

credible job of making sure that Hussein's desires and ambitions did not materialize into weapons and delivery systems.

Containment, however, has a bad name in this administration. But I am old enough to remember President Reagan using it to bring down the Soviet Union. But containment was abandoned on March 19; and it is not over, that war they started.

While it is important for us to continue questioning how we got into the war and learn what lessons we can, our urgent task now is to figure out how to get out. We need to know whether there are 5,000 guerillas fighting us, as General Abizaid says, or 50,000, as the CIA apparently believes.

This is no small matter. Our Defense Secretary has created his own in-house Office of Special Intelligence to rival the CIA. We do not know which agency is closer to the truth. Lawrence of Arabia in World War I did awfully well with just 3,000 Arab irregulars. They tied down nearly 70 times that many Turkish troops. With a ratio like that, 5,000 guerrillas could tie down 350,000 of our troops. If 50,000 is the right number, we are looking at 3½ million of our own troops. And remember the Turks did not beat Lawrence, just as the Russians did not defeat the Afghan mujahedeen and Carthage did not rout Rome.

Our troops are identified as crusaders, invaders, occupiers, the superpower. American troops are magnets for centuries of resentment and targets for those who within Iraq are happy for the opportunity to stir those resentments up.

We need to know whether there is a plan to get out in a reasonable way or not. I do not believe we should walk away and leave the Iraqis in chaos. However much I deplore the way we went in, I do not want to have to deplore the way we get out. It is tempting to do what Senator Aiken from Vermont suggested in Vietnam, declare victory and get out; but it would be wrong. What would be right is to level with the American people, level with our allies, level with the U.N., and make a sustainable plan to leave Iraq; and I pray to leave Iraq better off than when we found it.

So far, the President has only said we were going to have an election after we had a constitution. Now we are going to have an election before the constitution and we are going to be out of there on June 1. It looks like it is all tied to the timing of the election in 2004. That is unfair to the people that we are serving in Iraq who have lost arms, who have lost legs, who have been severely injured. The President should be honest with us and honest with the U.N. and strike a workable deal. It can be done, but it requires the President of the United States to get off this attitude of "bring them on." That was foolishness from the start, and now we have people coming in from all over the Middle East to be involved in taking on our troops, and each day we lose more. There is no excuse.

But the President goes out to fund-raisers. He goes to Great Britain. He says he will meet with the bereaved over in Great Britain. But he does not go to public ceremonies honoring our dead in this country. Why is that? Is he afraid? Why does he not go forward and stand next to the mothers and the fathers as they lower their loved ones into the ground?

This President has never been straight with us about this war, and he is going to have to be, or we are going to wind up exactly as we did in Vietnam, running from the top of the embassy or some other way that we leave the country in disgrace. We should not allow that to happen to our troops.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members not to make personal references to the President such as accusing him of lying.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HINCHEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. INSLEE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WATSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WATSON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WATERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I am here this evening because I came to defy the President of the United States of America. I came to talk about what is happening in Iraq.

I came to do that, understanding that this President does not want this

kind of discussion. I recognize that the President does not want us to continue to remind him of this disaster in Iraq. This is a President who has tried to intimidate the news media and told them to stop writing about the bad things that were going on in Iraq, and he told them to write about good things that are happening in Iraq. But thank God that the news media of this country has continued to report on what is really going on in Iraq. Oh, yes, they have talked about some of the children returning to school, and they have talked about the book bags. But the American people want to know about what is happening with our soldiers. The American people are terribly upset about the loss of the lives of our soldiers.

So I am here in defiance of the orders and the attempts to keep us from talking about what is going on. The President's unilateral invasion of Iraq and his administration's subsequent mismanagement of the Iraq conflict have left our Nation in a quagmire. According to the Pentagon's own figures, 422 American servicemen and -women have been killed in Iraq since the beginning of the war and 2,041 have been wounded. No less than 284 Americans have been killed since the President announced the end of the major combat operations on May 1, and the casualties continue to climb.

I believe that this administration is in denial. Yes, the President posted that sign "Mission Accomplished." However, the war really did begin after the sign was posted, and our soldiers have been picked off one by one.

Mr. Speaker, attacks on U.S. helicopters have killed nearly 40 soldiers this month alone, and the attacks continue every day. This past Monday, two more soldiers were killed in two separate attacks near the town of Balad, 45 miles northwest of Baghdad.

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One soldier died and two more were wounded when Iraqi insurgents engaged their patrol with small arms fire. The other soldier was killed when a convoy was struck by a roadside bomb. Every day, more American soldiers are killed in Iraq with no exit strategy and no end in sight.

Mr. Speaker, I remember when our soldiers rolled into Baghdad. I remember the way the President bragged about Operation Shock and Awe. I remember how they said to the American people, we have all of the equipment and supplies and the military might that we need. We are going to shock and awe. And this kind of sloganeering that I thought was unbecoming of this administration was the order of the day.

Now, this administration is doing it again. The administration's most recent response to the mounting American casualties has been a new bombing campaign. This campaign is known as