Madam Speaker, the path to a free and democratic Iraq

has been dangerous and protracted. Yet, after years of oppression, the

Iraqis are closer than ever to having a nation ruled by their people

instead of a tyrant.

For the safety of our Nation, I believe we must continue to support

the sovereign actions of this developing nation.

Current news headlines are showcasing the trial of Saddam Hussein and

what danger accompanies that activity. His trial is important, but a

strong, independent Iraqi judicial system is of greater importance.

As Members of Congress, we have an obligation to uphold and support

this principle, especially in a land that has been so tormented. The

Iraqi Special Tribunal has been impaneled to bring swift and impartial

justice to both the victims and the nation of Iraq. I urge Members to

support H.R. 534, recognizing the importance and credibility of an

independent Iraqi judiciary.