Mr. President, in November, General Abizaid

told our Senate Committee on Armed Services, when asked did he need any

more troops in Iraq, he said ``no.'' Admiral Fallon, who has been

chosen by the administration to succeed General Abizaid, when asked did

he think by the Senate taking a position in opposition to the

President's determination to put 21,000 new troops in Iraq that was

undercutting the military forces in Iraq, Admiral Fallon deferred and

would not answer that, as some others had been quick to answer in the

affirmative.

When General Casey was in front of our committee last week, when

asked how many additional troops do you think should be put into

Baghdad, he said two brigades--not the five brigades the President has

determined.

What we have is a majority of Members in this Senate feel there

should not be any increase. We have General Casey, the commander for

the last 2 1/2 years, saying there should only be a two-brigade

increase. So there is, in fact, conflicting opinion.

If we are going to have any increase in troops in Iraq, the Marine

generals in Anbar Province have convinced this Senator that an increase

in Anbar Province would be helpful, but the conclusion of this Senator

was that putting more American troops in the middle of Baghdad, in the

middle of that sectarian violence, was not going to do any good; it was

going to put more Americans in harm's way, particularly in the limited

numbers the President is talking about.

If we wish to make a difference in Baghdad in the midst of all that

sectarian violence, where it has been going on for 1,327 years, since

the year 688 A.D., after the death of Mohammed, when the grandson was

assassinated because he broke off and that became the Shiite branch and

the Sunnis and the Shiites have been at it ever since, if you want to

make a difference in Baghdad with all that sectarian strife, put in 50,

100, 200 or 300,000 troops. But 21,000--17,000 of which are going into

Baghdad additionally--in this Senator's opinion, is not going to do the

job.

As the Senator from Virginia knows, this Senator is one of his

cosponsors. I support his resolution. I think it is very important

there be truth and openness. In this Senator's position on

the Foreign Relations Committee, on the Senate Committee on Armed

Services, and on the Intelligence Committee of the Senate, I have been

hammering away at correct information over and over because what we

have been dished out over the last several years has been incorrect

information.

That leads us to this point where we have to make a judgment. We are

a coequal branch. We are part of the formulation of policy, and it is

intended that way by the U.S. Constitution that the people speak

through us as well as through the President.

It is my privilege to say I support the Senator from Virginia in his

resolution.