Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlelady for her

leadership and also thank the author of this measure and simply point

out that we have already passed this measure, and we did pass it on our

defense bill last year.

Very simply, no American troops are permanently stationed in

countries around the world by virtue of the fact that we station them

with the permission of the host country. The idea that we are going to

insist or enforce, or unilaterally lodge American troops in Iraq is not

something that is contemplated by anybody.

I just say to the gentlelady that we may have a time in the future,

and we have dozens and dozens of countries around the world which on a

regular basis give us permission to move our troops across their land

area. We may have a time in the future, for example, 5 or 10 years from

now, when we have to have an early warning for a missile strike from

Iran to Israel.

I know that the gentlelady wouldn't object to American forces going

in and establishing an early warning station so that we can save the

lives of people living in Tel Aviv from a strike similar to the Scud

strike that Saddam Hussein launched in the early 1990s at Israel.

We may have a time when we have to project American forces for a

contingency around the world, and when you do that, regardless of what

country you are talking about of the dozens of countries that host us

on a regular basis, you go through a protocol. You contact the country.

You receive their official permission going through their government,

and that describes the parameters of the American presence that will be

there, how long it will be there, what the usage will be, whether it is

an airfield or a radar station.

But there could be a time, should Iran develop weapons of mass

destruction or continue on this path to develop weapons of mass

destruction and at some point attack a neighbor or prepare to attack a

neighbor, and it could well be in the interest of the United States,

for example, to have early warning capability should Iran want to make

a strike on a country like Israel when that request will be made. And

hopefully it would be responded to affirmatively by the free nation of

Iraq.

I support this legislation, and I will vote for it again, as I voted

for it six times. But I would hope that Members would understand and

realize that we use dozens and dozens of assets around the world which

are all done permissively by the host nations.