Mr. Speaker, the Government Accountability Office issued

a report on Monday that should worry every single Member of the House.

The GAO said that the government isn't moving quickly enough to ensure

that radioactive materials don't get into the hands of terrorists.

Last year the GAO ran a sting operation to see how easy it would be

for anyone to get a license from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to

buy enough radioactive materials to create a dirty bomb. They set up a

bogus company with only a post office box number and got the license

within a month.

The government then promised to tighten up on its requirements for

the purchase of radioactive materials, but the GAO report found this

effort is still years behind schedule. So while the government takes

what looks like its sweet time, we live under the threat of a dirty

bomb that could kill many Americans and devastate our economy.

But as outrageous as this situation is, it is only a prime example of

how our country's real security needs are being ignored.

Another example is the occupation of Iraq because the administration

continues to have tunnel vision when it comes to Iraq. While the

administration devotes most of our military resources and troops on the

occupation of another country, an occupation that actually makes no

sense whatsoever, it is blind to the real threats to our security in

Afghanistan.

Even Admiral Mike Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff,

has admitted that we are focusing on the wrong place. Earlier this

month he said,

Mr. Speaker, al Qaeda is growing stronger along the border between

Afghanistan and Pakistan. Even Ryan Crocker, our ambassador to Iraq,

admitted when he testified before Congress in March that stopping al

Qaeda in Afghanistan should be our top priority, not the occupation of

Iraq.

Yet we have five times more troops in Iraq than Afghanistan. That

doesn't make military sense; it doesn't make common sense.

We can have two reactions to this tragic situation. We can scratch

our heads and wonder at the folly of it all, or we can take action. Of

course I prefer action. That is why I have offered a SMART Security

plan which would defeat terrorism through strong international

alliances, aggressive diplomacy, improved intelligence, and initiatives

to address the root causes of terrorism.

In addition, I and my colleague, Representative Barbara Lee from

California, asked Members of Congress to sign a letter to Prime

Minister al-Maliki of Iraq last week. Thirty-one Members signed the

letter, and I thank them.

The letter states,

Prime Minister al-Maliki has called for such a timetable. We should

work with him to make it happen. This is a great opportunity to end our

disastrous and counterproductive occupation of Iraq.

Yesterday, The Washington Post released a poll that shows that 63

percent

of the American people believe that the war in Iraq was not worth

fighting. Let's listen to the American people, Mr. Speaker. Let's bring

our troops and military contractors out of Iraq, but let's not repeat

the same military folly in other parts of the region.