Mr. Speaker, not all Members of Congress supported the

war in Iraq, but we all have to live with its consequences. The global

havoc wreaked by this war will affect the world in ways that we can

only imagine today.

Let us not forget that more than 1,200 American soldiers have been

killed in Iraq. Over 9,000 have been wounded, and an estimated 16,000

Iraqi civilians have been killed as a result of this war. In fact,

16,000 is probably a very low estimate.

The growing Iraqi insurgency, like the global War on Terror, cannot

be won by being stronger than the insurgents. We cannot win this war

with guns and bombs, because for every insurgent we kill, three more

sign up. We have to be smarter than the insurgents. We are going to win

this battle of conflicting ideologies only if we use our good senses

and our good hearts.

We know that the anger at the heart of the Iraqi insurgency stems

from, at least in part, a deep resentment over the American presence in

their country. After years of Saddam Hussein's totalitarian regime, the

Iraqi people see the United States as just another occupying force.

We have to make a choice in Iraq. Do we want to address the root

causes of the insurgency or do we want to continue down our current

path, shooting

and bombing everything in sight and perpetually fighting a losing

battle for the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people?

We must reopen the debate about the situation in Iraq to determine

why our current policies are not working. We must figure out why the

insurgency continues to grow despite our military efforts. Only through

a robust, public dialogue can we begin to get to the bottom of these

questions.

To address the root cause of terrorism around the world, such as the

current insurgency in Iraq, I have introduced H. Con. Res. 392, a SMART

Security Resolution for the 21st Century. SMART stands for sensible,

multilateral, American response to terrorism.

SMART security calls for the United States to address the root causes

of terrorism by engaging our United Nations partners, by engaging also

the world humanitarian community and all of our United States allies in

the international and civilian-led reconstruction and political

transition processes that we are involved in.

Can my colleagues imagine what Iraq might look like if, instead of

rushing to invade the country, we had waited just a few months and

continued to engage the rest of the world community in the weapons

inspection process? We would have learned that Iraq did not possess

weapons of mass destruction. We would have prevented the deaths of

thousands of American troops and innocent Iraqi civilians.

Imagine if, after the invasion, we had allowed other Nations and the

U.N. to partner with the United States in engaging the Iraqis in the

reconstruction program. We would not be faced with billions of dollars

of debt because the finances of cleanup would have been offset by

dozens of other donor Nations.

SMART security calls for increased developmental aid for programs

that are integrated with peace building and conflict prevention

measures. Unfortunately, we are struggling to provide funds for Iraqi's

development because we are too busy paying for military operations, and

the insurgents are busy working against our every effort in that

regard.

Already, the White House has asked Congress to pilfer $3 billion from

Iraq's reconstruction funds in order to pay for military operations.

That request represents a complete failure to adequately plan and

prepare for this war.

Mr. Speaker, the United States must stop engaging in this reckless

national security strategy, a strategy whose current path only

encourages future terrorist activities.

It is time we pursued a SMART security strategy for America, a

strategy that will secure Iraq, a strategy that will keep America safe

and secure for the future, because, if we do not, all we will be left

with are the consequences of our current failed policies.