Mr. Speaker, yesterday Saddam Hussein faced a panel of

Iraqi judges where he will finally stand trial for the crimes against

humanity that were committed under his regime. Saddam Hussein is an

evil person. He ordered thousands of his own people to death, and it is

time that he is brought to justice for these crimes.

But anyone who suggests that Iraq is more stable or less of a threat

to the United States now than it was before the war is fooling

themselves. Iraq has never been less stable, and it has never posed a

greater threat to the United States than it does today.

The war in Iraq has not combated terrorism as President Bush and his

administration have repeatedly claimed. It has actually encouraged

terrorism by providing a unified target and rallying point for those

angry with our Mideast policies.

Since we invaded Iraq in March of 2003, hundreds of terrorist attacks

have killed thousands of innocent people, both American soldiers and

Iraqi civilians.

Most people assume that suicide terrorism of the sort that plagues

Iraq on a daily basis stems from opposition to democracy in general or

hatred of the United States in particular. But Dr. Robert Pape, a

University of Chicago professor, reaches a different conclusion based

on a comprehensive study on every act of suicide terrorism that has

occurred over the last 10 years. Dr. Pape found that the common element

linking all suicide attacks around the world is not religion. Rather,

suicide terrorism is about pressuring another country to withdraw its

military forces from the lands that the terrorists view as their

homeland.

This helps to explain the intensity of the Iraqi insurgency. The

insurgents resent the continued United States occupation of their land

and want control over it.

If the folks in the Bush administration truly want to end the war,

they must honestly convince the Iraqi people that the United States has

no long-term objectives in Iraq. But to do that would require a sea

change, because we currently maintain over 100 military bases in Iraq,

with what certainly appears to be intentions to maintain some of them

permanently.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that President Bush loves those prime time

speeches to our Nation. Maybe it is time for him to eat a little crow

and ask the international community to help. He needs to face the fact

that the so-called Bush doctrine of preemptive war and unilateral

military action just is not working. He should tell the Iraqi people

that the United States has no plans to maintain permanent bases in

Iraq, nor do we have any designs on controlling Iraqi oil. You could

call this speech the ``anti-Bush doctrine.''

Mr. Speaker, there were plenty of mistakes made in Iraq, mistakes

that could easily have been avoided. But now, the best thing for the

President to do is cut his losses, admit he made mistakes, and change

his course. He needs to seek the cooperation of our allies around the

world to help Iraq get back on its feet, because we cannot do it by

ourselves in the United States. The President should do that by going

back to those countries we have spurned in the past like France and

Germany, as well as influential bodies like the United Nations and

NATO, and ask them to assist.

A true multilateral coalition could and would enable us to bring

thousands of our troops hope. To borrow a phrase from the President, as

our allies stand up, we will stand down.