Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Missouri for

yielding.

The question before us today is if failure in Iraq is not an option

and staying the course is not working, what are our options? It is

vital that we focus our attention this morning and this afternoon on

that question, then formulate an integrated set of proposals that

include the basic premise that a stable Iraq and a stable Middle East

is in the vital interest of the United States and the international

community, also taking into consideration here the military's

assertion, through General Petraeus, that the war cannot be won with a

military alone. An integrated set of proposals for an overall strategy

then must include, which is in this bill before us today, diplomatic

efforts, political efforts, economic efforts, social, humanitarian,

cultural, and a military component. We must also garner the

constructive engagement of all of Iraq's neighbors.

When Nixon went to China, the domino theory of Vietnam became

irrelevant. When Nixon went to China, there was a Sino-Soviet split

that advantaged the United States. If we go to Iran, al Qaeda in Iraq

will be irrelevant. If we go to Iran, the idea of a spread of

terrorism, of those problems in the Middle East will be eliminated.

The idea that this piece of legislation moves forward in the next

step of the Iraq Study Group is, in my judgment, on the right mark. It

is profound. And I thank the gentleman from Missouri for yielding and

for bringing this legislation to the floor.