

surrounding region, and consequences for U.S. interests.

On December 6th 2006, the Iraq Study Group presented a report to Congress containing 79 specific recommendations in support of three broad equally important strategies designed to reinforce each other:

A change in the primary mission of U.S. forces in Iraq that will enable the United States to begin to move its combat forces out of Iraq responsibly.

Prompt action by the Iraqi government to achieve milestones—particularly on national reconciliation; and

New and enhanced diplomatic and political efforts in Iraq and the region. Significantly, the ISG specifically rejected proposals for a precipitous withdrawal of U.S. combat forces or a major sustained increase in troop levels.

Unfortunately; the ISG report recommendations, which I immediately endorsed, was equally immediately rejected by both advocates of withdrawal and proponents of continued engagement. President Bush announced plans to “surge” 21,500 combat troops to Iraq and Democrats in Congress announced plans to cut off funding for the troops in the field unless the President agreed to an almost immediate withdrawal. I opposed both of these policies when they were announced, oppose them now and will continue to oppose them in the future.

President Bush and the Democrats in Congress both need to step back from their respective ideologically driven positions and focus on developing bipartisan legislation, based on recommendations of the Iraq Study Group, that will refocus U.S. operation in Iraq on helping the Iraqi people reconcile with each other and achieve a level of internal security that will make our continued presence unnecessary. We must shift the emphasis of U.S. military efforts from conducting combat operations to training the Iraqi security forces. We must demand that Iraqi government leaders set aside their sectarian differences and cooperate in governing their country for the greater good of all its citizens. Finally, we must work with governments in the region to eliminate the external threats to Iraqi security, particularly the foreign terrorists infiltrating from Syria and Iran.

Both President Bush and the Democrat leadership have paid lip service to the recommendations of the Iraq Study Group while steadfastly avoiding or actively opposing any effort to actually implement them. In early January 2007 President Bush took a single line in the ISG report regarding possible support for a SHORT TERM redeployment of U.S. combat forces to stabilize Baghdad and used it to justify a long term escalation of troop levels by over 20,000 soldiers. I immediately joined with several of my colleagues in sending a letter to the President expressing our opposition to this policy and shortly thereafter voted in favor of a Congressional resolution disapproving the surge. At almost the same time, the democrats in Congress seized upon another line in the ISG report acknowledging the United States should not make an open-ended commitment to keep large numbers of American troops deployed in Iraq and used it to justify a series of resolutions to cut off funding for the troops in the field. I have voted against each and every one of these efforts.

Neither President Bush nor the democrats in Congress has ever made any serious effort to

implement the ISG recommendations. In fact, the Democrat leadership in the House has consistently used a series of parliamentary maneuvers to prevent the subject from even being discussed. On June 6, 2007, I joined 45 of my colleagues as an original cosponsor of H.R. 2574, legislation to implement the recommendations of the Iraq Study Group. This legislation would establish as United States policy:

A new diplomatic offensive in the region that includes the creation of the Iraq International Support Group;

Giving the highest priority to training, equipping and advising the Iraqi military and security forces;

Assessing the full budgetary and personnel impact of the war in Iraq on the U.S. military;

Accelerating and increasing oil production and accountability including equitable distribution of oil revenues in Iraq;

Implementing and oversight of economic reconstruction programs in Iraq with the creation of a new Senior Advisor for Economic Reconstruction;

Ensuring that the President includes the cost of the war in his annual budget request; and

Setting conditions that could lead to redeployment of U.S. combat brigades not needed for force protection as early as the first quarter of 2008 if diplomatic, infrastructure and security benchmarks are met.

Last night I joined with Congressman WOLF to ask the Rules Committee to make in order an amendment that would substitute the proposals in The Iraq Study Group Recommendations Implementation Act for the fatally flawed language in H.R. 2956. On the directions of the Democrat leadership the Rules committee refused to even allow discussion of these proposals by voting 9–4 along party lines to not allow our amendment.

In the absence of cooperation between President Bush and the democrat leadership in Congress, our enemies have been emboldened and our allies have become discouraged. Sectarian violence continues to plague the Iraqi people. Iranian special operations forces are openly training insurgent forces, Turkey has massed nearly 140,000 troops on Iraq’s northern border and Syria continues to serve as a conduit for both illicit arms and foreign fighters. Meanwhile the democratically elected Iraqi government, in which our leaders took such pride just 18 months ago, has degenerated into a state of near paralysis. President Maliki becomes increasingly more marginalized with each passing day. The various ministries are riddled with corruption, incompetence and tribal rivalries. Finally, the Iraqi parliament has become so terrified of retribution they refuse to enact, or even vote on, any legislative proposal that cannot command the support of 100 percent of all sectarian leaders. This is a recipe not for progress but for disaster.

Under these circumstances, the democrat leaders in Congress bring us a partisan political statement masquerading as a not very substantive legislative proposal. I for one refuse to participate in their tawdry charade and will therefore vote NO on this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO THE UNITED STATES TENNIS ASSOCIATION BOYS’ 18 AND 16 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS ON ITS 65TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2007

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the United States Tennis Association Boys’ 18 and 16 National Championships on the occurrence of its 65th Anniversary. Hosted at Kalamazoo College since 1943, the tournament has earned a reputation of prestige and excellence, offering the finest in men’s junior tennis anywhere in the world.

Over the past six and a half decades, most of the great names in American tennis—Agassi, Ashe, Connors, Courier, McEnroe, Roddick, Sampras, and Young, among many others—have competed at Kalamazoo’s Stowe Tennis Stadium for the coveted title of USTA junior champion. The Championships have not only been witness to many record achievements in junior athletics, but also many of the most exhilarating moments in sports history.

The continued success and popularity of this event can only be attributed to the hundreds of volunteers and sponsors throughout Southwest Michigan, who have generously given of themselves year after year. Special recognition is also accorded to Kalamazoo College and Western Michigan University, whose hospitality in hosting and organizing the tournament has been essential. Not least, for their exceptional contributions, Kalamazoo’s own Rolla L. Anderson, Timon Corwin, David R. Markin, and Allan B. Stowe are to be praised for providing the leadership and commitment necessary for the tournament to flourish.

Hosting the USTA Boys’ 18 and 16 National Championships for so many years has been a tremendous honor for my district. On this momentous occasion, we look back to those whose legacies are manifest in the present, as well as those future generations of volunteers and athletes that will build upon this tradition.

THE IMPACT OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ON FOOD SECURITY IN AFRICA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2007

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, this morning the Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health held a hearing on the impact of agricultural development on food security in Africa. Living in a country of plenty as we do, at least for most of us, where local grocery stores have aisles of fresh produce, cereal and even pet food, one can easily forget that other parts of the world are not similarly blessed, and what undernourishment that results from food insecurity means in practical terms.

UNICEF estimates that undernutrition is a leading cause of mortality of children under the age of five, contributing to the death of about 5 million children every year. One to two