

Sent: Thu, 13 Nov 2003 19:16:26 -0500
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
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Talking Points: Progress in the War on Terror

November 13, 2003

This Week's Actions

- **The United States is working with the Iraqi Governing Council to encourage Iraqis to assume more responsibility over their country and accelerate the transfer of authority to an elected Iraqi government.** Ambassador Bremer met with the President this week and is returning to Iraq to work with the Iraqi Governing Council to develop a strategy for accelerating the transfer of more authority to the Iraqi people.
 - Ambassador Bremer said, "I'll be taking [the Governing Council] a message from the president that he remains steadfast in his determination to defeat terrorism in Iraq and steadfast in his determination to give the Iraqis authority over their country, authority they're already beginning to assume very quickly in the area of security and in the area of running the Iraqi ministries."
- **Our mission in Iraq and Afghanistan is clear to our soldiers and to our enemies – to bring peace and freedom to 50 million people who have suffered under brutal dictatorships.** As President Bush said this week, "Our men and women are fighting to help democracy and peace and justice rise in a troubled and violent region. Our men and women are fighting terrorist enemies thousands of miles away in the heart and center of their power, so that we do not face those enemies in the heart of America. Our men and women are fighting for the security of America and for the advance of freedom, and that is a cause worth fighting for. The work we are in is not easy; yet it is essential."
 - This week in Iraq, coalition forces conducted *Operation Green Shield* in and around Baghdad to root out terrorists who have conducted recent attacks. U.S. troops have successfully neutralized enemy forces that were responsible for some recent mortar attacks, and destroyed a warehouse facility that was a frequent meeting place for the enemy.
 - This week in Afghanistan, coalition forces are conducting *Operation Mountain Resolve*

to destroy enemy forces, block enemy escape routes, and generate additional intelligence about locations of enemy cells.

- **This week, America honored the veterans of past wars as we remember the service and sacrifice of our current generation of soldiers.** President Bush said, "On this Veterans Day, with our nation at war, Americans are deeply aware of the current military struggle and of recent sacrifice. Young Americans have died in liberating Iraq and Afghanistan. They've died in securing freedom in those countries. The loss is terrible. It is borne especially by the families left behind. But in their hurt and in their loneliness, I want these families to know your loved one served in a good and just cause. They died in distant lands to fight terror, to advance freedom and to protect America. They did not live to be called veterans, but this nation will never forget their lives of service and all they did for us."

In Case You Missed It

"Revisionist Thoughts on the War in Iraq," by Fawaz Turki, The Arab News, 11/6/03 – "Is it too early to adopt a revisionist view of the US war in Iraq and for this column to admit its mistake in having vehemently opposed it from the outset? At issue here is whether the Iraqi people have benefited from the overthrow of the Baathist regime and whether the American occupation will eventually benefit their country even more. I'm convinced.... that what we have seen in the land between the Tigris and the Euphrates in recent months may turn out to be the most serendipitous event in its modern history. One need offer no apology for saying that the supreme virtue of this war is that Saddam Hussein was gotten rid of. Period. The very man who had established arguably the closest approximation of a genuine fascist state in the Arab world, that sustained itself on fear, repression, genocide, cult of personality and wanton murder — a state whose law was that those who rule are the law. One doesn't become a revisionist in a vacuum. I pore over material from various media sources about the mass graves unearthed all over Iraq, particularly those discovered in uncounted pits in the south, where Saddam had crushed a rebellion there in 1991 with genocidal ferocity, and I turn away in nauseated disbelief. Then there's the UN Special Rapporteur's September 2001 report about the execution of 4,000 prisoners at Abu Ghraib's prison in 1984, and 3,000 others at the Mahjar prison between 1993 and 1998. And you ask how a regime could become so monstrous, so whisked clean of human decency..... Washington may not succeed in turning Iraq into a 'beacon of democracy' but it will succeed, after all is said and done, in turning it into a society of laws and institutions where citizens, along with high-school kids, are protected against arbitrary arrest, incarceration, torture and execution."

Talking Points: Progress in the War on Terror

November 13, 2003

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