Mr. Speaker, amidst the violence and struggle that always

attends the transition between tyranny and liberty, we have progress in

Iraq.

Yesterday, a Shiite Muslim, part of a population that suffered for 30

years under the iron fist of Saddam Hussein, a Shiite Muslim, Iyad

Allawi, was named prime minister along with Ghazi al Yawar, a Sunni

Muslim, and those two men will lead a free and democratic Iraq.

Mr. Allawi said memorably, in this country that was torn by tyranny

for three decades, that he was pledged to establishing a democratic and

federal system under which people enjoy free citizenship in a state of

laws and freedom. A quagmire, hardly. Difficult, yes. But an ethnically

diverse country coming together under the rule of law and democracy is

genuine progress in Iraq and worthy of celebrating in this Congress.