Mr. Speaker, over the weekend the New York Times

published an article entitled

The article goes on to describe an April 2006, a

National Intelligence Estimate which reports the consensus of the 16

U.S. intelligence agencies that the American invasion and occupation of

Iraq has helped spawn a new generation of Islamic radicalism and that

the overall terrorist threat has grown since the September 11 attacks.

The NIE report concludes that the radical Islamic movement has

expanded from a core of al Qaeda operatives to include a new class of

``self-generating'' cells inspired by al Qaeda's leadership, but

without any direct connection to Osama bin Laden or his top

lieutenants, which will be difficult to monitor and disrupt. One

official quoted in the article says

Mr. Speaker and Members, what are we doing? What is this

administration doing, and what is this American President thinking

about? He is sending more troops to Iraq. The Army announced today that

it has extended the combat tours of about 4,000 soldiers who normally

would be returning home and is considering sending more combat units to

Iraq in order to meet the needs in Iraq. Many of the troops in Iraq are

on their second and even third deployment to Iraq. The additional

troops are necessary because of the sectarian violence that encompasses

much of the country. Many experts have concluded that Iraq is in a

civil war.

Mr. Speaker and Members, the President of the United States has said

more than once that we are not getting out of Iraq, that we will stand

down when the Iraqis stand up, and they would have you believe that we

are training Iraqi soldiers and that they are going to take over the

responsibility of securing that country.

It is not happening, Mr. Speaker and Members. As a matter of fact,

some of the Iraqi soldiers that have been trained are abandoning our

soldiers in the middle of conflict. I read an account just a few days

ago where our American soldiers got in the middle of a confrontation of

a battle, I think, between Sunnis and Shiites, and they were watched by

the Iraqi soldiers who were with them who literally stepped back and

let the American soldiers be responsible for trying to resolve that

fight that was going on.

We hear stories not only about Iraqi soldiers who abandoned our

soldiers but who are really inside, being trained by us, with American

taxpayer dollars being spent on training them when they simply turn on

us. They are not with us to begin with. They are there to spy on us,

and they are undermining us.

For God's sake, what are we doing? This occupation is not only

causing the deaths of young American men and women, almost 3,000. It is

robbing this country of its resources. Well over $300 billion has been

spent on this war in Iraq, and that is not to add to the amount of

money in Afghanistan. We went to Iraq because supposedly we were making

Americans safer. We are at greater risk now than we have ever been. We

are certainly at greater risk and less secure than we were before 9/11.

And not only that, why didn't we track Osama bin Laden up through

Afghanistan to that border between Pakistan and Afghanistan where we

believe he really is? But no. We told the American public that it was

Saddam Hussein. We have spent all of this money. We have occupied it,

and we still don't have Osama bin Laden. Osama bin Laden, I believe, is

being protected by the Pakistanis. I believe that Mr. Musharraf, who is

supposed to be our ally, whom we are giving money to, knows a lot more

than he is telling us. But one thing I know for sure, he won't allow us

to come into Pakistan and he just created a pact with the Taliban. The

Taliban is back in control. The poppy seeds are flowing. The dope is

flowing. It has been tracked all the way to Chicago.

The American people had better get their heads out of the sand, and

we had better do our oversight job and bring our soldiers home. Stop

this war in Iraq.