Mr. Speaker, the members of this House have had a lengthy

and passionate debate today. When these hours of debate are over, I

think the American people need a clear understanding of what the

Democrats propose to do.

Let’s look at the Democrats' blueprint, the Murtha Plan.

The Murtha Plan proposes to have our forces ``redeployed at the

earliest practicable date'' with no details about what that means.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi leadership only days ago requested for our forces

to continue their side-by-side work with Iraqi forces. The Democrats'

plan advocates redeployment before the job is done, which is nothing

short of retreat.

The Murtha Plan calls for the creation of a ``quick-reaction force''

and an ``over-the-horizon presence of U.S. Marines'' with, again, no

details about what exactly that means. The Democrats continue to

advocate retreat, while

our President has stated time and time again that our commanders on the

ground will determine the tactical plans, not politicians in

Washington.

The Murtha Plan calls for America to ``pursue security and stability

in Iraq through diplomacy.'' Are Democrats suggesting that we can

negotiate with terrorists? This is a war unlike any other. If we leave

this front now, the terrorists will come after us somewhere else. This

is not about territory or conquest. This is a fight for the future of

the free world.

The Murtha Plan supported by the Democrats is nothing more than an

enormous step backwards in the fight against the Islamic fascists. It

is a rehash of the same old policies of appeasement and retreat that

contributed greatly to our lack of preparedness for the

9/11 attacks. The policy of appeasement and non-engagement has only

emboldened terrorists in the past.

Thankfully, our President has charted a new course to take the fight

to the terrorists so we do not have to fight them here at home. We must

aggressively keep our resolve in this decades-old war with the

terrorists.