Madam Speaker, as we debate this nonbinding resolution

on Iraq, the administration is preparing for the next war in Iran. We

are losing our democracy to war, massive debt, fear and fraud. The

American people need Congress to surge towards the Constitution, surge

towards the truth.

Now, some call this resolution a first step. I would like to believe

that Congress will respond to the will of the American people expressed

in the November election. They expect us to take real action to assert

our constitutional power, to take America out of Iraq by refusing to

provide any more funding for the war. That is our right. That is our

duty. We have a duty to restrain an administration which is conducting

an illegal war. We have a duty to hold to a constitutional accounting a

President and a Vice President who led us into a war based on lies.

I led the effort against the Iraq war resolution.

Madam Speaker, I ask to include into the Record an analysis of the

President's war resolution which was given to Members of Congress back

in October of 2002. It pointed out that there is no proof that Iraq had

weapons of mass destruction, anything to do with 9/11, anything to do

with al Qaeda's role in 9/11. It is not as if Congress had no idea the

war was based on untruths.

Now we must tell the truth, not just about the escalation, but about

the occupation. We are illegally occupying Iraq. We attacked a nation

which did not attack us. We must recognize the wrong that has been done

and move to right it.

Instead of debating the end of the war, Congress is ironically

preparing to give the war a new beginning. Some have made it clear long

before this particular resolution that they will continue to fund the

war by approving the upcoming supplemental appropriation, even though

money exists to bring the troops home now.

When we equate funding the war with supporting the troops, we are

dooming thousands of young Americans who are valiantly following the

orders of their Commander in Chief. If we truly cared about the troops,

we would not leave them in the middle of a civil war. If we truly cared

about the troops, we would not leave them in a conflict for which there

is no military solution.

The war is binding. The resolution is not. This resolution will not

end the war. It will not bring our beloved troops home. It will not

even stop the administration from sending more troops. That is because

this resolution is nonbinding.

The war is binding. The resolution is not; 3,100 U.S. troops are

bound in death; 650,000 innocent Iraqi civilians are bound in death.

The war is binding. The resolution is not. American taxpayers are

bound in debt. The war could cost $2 trillion. We are borrowing money

from Beijing to fight a war in Baghdad. Worse, each and every time

Congress votes to fund the war, it votes to reauthorize the war. There

were no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, but there are weapons of

mass destruction at home. Poverty is a weapon of mass disruption. Lack

of education is a weapon of mass destruction. Poor health care is a

weapon of mass destruction. We must find and disarm those weapons of

mass destruction which threaten the security of our own Nation. But

Congress must first take responsibility.

The Federal Court has made it abundantly clear that once a war is

well underway, Congress' real power is to cut off funds. Funding the

war is approval of the war.

The American people are waiting for us to provide real leadership to

show the way out of Iraq. My 12-point plan responds to that demand.

This plan, drafted with the help of experts in international

peacekeeping, specialists with U.N. experience and veteran military

advisors, creates a peace process which will enable our troops to come

home and stabilize Iraq.

Here are the elements of the Kucinich plan.

First, Congress must deny any more funds for the war.

Second, the President will have to call the troops home, close the

bases and end the occupation.

Third, a parallel peace process which brings in international

peacekeepers must begin. That is third.

Fourth, move in the international peacekeeping and security force and

move out U.S. troops. Peacekeepers will stay until the Iraqis are able

to handle their own security.

Fifth, order U.S. contractors out of Iraq.

Sixth, fund an honest process of reconstruction.

Seventh, protect the economic position of the Iraqi people by

stabilizing

prices in Iraq, including those for food and energy.

Eighth, create a process which gives the Iraqi people control over

their economic destiny without the structural adjustment policies of

the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Ninth, give the Iraqi people full control over their oil assets, with

no mandatory privatization.

Tenth, fund a process of reconciliation between the Sunnis, Shiites

and Kurds.

Eleventh, the U.S. must refrain from any more covert operations in

Iraq.

And twelfth, the U.S. must begin a process of truth and

reconciliation between our Nation and the people of Iraq.

There is a way out. Congress should stand for that. And we will have

an opportunity to do it once again in about 6 weeks