Mr. Speaker, I thank the Majority Leader for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, two Sunday mornings I was in Baghdad inside the Green

Zone, an idyllic morning in the cradle of civilization, if you will.

But we had a wide-ranging discussion with Prime Minister Allawi about

what lay ahead for Iraq.

The Prime Minister said that what matters most is the kind of Iraq

that we have at the end of this process. His feeling was that Iraq had

its roots in ancient civilization. He now relished the opportunity for

Iraq to spread the cause of democracy and liberty to other areas of the

Middle East, which will make the cost and the risk of liberating Iraq

worthwhile. Terrorism will continue after the elections because there

will always be those who resist stability, but it will become more and

more difficult to unravel the community.

The Prime Minister became fairly philosophical and said he had spent

the best part of his life fighting for freedom for his country, and now

that freedom lay at the doorstep. He would not allow those individuals,

meaning the Sunnis, to distract the process. He stated that if they

cannot participate now, there will be a space open for them to

participate in the future.

To quote the Prime Minister, ``We don't want the radical forces to

win now, nor do we want the outside forces from Syria or Iran to take

over. I am a practical person. The Sunnis are changing. The process is

slow, but our only hope for everyone is to engage in the process and

distance ourselves from the terrorists. February 1 begins the next

chapter in our country's history.'' From the Prime Minister Dr. Allawi.