

**Sent:** Tue, 09 Sep 2003 17:57:27 -0400  
**From:** "Besanceney, Brian R." </O=EOP/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE  
GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=BRIAN R. BESANCENEY>

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**Subject:** TALKING POINTS: Progress in the War on Terror (9/9)  
[09-09 Talking Points\\_Progress in the War on Terror.pdf](#)

## Talking Points: Progress in the War on Terror

September 9, 2003

### Message of the Week

- President Bush outlined a strategy for meeting our three major objectives in Iraq: 1) improving security by aggressively hunting down terrorists; 2) expanding the contributions of the international community beyond the 40 countries that have responded and are helping the Iraqi people build security and sovereignty in their nation; and 3) accelerating efforts to transfer power and responsibility to the Iraqi people.
- To accomplish these goals:
  - America's armed forces are taking the offensive, conducting Operation Longstreet in Iraq and Operation Warrior Sweep in Afghanistan over the past two weeks. Based on good intelligence from Iraqis and Afghans, these operations have resulted in scores of arrests, the confiscation of thousands of weapons, pre-emption of enemy activities, and denial of sanctuary to former regime loyalists and other anti-coalition elements in Afghanistan and Iraq.
  - The President has directed Secretary Powell to work with the United Nations Security Council on a new resolution that: 1) invites the Iraqi Governing Council to submit a written plan and timetable for writing a Constitution, conducting free elections, and



assuming sovereignty over Iraq; 2) authorizes a multinational force under a unified command led by U.S. Central Command, which would encourage other nations to join those that are already participating in stabilizing Iraq; and 3) endorses an expanded role for the UN in aiding with reconstruction efforts, generating more funds for reconstruction, and assisting in the creation of an electoral system.

- Ambassador Paul Bremer's seven-point plan to "get Iraqis back in charge of Iraq" is already being implemented. The plan includes: 1) creating the Iraqi Governing Council; 2) encouraging the Governing Council to develop a mechanism to develop and adopt a constitution; 3) putting day-to-day governmental operations in the hands of Iraqis; 4) writing the constitution; 5) achieving popular ratification of the constitution; 6) electing a sovereign government; and 7) ceding remaining coalition authority to the Iraqi government. In the space of about five months, the first three steps of the plan have been implemented. The international community is noticing; for example, the Arab League recognized and seated the Governing Council's delegate to its most recent meeting.

## **Recent Progress in Iraq**

- *Sharing Security Responsibilities with Iraqis:* Iraqis continue to take a larger role in securing their own country. Since major combat operations ended May 1, close to 60,000 Iraqis have been trained and are in the field as police, soldiers, and border guards and as part of the civil defense corps. This number is growing every day. And, the international community is sharing responsibility for helping to secure Iraq. Around 30 nations have troops on the ground in Iraq – up from 19 nations just two months ago.
- *Restoring Needed Services for the Iraqi People:* 2,000 repairs have been made to 143 water networks in Iraq. Electricity generation reached its highest post-war levels during the last week of August, with more than 3,700 megawatts, and it is expected to soon reach pre-war levels. Oil production – the backbone of the Iraqi economy – is proceeding, with 1.4-1.7 million barrels being produced each day. All of Iraq's universities are open, and most secondary schools are now open. Since the end of July, all of Iraq's major hospitals have been open, along with 95 percent of local clinics. Stocks of medicine and medical technology have been rapidly replenished.
- *Promoting Democracy in Baghdad:* In each of Baghdad's 88 neighborhoods, citizens have freely selected representatives for local governing councils. They, in turn, choose members of 9 District Councils and a 37-member City Council. All told, over 700 democratically selected Council Members are now hard at work serving their fellow citizens. They include Sunnis, Shias, Christians, Arabs and Kurds, and more than 75 women.

## **This Week's Developments**

- Sunday: President Bush's Address to the Nation
- Tuesday: Secretary Powell and Deputy Secretary Wolfowitz testify on Capitol Hill

- Wednesday: President Bush remarks on Homeland Security, FBI Academy, Quantico, VA
- Thursday: Two-year anniversary of 9/11
- Friday: President Bush remarks to 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division, Fort Benning, GA
- Saturday: Secretary Powell meets with UN Security Council members in Geneva.

## **Key Facts About the President's Budget Request**

- In his address to the Nation, President Bush announced his intention to submit a request to Congress for additional funds to pay for military and intelligence operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and elsewhere in the war on terror, and to help pay for the reconstruction of both nations.
- Most of these funds (\$66 billion) are dedicated to give our men and women in uniform the resources they need to succeed in their missions in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere in the war on terror – including military operations, equipment, and even needed R&R time for our troops. The remainder of the funds (\$21 billion) are dedicated to helping to build safe, stable, and self-governing societies in these nations ravaged by decades of misrule. The Administration intends to consult with the leadership and relevant committees of Congress on the final form and content of this request prior to submitting proposed legislation.
- The \$87 billion request for Iraq and Afghanistan is 3.8% of the federal budget – a reasonable amount of our budget to spend on these two critical fronts in the War on Terror.
- The costs of the War on Terror are manageable and modest compared to previous conflicts in American history. According to a recent analysis by *USA Today*, the costs of the war fighting in Iraq were approximately 0.5% of GDP, compared to 130% for World War II and 15% for the Korean War.
- President Bush has held the line on spending growth outside of national security and homeland security needs. In 2001, the last budget before President Bush took office, non-defense spending grew by nearly 15%. He cut that growth rate to 6% in 2002, less than 5% in 2003, and 2% in 2004 – while providing funding for key security and domestic priorities. Through spending restraint and economic growth, the President plans to cut the deficit in half in five years.



# Talking Points: Progress in the War on Terror

September 9, 2003

## Message of the Week

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