I thank my friend from Connecticut, and, just to set

the record straight, it was others, of course, that founded the Out of

Iraq Caucus. But Mr. Inslee and I, many, many years ago, it appears,

now, or at least it feels this way, came here with our colleagues, Ted

Strickland from Ohio and Neil Abercrombie from Hawaii, and spoke about

these issues.

I was just chatting with Jay Inslee, and we were reflecting on where

we were and what we have done, what we have accomplished. I think it

can really be summed up by these posters, these photos to my right. To

my far left is the President on the aircraft carrier, and behind him

that banner is ``Mission Accomplished.''

I would suggest this, that this administration, along with the

Republican majority in this House, have achieved something that defies

the imagination that no one would believe. It is truly remarkable.

I think that is best summed up when you examine the photo to my near

left. For those who are unaware, this gentleman that I am pointing to

now is the current Prime Minister of Iraq. His name is Maliki. In fact,

he spoke in this very Chamber, to the American people, and to Members

of Congress. He was given that honor. He came here just recently. He

visited with that President. Less than a month later, where is the

Prime Minister of Iraq? He is in Tehran.

One only has to recollect the words of President Bush, right here

again in this Chamber, when he described Iran as one of the original

members of the axis of evil club.

I would put forth that nothing, nothing that I am aware of, has

changed in terms of the administration's position vis-a-vis Iran. Here

we find the Prime Minister, reflect on that a moment, the Prime

Minister of Iraq is clasping hands with the President of Iran.

What is particularly interesting is the agreements that have been

reached between Iran and Iraq. These were two nations that fought an 8-

year war. But what we have accomplished is to enhance the influence of

Iran in the Middle East.

Take a look.

Exactly. The President of the United States has

achieved a remarkable, an absolutely remarkable, accomplishment.

I don't think it was ``friend.'' It was not ``friend,''

but it was even more intimate. I can't find the quote right now, even

though this is a story that came out today where the Prime Minister of

Iraq, after his meeting with President Ahmadinejad, he then goes and

meets with the Supreme Iranian leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and the

terms that they use are brothers, brothers.

Now, I wonder, is this an effort to unify?

Again, I think he rethought that statement, because of

the reaction, actually, from Democrats in this House. Because we were

not going to tolerate it.

But, I will tell you, he is shaking hands with the President of Iran

who described the Holocaust as a hoax. In other words, our ally, I am

not quite sure we should describe them as an ally now, but the

gentleman that is the Prime Minister of Iraq is shaking hands with the

Holocaust denier, the President of Iran.

By the way, it wasn't just a handshake, because you know what else

was done? Agreements were signed. Agreements were signed, border

agreements and bilateral military cooperation agreements were signed.

Do you know what is happening in Iraq, according to

military personnel? They are telling us, in

reports that appear in the media, that it is unraveling in Iraq. But

the Prime Minister has time to go to Iran, and, actually now, Iran is

giving the Prime Minister some advice.

What he is suggesting is, everything will be good, the region will be

stabilized. Let's just get the Americans out. That is his answer.

After hundreds of billions of dollars and the loss of more than 2,600

American personnel, this is where we are at: Mission accomplished, Mr.

President. Right. Mission accomplished by finally doing what you said

you would do. But you missed the wrong country. It isn't this country

that you are uniting. You are dividing this country and uniting Iran

and Iraq in a situation that portends danger for American national

security. That is what is happening, Mr. Speaker.

With the end game being the forging of an alliance

between Iran and Iraq, what we have done is, the policies of this

administration, without a single question being posed by this majority,

we have created a hegemony in the Middle East, and that is the Islamic

Republic of Iran.

Don't think that this photo is the last time we will see these

gentlemen together. The current prime minister during the Saddam

Hussein years spent considerable time in Tehran and in Syria. I am not

even blaming him.

Where is the administration? Where is the House International

Relations Committee, which I serve on with my friend and colleague from

California, Diane Watson? Why isn't there hearing after hearing after

hearing asking these questions?