Mr. Speaker, Iraq's oil revenue is projected to be a

record $70 billion this year, according to a report set to be released

today from the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction. The

cost of Iraqi oil has skyrocketed in recent years up 250 percent since

2003. With these soaring oil revenues, the time is now for the Iraqi

government to take greater responsibility for the security and

reconstruction of their country and begin the process of weaning

themselves off the largesse of the United States of America.

Recently, Secretary of Defense, Robert Gates, announced that he was

cutting $171 million in Pentagon funding for a police station

construction in Iraq. This is a good first step towards ensuring that

the Iraqi government understands that they need to show a real and

sustained commitment to taking control of their country's destiny. By

spending some of their record oil revenues, the Iraqis can send a

definitive statement that they are serious about investing in their own

future.