

has laid in front of the President. Worse than that, they are going to increase this. They are looking beyond Afghanistan and Iraq.

It is in the editorial today in *The Guardian*, which is a newspaper from England: "Looking beyond Iraq and Iran battlefields, U.S. commanders envisage a war unlimited in time and space against global Islamic extremism. 'The struggle may well be fought in dozens of other countries simultaneously and for many years to come.'"

How are they going to do that? Very simply. They are going to continue to spend a war debt. There will not be a dime to fix what is going on in New Orleans or the health care system or the educational system or anything else.

Listen to what is in that report. They want 15 percent more special forces, an extra 3,700 people in black operations, in PsyOps and civil affairs units. That is an increase of 33 percent. They will have people to run in and go and run these countries. They want nearly double the number of unmanned aerial drones.

Now, consider what an aerial drone is. That is something you take off in this country or take off somewhere, you fly over a country and somebody thousands of miles away says, drop the bomb over there at Seventh and Vine.

Now, consider what we are planning. We are planning to invade countries from the air without even being there. It will be like war games, like kids sitting in the front room with their little board games. That is what we are talking about. We are talking about taking our Trident nuclear submarines and refitting them, not to shoot up nuclear missiles, but to send up regular missiles. So they will pull alongside a country and fire a bunch of rockets into the country and they will fix them. This is what is going on. And America is sitting quietly by and watching this happen.

We are allowing the President and a very small number of people, Mr. Speaker, to make decisions. We have a Vice President who says he can now leak secret material anytime he figures he can use it. Use it to get us into another war. There are an awful lot of people on this floor, Mr. Speaker, who are very worried about the next 6 months in Iran because there is an election coming. And the only way you can get the people to vote the Republicans back in is by making them afraid. This is a vote of confidence on George Bush. And the people will have to vote "no" to get rid of them.

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

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

THE DETERIORATING SITUATION IN IRAQ

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to address the deteriorating situation in Iraq. Over the past 10 days, we have seen a country on the brink of civil war slide into civil war.

On February 22, a bomb exploded at the Golden Mosque causing significant damage to one of Shiite Islam's holiest shrines and setting off the latest and most violent sectarian violence since the war began in 2003.

Since the war began, we have witnessed almost daily bombings in Iraq. Thousands of IEDs have been exploded. Hundreds of suicide bombings have been staged. Tragically, the number of such attacks has grown each year, a stark contrast to the Vice President's prewar assessment that we would be greeted as liberators.

According to the U.S. Department of Defense, the number of insurgent attacks on our soldiers, Iraqi security forces, and civilians increased 29 percent in 2005 when compared to 2004. Specifically, the number of car bombs increased to 873 in 2005, more than twice of the number of car bombs in 2004, and the number of suicide car bombs went to 411 from 133.

Conservative estimates suggest that more than 30,000 Iraqi men, women and children have been killed since the war began. Unfortunately, Iraqis are not the only ones caught up in these attacks. More than 2,296 U.S. soldiers have died in Iraq and more than 16,825 have been injured. And I am sorry, I do not have the number of amputees or suicides tonight. But they are serious.

Our very presence in Iraq fuels the death, destruction and has helped create the civil war which now endangers millions of lives. These are not just my words. The same thoughts and sentiments are being echoed throughout conservative America.

It was said here earlier tonight, William F. Buckley, Jr., the founder of "The National Review" recently wrote, "One cannot doubt that the American objective in Iraq has failed."

Bill Kristol, one of the war's staunchest defenders recently said, "We have not had a serious 3-year effort to fight a war in Iraq."

Even columnist George Will recently described Iraq in this manner. "This is a civil war," he said.

The bombing of the Golden Mosque pushed Iraq over the edge. Thousands of Iraqis are in the streets protesting and others are attacking their historical enemies in retaliation to the bombing of the Golden Mosque.

According to today's *Washington Post*, more than 1,300 individuals have been killed, and more than 1,000 Sunni mosques have been attacked since last week's bombing of the Golden Mosque. Instead of putting a stop to the violence, Iraq's security forces are con-

tributing to the murders. It is clear that some Iraqis have joined the Iraq Army to continue family or tribal feuds under the protection of the Iraqi military uniform and that many Iraqis do not trust the military because of ethnic divisions.

This is a stark difference from the President's words that the Iraqis are successfully assuming the role of protecting their fellow countrymen. It is very interesting to note that the very week that Iraq has seen the most violent sectarian violence in years, the Defense Department announced that the number of Iraqi Army battalions capable of fighting the insurgency without U.S. help had fallen from one to none since September 2005.

Last summer, a defense official claimed that there were three battalions ready to take on the insurgency. However, in September 2005, General George Casey, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, told the Senate Armed Services Committee that the number of Iraqi battalions capable of fighting independently of U.S. troops had dropped from three to one. Therefore, despite 3 years and more than \$260 billion, we find that the number continues to decrease.

Now, the President is asking Congress to pass a supplemental appropriations request of \$75 billion for the Iraq war, the war on terrorism, and the gulf coast recovery efforts. The lion's share of this money, about \$63 billion, is for the Iraq war. If this bill passes, the total amount we will have spent on the war will be over \$350 billion.

The President is asking us to spend \$350 billion a war that his Administration claimed would be of minimal cost to American taxpayers.

Perhaps worse, the President wants to spend hundreds of billions of dollars on this war at a time when the Congress is pushing through tens of billions of dollars in cuts to Medicare, education, Community Development Block Grants and other important programs.

Mr. Speaker, the Administration has failed. It is long past time for our troops to come home. Civil war has broken out—we can not expect our soldiers to try to sort out which side is which in this civil war and we should not take sides. I urge the President to conclude this war and bring our troops home.

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MARKING THE 18TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SUMGAIT MASSACRES

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, today marks a tragic anniversary for Armenians around the world. In late February of 1988, in the town of Sumgait, Azerbaijan, an organized attack on the Armenians of the town was carried out by Azerbaijani nationals. This 3-day rampage left dozens dead and hundreds injured.