Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to speak on behalf of

House Resolution 557. The U.S. investments in the war on terror and in

Iraq are proving worthwhile and are making the world safer. As of

February 2004, 44 of the 55 most wanted former Iraqi leaders are dead

or in custody. The Iraqi people have created and signed an interim

constitution guaranteeing basic freedoms, rights and protections to all

Iraqis previously unrealized in Iraq.

I visited Iraq in October and saw firsthand that Iraqis are much

better off than they were under the oppressive regime of Saddam

Hussein. Children are able to go to school without being taught

government propaganda. Small businesses are able to open. Iraqi

citizens have access to health care formerly denied to them, and once

neglected infrastructure is being rebuilt. No one who argues against

this resolution can deny that Saddam Hussein was an enemy of the United

States and an enemy of the Iraqi people. The war on terror has

encouraged nations to protect their national security, track down and

arrest known and suspected terrorists, and to make ovations to the

international community in order to create a more peaceful and stable

environment.

Last fall, the United States stopped a ship carrying nuclear

components bound for Libya. Recently, Libya voluntarily turned over

equipment from its nuclear weapons program to the United States. Had

Libya kept these materials, they had the ingredients to create nuclear

weapon capabilities. The 50,000 pounds of machine parts to enrich

uranium is just a small portion of the material and information that

they have turned over. Qaddafi himself has cited the fall of Saddam

Hussein as a reason for Libya abandoning its nuclear weapons of mass

destruction program. Can anyone have imagined a nuclear power as Libya?

Libya's decision is an example of the administration's tough line

against states that sponsor terrorism and have unconventional weapons

programs. United States investments in Iraq are proving themselves

effective. Iraq is a safer nation, as is the United States. I commend

our Armed Forces of the United States and the coalition forces.