Mr. President, there have been some in the leadership of

the majority, a few months ago, who declared the war in Iraq was lost.

There have been others who have been invested in two significant

debates we have had over withdrawing precipitously without any

consideration for the consequences. I have steadfastly supported our

effort in the global war on terror and, in particular, our effort in

Iraq, cautious to understand we have had difficulties and we have made

mistakes. But today I rise to ask those who have, in the past, declared

defeat or withdrawal to consider the alternative should America win.

Yesterday, in the New York Times, Kenneth Pollack and Michael

O'Hanlon wrote a significant editorial--neither one an advocate, per

se, of the war and the surge--that said this is a war we might win.

News that comes today from the Christian Science Monitor declares a

precipitous decline in the number of deaths of U.S. soldiers and

casualties and a tremendous decrease in IEDs.

On Monday night, the people of Iraq in every city, hamlet, and town

turned out in the streets, and without a single injury, they celebrated

the victory of the Iraqi soccer team in the Asian soccer games.

We must ask the question: What do we say if, in fact, the tide has

turned and we are winning? I think there may be some who will try and

redescribe what victory is, and for that purpose, I wish to describe

and remind everybody of what we already declared victory would be.

When President Bush asked all of us, and I supported going into Iraq

to enforce Resolution 1441 of the United Nations with 29 other

partners, we declared three goals: One, to find the weapons of mass

destruction and to depose Saddam Hussein; two, to allow the Iraqis the

chance to hold free elections and write a constitution; and, three, to

train the Iraqi military so it was capable of defending the people of

Iraq.

Saddam Hussein is gone, tried by his people and gone from this

planet. Weapons of mass destruction--no smoking gun was found, but all

the components were Scud missiles buried in the sand, elements of sarin

gas in the Euphrates River, some of the biological mobile laboratories

we thought were there were found, and 400,000 bodies in 8 mass graves

near Baghdad in Iraq. So that was accomplished.

Second, the Iraqis held three elections, wrote a constitution, and

now meet in a parliamentary form of government. It may not be

everything we like, but it is their Government and their progress, and

America gave them the opportunity to do it.

Now today in Iraq on the ground, Shiites who fought against us have

joined with us against al-Qaida. Sunnis who fought against us have

joined us in fighting against al-Qaida. In Ramadi, the streets are

clear. The people in Baghdad are happy the American soldiers are there

and afraid American soldiers may leave precipitously.

We are on the cusp of meeting the third goal. Iraqi troops--it is

being recognized now--Iraqi battalions have, in some cases--not all, in

some cases--demonstrated the capability of holding the areas Americans

have secured. America's soldiers are in the same camps with Sunni,

Shia, and Kurdish soldiers of the Iraqi military.

This war is not over, but two-thirds of the goals we established are

accomplished, and the third goal is within our reach. When we look in

the next 6 weeks toward September 15--and I don't know what General

Petraeus is going to say, but I know what the New York Times is saying,

I know what the Christian Science Monitor is saying, I know what the

Georgia soldiers I talk with or get e-mails from on the ground are

saying, I know what the attitude and morale of the American soldiers is

and the hopes and aspirations of the American people. Today I ask that

as we get ready to break, as we wait for the report on September 15, we

need to be prepared for victory, not invested in defeat.

This has been a tough battle. Some of my friends in Georgia have lost

their children. They have fought for a dream Americans have fought for

since this great Republic was founded, and that is the right to self-

determine your future.

I hope the Government of al-Maliki will accomplish some

reconciliation. I hope they will accomplish a hydrocarbon deal. I hope

debaathification can work. But I hope we would not declare failure

when, in fact, we have the opportunity it looks like to succeed. A lot

of brave young men and women in America have invested their lives in

the chance to win a victory, not for ourselves but for mankind, for

civility, for peace, for democracy, and for all the principles upon

which this country was founded.

So I hope for those who have been invested in the possibility that we

will fail, that they will get equally invested in the probability or

possibility that we will succeed and that together, as a Congress, we

can reward those who fought so valiantly and see to it that one more

democracy is born in the Middle East of this world.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that an article that appeared

this morning in the Christian Science Monitor and yesterday's article

of Michael O'Hanlon and Kenneth Pollack in the New York Times be

printed in the Record.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in

the Record, as follows: