Mr. Speaker, GEN Anthony Zinni and other retired

generals have been outspoken in their opposition to the planning and

execution of our occupation of Iraq. The administration rejected their

sound recommendations, which predicted exactly what would happen if we

didn't plan for the occupation.

These generals explain that our forces were not provided enough

resources to do the job, that we alienated allies that could have

helped in rebuilding Iraq, and that the Defense Department ignored

planning for the post-war occupation, unaware of the growing

Insurgency.

I have heard from too many military families whose children have been

wounded or killed in duty. Their grief is so much harder to bear

knowing that we did not adequately equip their sons and daughters in

battle.

I have met many times with Lila Lipscomb, a proud mother from Flint,

Michigan, who lost her son Michael in Iraq. Initially, Lila supported

the war on the assumption that the government knew best. A week after

finding out her son had died, Lila received a letter from her son in

which he forcefully argued that we should not be in Iraq because there

was no connection between Iraq and Osama bin Laden.

Cindy Sheehan lost her son Casey in Iraq and became a voice for

mothers of soldiers who oppose the war. Cindy's loss motivated her to

unite with other grieving mothers in opposition to the war. Her

willingness to speak truth to power has drawn attention to the

misconduct of the war and the terrible price that servicemen and women

and their families have paid.

We have endured strategic missteps and now find ourselves with

insufficient troop levels to provide adequate safety in Iraq. Insurgent

bombings, ethnic battles, and mass abductions by rival Sunni and Shiite

militias are clear indications that our occupation has not provided for

the conditions that Iraqis need to form an effectively functioning

government.

United States reconstruction and infrastructure investment has had

little impact in 3 years. Despite the billions of noncompetitive, cost-

plus contracts given to businesses friendly to this administration, 54

percent of Iraqi households still lack access to clean water and 85

percent lack reliable electricity.

The administration's emphasis on unilateral action in this conflict

has left America bearing too much of a military and financial burden.

If Iraq is going to be stabilized and move toward a democracy, it will

need a commitment and a will far greater than what America itself can

provide on its own.

Why haven't we learned from the first gulf war? In the 1991 gulf war,

our coalition partners shouldered over 75 percent of the cost of the

war. We had over 100,000 Muslim troops fighting alongside a broad

coalition of forces.

We need to encourage our friends and allies around the globe to help

with Iraqi reconstruction and peacekeeping. We just don't have

sufficient resources to manage this work on our own.

If we can bring the international community into Iraq to help

establish a democracy, protect its citizens, and rebuild its

infrastructure, it will free American forces and resources to the real

problem we face: terrorism.

Let's heed the advice of our colleague John Murtha and redeploy our

troops to find Osama bin Laden and fight terrorists. If we can shatter

the myth that occupying Iraq is the same thing as fighting terrorism,

then these 10

hours of debate will have been worth something after all.