist groups and on the Iraqi government to fight them. There is no

hope of success in Iraq as long as Iran is allowed free reign to

interfere and despoil the Iraqi government's efforts.

I support the President's acknowledgement of this growing threat and

urge him and my colleagues in Congress to work together to provide the

material support to our service men and women on the ground they need

to combat it.