Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I

may consume.

Madam Speaker, this resolution properly recognizes the government of

Canada for its commitment to the global war on terror.

As you know, Madam Speaker, we have forged strong relations with our

neighbor to the north, and we are united by common ideals and shared

interests. Relations between the U.S. and Canada are strong, and our

cooperation in the global war on terrorism is productive and robust.

The arrest of 17 alleged homegrown Islamic jihadists in Canada last

week was a vivid reminder that we are in this war together. Canadian

prosecutors claim the men plotted to storm the Canadian Parliament

building in Ottawa, take hostages, and behead Prime Minister Stephen

Harper if the Canadian Government refused to withdraw its 2,300 troops

now stationed in Afghanistan. The group also considered bombing a

nuclear power plant, the Toronto Stock Exchange, and other targets in

Toronto or Ottawa. I praise Canadian law enforcement and their security

forces for their excellent work in closing down that terror cell.

Last month, Madam Speaker, the Canadian Parliament voted to extend

Canada's peace and security mission in Afghanistan for another 2 years,

until 2009. Canada is a steadfast partner in the global war on terror.

Canada has roughly 2,300 defense personnel in Afghanistan and is

leading the efforts against a resurgent Taliban and al Qaeda force in

southern Afghanistan and is working to combat narcotics trafficking

there.

Canada has also pledged $650 million in developmental aid to

Afghanistan; and Afghanistan, as it turns out, is Canada's largest

recipient of bilateral development aid.

Madam Speaker, it is worth remembering that 24 Canadian citizens were

killed as a result of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the

United States. Seventeen Canadian military personnel have been killed

in the line of duty in Afghanistan. Last month Canadian Captain Nichola

Goddard was killed in the line of duty in Kandahar, Afghanistan. This

is the ultimate sacrifice, and we certainly mourn her loss and the

sacrifices made by her fellow soldiers.

We appreciate in America the role Canada plays in hemispheric and

global peacekeeping and humanitarian operations in Afghanistan, in

Haiti, in Darfur, and in other conflict areas.

Madam Speaker, President Bush met with Prime Minister Stephen Harper

of Canada and President Vicente Fox of Mexico 2 months ago to move

ahead with new initiatives to promote competitiveness and security. The

Security and Prosperity Partnership, or SPP, for North America is a

bold set of activities to strengthen our borders, promote free and

secure commerce and air transportation, and to harmonize the regulatory

process.

Canada is taking actions on flashpoints around the world. After

Hamas' election victory and refusal to repudiate violence, Canada was

the first nation in the world to cut off contacts and suspend

assistance to the Palestinian Authority, while preserving humanitarian

support for the Palestinian people. Canada listed in like manner the

Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, or the LTTE, as a terrorist group

under their criminal code, impeding terrorist financing of the LTTE and

other forms of support.

Prime Minister Harper intervened personally with Afghan President

Karzai to insist that the religious and civil rights of a Christian

convert, Abdul Rahman, be fully protected and to convey Canada's

concern that his treatment not undermine Afghanistan's international

rehabilitation. At the U.N., Canada is, and hopefully will always be, a

steadfast supporter for Israel.

In sum, though we may not always be in lock-step in our policies and

our approach, Canada remains a steadfast ally on the war on terrorism

and a promoter of democracy and freedom throughout the world.

I urge support for the concurrent resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, I have no further requests

for time, but I do want to thank Chairman Burton for sponsoring this

very important resolution. We often forget just how important our

friend is to the north. Canada is a reliable ally, a good friend in

thick and thin; so, again, I want to thank Chairman Burton for

sponsoring this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.