Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman

Hyde) for yielding me this time.

This resolution rightly highlights the vast crimes against humanity

committed by Saddam Hussein's regime. And as we have heard today, as

many as 270 mass graves have been found so far, containing the bodies

of 400,000 Iraqis. Four hundred thousand.

I remember photos my father, a U.S. serviceman, took when U.S. forces

overran the death camp in Dachau, Germany in the closing days of World

War II. People executed in pits, by the thousands. I never thought I

would see photos like those photos again.

In the days and weeks following Saddam's overthrow, we learned more

about another dictator's evil, and here is one account from the L.A.

Times: ``The executions took place two or three times on most days.

Each time between 100 and 150 blindfolded people, their hands and

sometimes feet bound, were led into pits about 10 feet deep. Gunmen

then fired into the pit, often for several minutes . . . A bulldozer

then pushed dirt over the bodies, sometimes burying or crushing people

who had survived the volley and were trying to climb out.'' Four

hundred thousand people.

In two trips to Iraq, I have had the chance to talk to tortured

Iraqis. Some ask, Why act in Iraq and not the other countries suffering

through human rights nightmares? I would respond that just because we

do not act in all cases of gross human rights abuses does not mean we

should not act in any cases. Moreover, in Iraq's case, our ability to

act effectively is greater because our vital national security

interests are on the line. Our interest in seeing a reformed Middle

East will keep us committed to building a free Iraq. So let us forget

that argument. It obscures the nightmare that was Saddam's Iraq and it

belittles our closing of his torture chambers.