Madam Speaker, over the break I had the opportunity to

travel to Iraq to meet with our troops and military commanders on the

ground there.

Two observations: the morale of our troops is high, and the surge is

working. General Petraeus has crafted a highly sophisticated

counterinsurgency strategy that has put the terrorists on

the defensive and brought some level of security to many Iraqi

communities where there had been none before.

Now I know it's hard to admit when you are wrong, but there are many

in this Chamber who came to this floor and opposed the surge saying it

would be a failure. Well, it hasn't been. It has been a success. In

fact, even the United Nations is recognizing the success of the

Petraeus strategy. The U.N.'s top envoy in Iraq acknowledged the

improvements in security and even tentative steps towards national

reconciliation this week.

Even for the war's opponents, it is now time to admit the success of

the surge strategy in Iraq. But, instead of honoring the great work of

our troops, all I hear is silence.