Mr. Speaker, I rise to stand in solidarity with the

gentlewoman from California (Ms. Woolsey) and other Members who are

calling for an end to the U.S. occupation of Iraq. As other Members

have stated earlier, I commend the gentlewoman from California (Ms.

Woolsey) for her persistence, for her 100 days of bringing this issue

before the American people as she has so clearly articulated the facts

as related to our situation in Iraq.

The war in Iraq has become a crisis of global proportions. Every day

there are violent attacks on innocent civilians in Iraq and on our

service men and women stationed there. We have seen the fact that the

President has overstated the situation in Iraq. We are starting to see

a backlash around the world. Just recently, Egypt's Ambassador to Iraq

was kidnapped and subsequently killed. Algeria's diplomatic staff of

only a handful of people have been withdrawn because, even though the

North African country has no troops in Iraq, just to represent the

current government and recognize it, two of its staff were kidnapped

last week.

The President has overstated the threat that Iraq had weapons of mass

destruction and biological and chemical weapons in order to frighten

the American public into giving him preemptive strike ability and for

the support of this war.

The U.S. presence of approximately 150,000 troops in Iraq is fueling

our enemies around the world and causing them to rise up against not

only Americans, but anyone who supports the American occupation in

Iraq. Our presence is not containing violence, it is almost sparking

violence. Almost every day there are fatal car bombings and suicide

bombings. Men in the military for Iraq are being targeted. Policemen in

the service for Iraq are targeted and killed. Diplomats are being

targeted and killed.

We cannot ignore that the deadly bombs in London 2\1/2\ weeks ago are

also inextricably linked to Iraq. We cannot ignore the fact that the

insurgents have not been weakened since Congress authorized the

President to use force in Iraq in October 2002, almost 2 years ago, nor

can we ignore the fact that life for Iraqis under this occupation is

far worse than life was before the occupation.

Estimates range between 15,000 and 17,000 innocent Iraqis have died

to date. This is not an improvement in the life they had. These are

innocent people who now have lost their lives because of the preemptive

strike there. At the very least, basic services that we take for

granted in the United States, such as electricity, running water and

sewage systems, are destroyed and not accessible to all Iraqis.

Even our brave service men and women are suffering. We still hear

about some of their needs that are not being met. When I was there

earlier this year, soldiers told me about being attacked in unarmed

Humvees, and wanted to know why were there not enough armed vehicles to

protect them. They showed me a Humvee that is not properly protected

and those that are. It is a world of difference.

A March 27 report in USA Today revealed that the Pentagon realized

they did not have enough armed Humvees, only 235 in June 2003. We

should not plan a war without having the equipment to fight it. Yet

more than 2 years later, I was hearing from our young men and women in

the service that still the Humvees are not all up to where they ought

to be for protection. This means there was poor planning and poor

execution of this war, and our troops bear the brunt of the Pentagon's

shortsightedness. The President must do more to protect our troops.

Let me ask for the support of the gentlewoman from California (Ms.

Woolsey), H. Con. 35, where she asked for the development of a plan,

and I commend the gentlewoman from California (Ms. Woolsey) for her

persistence.