Madam Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague from

Connecticut. It is good to be joined by my other colleague from New

York (Mr. Bishop) and Chris Van Hollen from Maryland.

Madam Speaker, I would like to speak for just a moment regarding what

is happening in terms of the war on terror. We should all be alarmed.

We see the events of recent days unfolding in Lebanon, Israel, in Gaza.

And it is clear that terrorism is spreading. It is not declining.

I would submit that those events were inevitable, the law of

unintended consequences, if you will, that many of us predicted when

the resolution that authorized the invasion of Iraq came to the floor.

I dare say that in the Mideast today there is an awareness on the part

of world opinion that the war in Iraq has increased the likelihood of

terrorist attacks around the world.

A recent poll that was commissioned by the BBC, and again, this was a

poll that was taken in some 35 countries, found that 60 percent of the

world believes that the threat of terrorism has increased some 60

percent, while only 12 percent believed that it has declined.

And the nexus was the war in Iraq, and the conduct of the war in

Iraq. They saw the war in Iraq as an impediment to the defeat of

terrorism. And the experts agree. There was a survey done of more than

100 individuals with extensive foreign policy experience and national

security backgrounds.

And what was particularly disturbing is that among the experts, 84

percent said that the United States was not winning the war on

terrorism, and some 86 percent said that the world was becoming more,

not less, dangerous in terms of terrorism because of our involvement in

Iraq.

This is extremely frightening. And let me put forth a premise to you,

to my colleagues. I would suggest that it is not unrelated that we see

Hamas and Hezbollah asserting themselves today, in the past several

weeks, because there is a growing awareness that the United States is

bogged down in Iraq, and that world opinion in terms of the role of the

United States in Iraq is highly negative.

And what do we see in terms of the new Iraqi government and its

relationship with Iran, a sponsor of Hezbollah and a sponsor of Hamas?

We see exchange of diplomats. We see a billion dollar line of credit

coming from Iran to Iraq. We see a military corporation agreement

between Iran and Iraq. Iran, the sponsor of Hezbollah and Hamas. That

is what we see. That is what we are seeing.

And we are listening to the foreign minister, the foreign minister of

Iraq when asked about the United States pressuring Iran to disclose

where they are in the development of nuclear technology, to disclose

whether any of those efforts could be utilized to develop a nuclear

bomb, a nuclear weapon.

And the Iraqi foreign minister is saying, do not pressure the

Iranians; accept their word. I mean, what is happening? Are the

American people aware of these particular events? And then of course at

the same time, the forgotten war, if you will, the country that

harbored al Qaeda, that was ruled by a radical Islamists sect called

the Taliban is on the verge of unraveling.

The Afghan defense minister recently made this statement: we need

five times the number of security forces to address the issue of a

resurgent Taliban. Without them we are in real danger of collapse. So

everywhere we look in terms of the Middle East, we see danger and we

see danger to Israel, we see danger in the entire region. And we hear,

``Stay the course.''

Madam Speaker, I think the gentlewoman asks a very

legitimate question, but I do not think you were present in the Chamber

when I referred to a statement dated July 13 coming from the Afghan

defense minister, a gentleman by the name of Abdul Rahim Wardak, who

said that the Afghan Army cannot secure the country without at least

150,000 more troops, five times what it has today, and that in his

opinion, and he clearly represents the sentiment of the government, it

is an opportunity for the United States to double the assistance given

to Afghanistan. In other words, we left Afghanistan before we finished

the job.

What I find particularly interesting is that we do not hear that from

this administration, but the new head of NATO, the NATO force in

Afghanistan, a British general, David Richards, made this observation:

Afghanistan's Taliban rebels have taken advantage of a power vacuum and

grown stronger because the world's attention has been distracted by

Iraq.

How true. I agree with him. I agree with him. And if one looks around

the landscape again, I am sure it has not been on the front page, but

we all here present in this Chamber today know what is happening in

Somalia. Radical Islamist warlords have taken over Somalia. Winning the

war on terror, you know, the rest of the world believes that we are

losing the war on terror.

Many of the gentlemen that were referred to, Eagleburger, Lawrence

Cobb, and others that have served in Republican administrations, agree

that because of Iraq we are losing the war on terror today and eroding

our own national security.

Madam Speaker, if my friend would just yield for a

moment just to confirm points that were made by everybody, but

specifically by Chris Van Hollen, there is a GAO report that was issued

in April of 2005 that speaks to the issue of deepening and broadening

anti-American sentiment all over the world. We have all seen the

polling data. It is frightening. Talk about a world opinion that

threatens our national security.

And the GAO specifically alluded to the fact that it has the

potential to dramatically hurt our commercial interests. One only has

to check the price of oil. One only has to look at today's stock market

report. Everywhere we turn the implications and consequences of this

failed policy is hurting the American people, our national security,

our commercial interests and everything that is attendant thereto.

Then, when we start to examine the relationship between the new

government in Iraq and Iran, why have we spilled the blood of more than

2,500 Americans and already have appropriated taxpayer dollars on the

way to $500 billion?

And by the way, I am sure if you haven't, that you will find in your

mail tomorrow a letter, a Dear Colleague letter from our friend and

colleague from Illinois, Jan Schakowsky. And she makes the point that

on July 7, the Iraqi, not Iranian Parliament Speaker, Mahmoud al-

Mashhadani had this to say. He accused Jews of financing acts of

violence in Iraq in order to discredit Islamists who control the

Parliament and government so they can install their agents in power.

Some people say we saw you beheading, kidnapping and killing. In the

end, we even started kidnapping women who are our honor. These acts are

not the work of Iraqis. I am sure that he who does this is a Jew and

the son of a Jew. I can tell you about these Jewish Israelis and

Zionists who are using Iraqi money and oil to frustrate the Islamic

movement in Iraq and come with their agents.

Is this what we have wrought?

These words should be condemned by the President. I am sure we all

would join in a resolution condemning the words of this head of the

Iraqi Parliament, this Iraqi Government that has executed a bilateral

military agreement with Iran.

Where are we heading, my friends?

But what is most disturbing is that this House, run by

the Republican Party, has failed to ask those questions of this

administration, and thereby abrogated its responsibility to the

American people to ask the questions that would have made a difference.

Did Mr. Pillar come before this Congress?

I can enumerate name after name of voices that, well, I could put up

a long list of generals, General Batiste, General Eaton, General Zinni,

who spoke truth to power, who said, This is the wrong course.

And listen, we never had a hearing until just recently in the

committee of jurisdiction, the House International Relations Committee.

Shame on us. Shame on this institution, Mr. Speaker.