Mr. Speaker, like the President's wishful, staged

declaration of ``Mission Accomplished'' on that aircraft carrier 2 1/2

years ago, or the Vice President's declaration that the insurgency was

in its ``final throes,'' this resolution proclaims the desire of

Congress for ``victory'' in Iraq.

Instead of dispatching our troops in adequate numbers, this Congress

made one speech after another. Instead of covering our troops with

adequate, impenetrable armor, this Congress passed one paper resolution

after another like this, which provided little shield from those who

would do our brave men and women harm.

Well, each day's news shows how out of touch this Administration and

its congressional followers continue to be. Like the administration,

this Congress has no idea what victory means other than trying to

escape the morass that its bad judgment got us into.

I believe that victory in Iraq, which we all desire, begins with a

commitment to championing the truth. This is an administration that

cannot utter ``Iraq'' without saying ``9/11,'' even though it knows

there is absolutely no connection between the two.

To win a war you have to shoot straight. Our young men and women in

Iraq and Afghanistan understand that, but this administration and its

congressional followers demonstrate again and again that they do not--

when they are discussing the real weakness of the Iraqi army or fail to

do so, the strength of the insurgency, or the length our armed forces

should be deployed.

They are so proud of the democratic choices made in Iraq this week

and so very fearful for there to be any democratic choices on the

resolution of the gentleman from California (Mr. Lantos) and others.

They fear a democratic debate in this House because their position is

one of complete weakness. They have waved the white flag themselves at

the possibility of a true debate in this Congress.

What we need is a genuine debate about the best pathway for our

security in Iraq. The President finally conceded over 30,000 civilians

have died in this invasion. We have passed 2,000 young, brave men and

women in the service of America, and we are on the way to 3,000.

This administration has begun a public relations offensive when what

we need is an offensive for the protection of our families. It has

abandoned that

in favor of a meaningless political victory, not a real plan for

success for the security of our families.

Has the President or your resolution been willing to

declare that it rejects the idea of permanent bases in Iraq?

Mr. Speaker, given the stated interest in democracy here

in the House, I would ask unanimous consent to amend the rule to permit

for division of the question so that we could express our unanimous

support for the various provisions of this resolution, except for that

on which we have disagreement as to the best way to achieve success in

Iraq. At this point, so that we can have the kind of democracy that

occurred this week in Iraq, of which the majority seems so proud, and

actually have it right here on the floor of the House, I ask unanimous

consent for a division of the question on the provisions of this

resolution.