I thank my colleague from Arizona for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, as I listen to the debate today, I end up having a lot

of more questions than I have answers. I have a question as to whether

my colleagues on the other side of the aisle believe that the threat

from radical jihadism is real or not. Have they read the latest

Zawahiri statement, ``Advice of One Concerned,'' where he goes on to

say in the statement, a global system, whose center and heart is the

United States and the European Union? As for the rest of the states of

the world, they are the outlying states.

It goes on to say, the strategy of al Qaeda, the only way to confront

them, the core states, according to al Qaeda's theory, is by taking the

war from the outlying states to the central states, in which case the

damage and consequences of this damage will all take place in the

central states.

Have they not read the other documents that come from al Qaeda that

talk about what their strategy is? Their number one goal and objective

is to defeat the United States and the coalition in Iraq, then to move

out into the region and destabilize the other countries in the region,

eliminate the State of Israel, establish the caliphate, Southern

Europe, Northern Africa, the Middle East, stretch down into Asia and

then establish Sharia law.

Do my colleagues on the other side of the aisle believe that radical

Islam is a threat to the security of the United States and our allies,

or not? If they don't, perhaps pulling out of Iraq is a good strategy.

If they do believe that radical jihadism is a threat to the United

States, if they do believe that looking at the reports in London, in

Europe that radical jihadists actually have attacked in those places

and that they may be attacking in the United States or planning to

attack in the United States, the question becomes, if you are not

willing to fight the threat of radical jihadism in Iraq, where will you

engage radical jihadism, in other parts of the Middle East? Should we

deploy our troops to other parts of the Middle East? Maybe we should

just write off the Middle East and deploy into Northern Africa or into

Western Europe, or maybe what we should do is bring them all home and

redeploy them here in the United States, because they will follow us

home.

So the question is, if you do believe it is a threat, where and when

will you confront the threat that we face? Others have pointed it out.

I have taken a look and read this resolution. I encourage all of the

American people to read this bill. What does it say? Very, very little.

It says that we will commence reductions of our troops. Commence

reductions.

Exactly how many do you want to commence reducing? 100? 5,000?

50,000? Then by April 1 there will be a plan for a limited presence.

What is ``limited presence''? There are some that would say that the

number of troops we have today is a limited presence, because they may

not be enough to get the job done. But the bill doesn't define where we

go. This is no plan.

If this is the way forward, we are in big, big trouble, because it

doesn't recognize the threat and it doesn't have a plan as to how we

are going to move forward.

But there are other things that this Congress should be debating. As

our minority whip said, we debated for 45 minutes as to whether cats

should be declawed before moving into public housing.

The previous question that was defeated earlier today would have

enabled us to deal with a real issue, and that is the modernization of

FISA, our ability to listen to radical jihadists in other parts of the

world as they are communicating their plans and intentions. Today,

there is a massive loophole in FISA for radical jihadists who are

outside of the United States to communicate, and our intelligence

community is prohibited from listening to them. We provide them the

full protection of American law, even though they are not United States

citizens, even though they are outside of the United States, and even

though they are radical jihadists. Let us fix this problem, and let's

make sure that we fix it before we go home in August. We should have

done it today.