Today, the U.S. House will debate a so-called Victory

in Iraq resolution, and vote on whether or not the continued U.S.

military presence in Iraq is desirable by the U.S. Government.

Today, Congressman Ron Paul and I have a resolution that expresses

the sense of Congress that the new permanent Council of Representatives

of Iraq should debate and vote on whether the continued U.S. military

presence in Iraq is desired by the Government of Iraq.

According to the Iraq constitution, the Iraq federal government has

exclusive power over foreign policy and negotiation, national defense

policy, and the Council of Representatives specifically has the

responsibility of creating new law and certifying treaties and

international agreements.

The continued U.S. military presence in Iraq is a matter for the

elected Government of Iraq, a sovereign nation, to decide. If we define

victory as Iraq's self-determination, then we ought to encourage Iraq

to make its own decision about further U.S. occupation. But if victory

is just a cover for endless U.S. occupation of Iraq, then that is just

not going to be acceptable to the American people or to people of the

world.