Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from New

York.

I wish those on the Republican side that are objecting to this

resolution would ask the President what is it about the word ``no''

that you don't understand? How many times do we have to say that there

will be no permanent military bases in Iraq?

Sure, we have said it in legislation before, but as recently as last

month the Secretary of Defense elaborated on the President's statement

about envisioning a long and enduring military presence in Iraq similar

to the Korean model. Well, imagine how that plays into the propaganda

of our enemy. No wonder al Qaeda is gaining in strength and

effectiveness. No wonder people are believing in what they are saying,

because we are playing into their hands. They are saying we are there

as occupiers of an oil-rich Arab country.

We believe that we went there as liberators, those who supported the

war. But gosh sakes, don't play into al Qaeda's strength. Take away

this recruiting tool and this rallying cry.

Let's pass this resolution today and say clearly and unequivocally:

No permanent military bases in Iraq, period.