Madam President, I am pleased we have this resolution

before us. I think all of us share the same thoughts about this whole

Iraqi prisoner abuse issue. We are all very disappointed and very

troubled about the events in the prison. We need to move forward to

resolve this issue. We need to do what needs to be done as a followup.

We do not need to make it into a political operation for the next week

because we have other things to do in Iraq. But we must take care of

this issue because we, as Americans, hold ourselves to a higher

standard.

These are appalling actions of those responsible for the treatment of

the detainees in Iraq. It falls far short of any of those standards.

Our credibility has been called into question in the eyes of those we

are trying to help, as well as the rest of the world. These incidents

of cruelty and mistreatment at the hands of American service men and

women are inexcusable, and certainly it is a very small group of our

service people. Unfortunately, the foolish actions of a few have cast a

pall on thousands of our military. All of us know that is not the case,

and all of us who have served in the military know these are not the

kinds of activities we are ordered to do.

There have been mistakes, and we need to determine how those happened

and see they do not happen again so our folks can continue at the very

hard job they have.

These terrible events have dealt a blow to what we are seeking to do.

I want to say again our task is to win in Iraq, and this is a deterrent

from that, but we can overcome it and move on with the task.

This also makes it more important that we win at home. With the media

and the emphasis that has been put on this issue, it detracts from our

job. We cannot let that happen. If we are really as strong in our

feeling about our service people overseas, we ought to make sure we

support what they are doing and continue to give them that support.

We as a nation must deliberately correct the situation and ensure it

does not happen again. All of us want to do that.

Democracies hold themselves accountable. That is our task. We can do

it, and we will do it. We acknowledge we have done wrong, and we will

move to correct it. That is what this resolution is about. That is what

the hearings are about. That is what holding people in authority

responsible is about. We need to move on that initiative. We need to

get the facts. We need to make the whole effort more transparent in the

future, of course, as all Government activities should be transparent.

The process needs to move swiftly and decisively. We need to do this

job and get on with the rest of the job.

For those who committed the acts and those who enabled them, we need

to do all we can in determining if there is involvement in the chain of

command.

I do not think anyone denies that is what we need to do. These things

that have happened are certainly fundamentally contradictory to

American values. The eyes of the world are focused now on how we will

react, and we have reacted. The President has reacted. The Secretary

has reacted. The Congress will react. We need to ensure that it

continues, but I do warn that we ought not divert all of our attention

to this issue, taking it away from the overall issue that still exists.

We need to be there. The stakes are simply too high to play politics

with this issue, and unfortunately that might well happen.

So we need to proceed. We need to make everyone understand that these

are not the kinds of things that the United States will live with and

let happen. We will do something about it. We need to bring those to

justice who were involved. We will go forward and we will win in Iraq.

First, we must win in the United States.