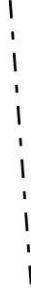


**Sent:** Thu, 16 Oct 2003 18:48:11 -0400  
**From:** "Besanceney, Brian R." </O=EOP/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE  
GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=BRIAN\_R.\_BESANCENEY>

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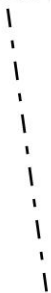
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**Subject:** TALKING POINTS: Progress in the War on Terror  
[10-16 Talking Points.pdf](#)

## Talking Points: Progress in the War on Terror

October 16, 2003

### Message of the Week

- On the world stage and here at home, we are making progress in securing support to help our troops accomplish their mission in Iraq – and to help the Iraqi people achieve self-governance after decades of oppression.
- The United States achieved a significant victory at the UN Security Council today. The Security Council, on a unanimous 15-0 vote, adopted a resolution co-sponsored by the United States, Britain, Spain, and Cameroon that supports our efforts to help Iraqis build a peaceful and free Iraq. This is an important step toward achieving one of the President's three major goals in Iraq – expanding international participation to help Iraqis stabilize and rebuild their nation.
  - The resolution further defines the unique role that the UN can and should play in rebuilding Iraq, and makes it clear that all governing responsibilities will be turned over to the Iraqi people as soon as it is feasible.
  - The resolution can help to further America's stated goals for the international community's engagement in Iraq: a multinational force under unified command, a vital role for the UN in assisting Iraqis in their political transition, including assistance in drafting a constitution and conducting elections, and greater involvement of the international community in the reconstruction effort.
  - The resolution reflects an understanding by the international community that a safe, stable Iraq is in the interest of the entire world. It shows that the rebuilding of Iraq is truly an international responsibility with international support.



- Congress is making progress on a critical supplemental budget request that directly supports the work of our troops in the War on Terror.
  - The vast majority of the President's request goes to giving American troops fighting the War on Terror the equipment, pay, and other resources they need to perform their mission.
  - A smaller amount – less than one-fourth – goes to helping to create conditions on the ground in Iraq that will enable our troops to succeed in their mission – by providing the basic services and humanitarian relief that will make a big difference in stabilizing the country, enabling the Iraqi people to achieve full self-governance, and hastening the day when our troops can come home.

## **Recent Progress in Iraq**

- ***New Iraqi Currency Went into Circulation This Week:*** Iraq took an important step this week on the road to stability and self-governance by exchanging a new currency. The new Iraqi currency features images of Iraq's history in place of pictures of Saddam Hussein-- a real symbol of change in Iraq. A stable Iraqi currency will accelerate that country's transition to a market-based economy, enabling Iraq to stand on its own sooner.
- ***Working Together to Increase Security*** -- Iraqi citizens are increasingly working with Coalition forces to help them prevent terrorist attacks and locate caches of weapons. An Iraqi security guard recently provided information to soldiers of Task Force Ironhorse about a cache of hundreds of rounds of potentially dangerous mortar shells. With the guard's help, a patrol secured the ammunition and destroyed it. The 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne (Air Assault) recently completed work on a communications system in Sinjar that will enable local citizens to contact U.S. soldiers. Iraqis will be able to call in case of emergencies, or pass along valuable information about terrorist plots or suspicious individuals.

## **In Case You Missed It – Comments on Reconstruction Aid vs. Loans**

*Washington Post Editorial, October 15, 2003* – “Paying to improve life for Iraqis will help create a safer environment for U.S. troops and will hasten the day when they can leave. Rebuilding the electricity grid, fixing the water supply, getting the oil flowing, maintaining public safety -- all this is central to hopes for stability and representative government.”

“One of the biggest temptations for lawmakers will be to lend the money rather than spend it outright....This may play well back home, but it's the wrong way to go. Iraq is already burdened with about \$200 billion in debt. Either much of that will be forgiven, in which case a U.S. reconstruction loan will prove mostly symbolic, or Iraq will struggle for years under a crushing debt burden, in which case another loan only adds to the misery. To make a loan in these circumstances is like swimming out to a drowning man and handing him a ten-pound weight. As a practical matter, no Iraqi entity has the legal authority to enter into a binding agreement. Lending the money will harm the U.S. effort to persuade

other countries to donate. And forcing Iraq to encumber itself with debt to the United States, with U.S. companies reaping the reconstruction profits, plays into the hands of those who suspect U.S. motives.”

*Raleigh (NC) News & Observer Editorial, October 15, 2003* – “Congress ought to provide the resources necessary to win the peace. At its heart, Bush's proposal shapes up as providing the bricks and mortar of a modern nation. ... For the same reason, Congress would be wise to resist the impulse to make the first elected Iraqi government repay the costs of rebuilding from Saddam's years of misrule and the war to oust him.”

*Statement of Administration Policy, October 16, 2003*: “The Administration strongly opposes efforts to convert any portion of this assistance to a loan mechanism. Doing so would slow efforts to stabilize the region and to relieve pressure on our troops, raise questions about our commitment to building a democratic and self-governing Iraq, and impair our ability to encourage other nations to provide badly needed assistance without saddling Iraq with additional unsustainable debt burden. The United States’ contribution for security and for sectors critical to stability and growth will have an immediate and significant impact on improving the lives of Iraqi people. An economically stable and peaceful Iraq is essential to our Nation’s security.”



# Talking Points: Progress in the War on Terror

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