Mr. Speaker, since the defeat of

Saddam Hussein in Iraq, we have seen political, security, and economic

progress in a country that has suffered under tyranny for decades. In

January, 8.5 million Iraqis voted in Iraq's first democratically

elected government.

In October, the constitutional referendum, the turnout neared nearly

10 million; and since April 2003, Iraq has registered more than 30,000

new businesses.

Mr. Speaker, no war is without challenges, and the war on terror is

no different. But to cut and run, as many of our colleagues are

suggesting, would not only encourage our enemies; it will disillusion

the Iraqi people, our allies, and the brave men and women in uniform

risking their lives for this country every day.

The security of our Nation should be bigger than inside-the-Beltway

partisan politics. We need to learn from the mistake of the past, stop

talking about exit strategies, and keep talking about freedom,

democracy, and victory.