Mr. Speaker, all of history--and indeed, all of life--is

a series of choices. International relations--and our national

security--are mostly about choices.

The world chose to watch when Hitler published his blueprint for

genocide in Mein Kampf. The world also chose to watch as Hitler took

power on January 30, 1933; directing the boycott of Jewish businesses

and opening the first concentration camp just 6 weeks later.

The world continued to stand by and watch as Hitler breached the

Treaty of Versailles while denying Jews their fundamental rights

through the Nuremberg Race Laws.

Then, on September 30, 1938, British Prime Minister Neville

Chamberlain hailed ``peace for our time'' after appeasing Hitler in

Munich.

Thirty-four years later, a terrorist massacre at the 1972 Munich

Olympics launched a new era of appeasement. The world met the

terrorists' murderous ambitions with an invitation to the negotiating

table. Within weeks of the Munich Massacre, the German government let

three jailed terrorists go to secure the release of a hijacked

Lufthansa jet.

When terrorism first came to American soil with the 1993 World Trade

Center bombing, our government treated it as a police matter rather

than what it was: an act of war. Then came the Khobar Towers bombing in

1996 and the U.S.S. Cole attack in 2000. America--and the world--chose

to stand by and watch.

9/11 was the most visible manifestation of a war that had been raging

between the terrorists and civil societies around the world for

decades. But even as the terrorists plotted to kill us, we had refused

to engage them until President Bush committed America to fighting the

global War on Terror.

The global War on Terror isn't just a struggle against al Qaeda. It's

a war against a violent, evil ideology with which we can never

compromise or achieve an armistice. We can't walk away from the fight

and hope our enemy goes away.

Any withdrawal--any retreat--in Iraq or elsewhere will be met with

more attacks, more bloodshed. Except that the blood could once again

run in our streets, in our neighborhoods.

We will learn history's painful lessons at last? That's the choice

this resolution poses today.