Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the

resolution.

International Terrorism--when we discuss this very important issue--

an issue of life and death--not just for each of us individually, but

for our nation and way of life--it is imperative that we begin our

discussion--at the beginning. And that beginning wasn't on 9-11! We've

been under attack for at least 30 years.

We did not want this fight--we did not invite this fight--we did not

wish to engage in this battle. However, once our enemy crossed over the

line--confirmed for us and the world--that they were unwilling to

respect international law, respect individual liberty, respect

sovereignty of nations--and that they were willing and desirous of

engaging in mortal battle--no other option was left to us or the

civilized world.

Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, on January 23, 2005, said: ``We have declared a

fierce war on this evil principle of democracy and those who follow

this wrong ideology.''

So, this discussion today comes down to a fundamental question--what

is the appropriate strategy and tactic to adopt to win the War on

Terror?

Will we withdraw and simply defend--a policy of isolation and

containment--or will we aggressively combat terrorism--and take the

battle to our enemy?

This war is unlike any other in history--without a doubt.

Our enemy has no single home. It recruits and trains its army from

nations around the world. The only unifying element is hate--hate for

the West--hate for democracy--hate for freedom of religion--hate for

liberty.

The only message our enemy understands is force. Period. Terrorists

don't negotiate--terrorists don't compromise--terrorists are not

interested in peace. To them, that's weakness.

Thankfully we've stayed the course. Thankfully we've persevered in

both Iraq and Afghanistan. The greatest threat to terrorism is freedom,

liberty and democracy--in the Middle East and beyond.

Today the terrorists are truly on the run.

Last week U.S. and Iraqi forces eliminated Al Qaeda in Iraq's top

terrorist--Abu Musab Al Zarqawi. This was accomplished with excellent

intelligence--knowing where the bad guys were and when. And this

information came from Iraqi civilians--that is a very positive sign.

This important step demonstrates many things: we will hunt down

terrorists and eliminate them wherever they are hiding, the shackles of

decades long terrorism are being removed from the Middle East, Iraqi

security forces are stepping up to the challenge; Iraqi citizens want

to be free of terrorists and they are not going to sit idly by.

Success breeds success.

Never has that been more evident than this past week.

While Zarqawi was eliminated--finding him brought a treasure trove of

information allowing U.S. and Iraqi forces to dismantle many more

pieces of Al Qaeda's puzzle.

Success breeds success.

Iraq just this past week selected 3 more officials--cabinet

ministers--to serve in its standing government.

Success breeds success.

It is also important for us to recall and reiterate why we are

engaged in this war.

It is imperative during this debate that we re-examine the conditions

that required the United States to take military action in Afghanistan

and Iraq in the aftermath of the attacks of September 11, 2001.

Just a short look at recent history--just the last 27 years--vividly

demonstrates the death, destruction and terror brought to Americans by

our enemy.

November 4, 1979--Iranian radicals seized the U.S. Embassy in Tehran

and held 53 hostages for 444 days.

April 18, 1983--Sixty-three people, including the CIA's Middle East

directory, were killed when our U. S. Embassy in Beirut was bombed.

October 23, 1983--simultaneous suicide bomb attacks on American and

French compounds in Beirut, Lebanon; killing 242 Americans and 58

French troops.

March 16, 1984--Islamic Jihad kidnapped and later murdered Political

Officer William Buckley in Beirut, Lebanon.

October 7, 1985--Achille Lauro Hijacking--terrorists seized the

Italian cruise liner and murdered one American invalid in a wheelchair.

April 5, 1986--Berlin Discotheque Bombing--Two U.S. soldiers were

killed and 79 American servicemen were injured in a Libyan bomb attack

in West Berlin, West Germany.

December 21, 1988--Pan Am 103 Bombing--Pan Am 103 blown up over

Lockerbie, Scotland by bomb placed by Libyan terrorists--all 259 people

on board were killed.

February 26, 1993--First World Trade Center Bombing--car bomb

exploded in an underground garage killing 6 people and injuring over

1000.

November 13, 1995--car bomb explodes at U.S. military complex in

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, killing one U.S. citizen, several foreign

national employees of the U.S. government and over 40 others.

June 25, 1996--Khobar Towers Bombing--a truck bomb in Dhahran

destroys Khobar Towers, a U.S. Air Force barracks, killing 19 U.S.

military personnel and wounding 515 people, including 240 U.S.

personnel.

August 7, 1998--U.S. Embassy Bombings in East Africa--two coordinated

attacks on U.S. Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania--killing over 300.

October 12, 2000--Attack on U.S.S. Cole--a small dingy carrying

explosives rammed the destroyer U.S.S. Cole, killing 17 sailors and

injuring 39.

September 11, 2001--Terrorist Attacks on U.S. Homeland--Two hijacked

airliners crashed into the twin towers of the World Trade Center. Soon

thereafter, the Pentagon was struck by a third hijacked plane. A fourth

hijacked plane, suspected to be bound for a high-profile target in

Washington, crashed into a field in southern Pennsylvania. The attacks

killed 3,025 U.S. citizens and other nationals.

Treating these incidents as crimes--not acts of war--and providing

reactionary measures rather than moving pro actively--will not work.

How do we know? Because that is precisely what we did for decades--and

the consequence was 9-11.

The attacks we witnessed that day serve as a reminder of the dangers

we face as a nation in a post-9/11 world. We can no longer expect

oceans between us and our enemies to keep us safe.

Policy of containment has been proven to be a dismal failure.

Just as the battle in Afghanistan was not simply to remove the

Taliban. The battle in Iraq was not simply to remove Saddam Hussein and

his murderous regime.

One has to look no further than the action of our enemy to see that

we are fighting those who want to bring their brand of terror and fear

to our shores.

We must not forget those threats that have been disrupted here at

home and on our allies: the West Coast Airliner Plot; The Heathrow

Airport Plot; and The Jose Padilla Plot.

The campaign against the United States and its allies is ambitious,

simple and clear.

Terrorists will stop at nothing to achieve their distorted sense of

reality.

Now, we could have easily stayed out of this conflict . . .

However, giving terrorists free reign would not make us any safer--

history has proven that.

The price would be more innocent lives lost--more bombings--and not

an ounce of peace.

We must not be held hostage by terrorism--that is not living in

liberty and freedom!

There are defining moments every generation must face. For this

generation that defining moment is how we engage in this War on

Terror--highlighted by a very different post 9-11 world. When we came

to that defining moment--that tragic day--we, as a nation with our

allies around the world, decided we would not allow terrorists to win.

The choice is clear, our resolve is clear. We will and must prevail.