I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I spent the Fourth of July recess traveling to Pakistan

and to Iraq.

I came away with a couple of observations. First in Pakistan, our

allies in the war on terror, the Pakistanis, have great concern about

an early withdrawal from Iraq, because they saw first hand, after the

defeat of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan, when America left that

region, left Afghanistan to uncertainty and chaos, what happened was

the rise of the Taliban, an extremist group, that then gave basis to al

Qaeda to be able to plan and plot the 9/11 attacks on America.

So the Pakistanis are extremely concerned about an early withdrawal.

Our allies around the world are concerned. The word of America is at

risk. Our allies are watching what we do here in the United States

Congress and what America does.

Second, traveling to Iraq, I came away with some positive reports,

not only from our commanders, but listening to the Iraqi general, who

is in charge of the national police. He said that the Shia, the Sunni

and the Kurds have come together as Iraqis, standing up a national

police force that's fighting to throw out the negative elements that

are in Iraq today. They are standing shoulder-to-shoulder, the Shia,

Sunni and Kurds. Our folks also told us that they need more time to

train the police, the security of the Iraqis.

Talking to our soldiers was the most powerful information I came away

with. One of the sergeants in our Special Forces told us something very

significant. Right about now, he is saddling up, he is getting ready to

go out on a dangerous mission in Iraq tonight to either kill al Qaeda

to take down a production facility for IEDs. He said to me, he said to

the group of us that was there, we cannot leave Iraq prematurely

because chaos will ensue, and what we will find is that the terrorists

will be in the streets of America.

So listening to that powerful statement from somebody who is putting

his life on the line, every single night, that's powerful information.

Those are powerful words.

We have to allow this surge, not just to last for 3 weeks, but to go

for 3 months. Let it go. Let us vote down this resolution.