Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to commend

my colleague, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. Woolsey), for making

tonight on the floor of this House her 100th statement concerning the

war in Iraq.

Over the course of the last 15 months, the gentlewoman from

California has made a very substantial contribution to the debate

concerning that tragic event in Iraq, the circumstances surrounding it,

and also making recommendations as to what we might do in the future to

correct the terrible mistakes and injustices that have been perpetrated

against the Iraqi people and against our own country. I commend her for

doing so.

She and I were among those 143 Members of this House who voted

against the resolution that was submitted by the Bush administration to

authorize the war in Iraq. It has now come to my attention, and to, I

think, many other Members of this House, that there are a growing

number of people here, as well as around the country, that understand

that this war was a deep and tragic mistake and that the rationale

presented for it was based upon falsehoods. The statements which came

from various people within the administration were completely false and

misleading. Among those initially was the idea that Iraq had something

to do with the attack on our country of September 11, 2001. That, of

course, was completely and totally false.

Additionally, it was stated by members of the Bush administration

that there was some connection between al Qaeda and Saddam Hussein.

That has been proven to be completely and totally false. Again, we were

told that there were so-called weapons of mass destruction in Iraq,

chemical and biological weapons, and the President himself in this

House made allegations with regard to the development of a nuclear

weapons program by Iraq. That too has been shown to be totally and

completely false.

This administration has entirely twisted and distorted the facts and

the information and the intelligence to try to fit a policy decision

which they made based on no facts or information, but based upon a

decision which was made by this administration to suit their own

private, personal, and political objectives. The consequence of that

has been the loss of more than 1,760 lives of American service men and

women for no good reason. That war was unnecessary, unjust; and we need

to face up to it. The Members of this House need to face up to it.

We have, over this period of time, been confronted with a gross

amount of information which has been totally misleading and totally

false. The administration contracted with private-public relations

firms to persuade the American people of the falsity of their notions

with regard to weapons of mass destruction and the relationship between

Iraq and al Qaeda and the attack of September 11, now known to be

totally and completely false.

And the administration apparently continues to seek to mislead the

country. We have just recently, just today, a report over CNN

broadcasting which quotes two separate people in Iraq on two separate

circumstances with regard to an attack that took place on July 13 and

another that took place on July 24, just yesterday. Let me read into

the Record what those news releases coming out of Iraq say:

A Sunday, July 24, news release says: ``The terrorists are attacking

the infrastructure, the ISF, and all of Iraq. They are enemies of

humanity without religion or any sort of ethics. They have attacked my

community today, and I will now take the fight to the terrorists, said

one Iraqi man who preferred not to be identified.''

Eleven days earlier, it was reported from the same military sources,

a July 13 news release said: `` `The terrorists are attacking the

infrastructure, the children, and all of Iraq,' said one Iraqi man who

preferred not to be identified. `They are enemies of humanity without

religion or any sort of ethics. They have attacked my community today,

and I will now take the fight to the terrorists.' ''

These are false statements, obviously, and we continue to be

afflicted by propaganda out of this administration to attempt to

justify the initial attack, now the occupation, and the ongoing

occupation which is increasingly dangerous.

So I commend the gentlewoman from California (Ms. Woolsey) for what

she has done, and the House really needs to pay much more attention to

these issues.