Mr. Speaker, the National Counterterrorism Center

recently issued a report entitled, ``Al Qaeda Better Positioned to

Strike the West.'' This report concludes that al Qaeda has reorganized,

regrouped, and is stronger now than it has been in years.

Yesterday, in the Armed Services Committee, we heard testimony that

al Qaeda has established itself in the mountains along the Afghanistan-

Pakistan border and is operating with relative impunity. On Tuesday,

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff says he has a gut feeling

we will be attacked this summer.

For years, Democrats have been saying we need to focus our efforts on

combating al Qaeda in Afghanistan and Pakistan, but the President took

our brave soldiers and our resources to Iraq. Now it appears that the

President's disastrous policy of ignoring the real threats and bogging

our military down in Iraq has borne fruit. The area and the country is

destabilized and more dangerous to their neighbors and to us. Thanks to

the President's policy, our military is now overextended, our Nation is

deep in debt, and our international reputation is stained.

This cannot be allowed to continue. We are America the beautiful. We

are the greatest country on Earth. We are the beacon of light and hope.

We need to withdraw from Iraq, place our soldiers in a place where they

can respond to any terrorist threats, and protect our borders as we

once again reclaim our moral reputation.