

**From:** "Kropp, Emily L."  
**To:** "Anton, Michael N."  
**Cc:** "Kavanaugh, Brett M."  
**Subject:** FW: Blair Press Avail and Radio annotated  
**Sent:** Fri, 12 Nov 2004 07:19:18 -0500  
[BlairPressAvail12November2004#10ann.doc](#)  
[Radio13November2004#7ann.doc](#)

Mike -

Do you want to reword that sentence and send back to me?

Thanks

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Currin, John

**Sent:** Thursday, November 11, 2004 7:02 PM

**To:** Staff Secretary

**Cc:** Anton, Michael N.; Drouin, Lindsey E.; McConkey, Joshua D.; Kropp, Emily L.; Campbell, Anne E.; Miers, Harriet

**Subject:** Blair Press Avail and Radio annotated

Concerning Radio: CENTCOM has now commented through Commander Fisher of the Joint Staff on the statement that American and Iraqi forces have secured more than 70 percent of Fallujah. CENTCOM says the statement is correct, but advises against putting such a percentage in the President's remarks because the situation in Fallujah is fluid.

Press Availability with Prime Minister Tony Blair  
Friday, November 12, 2004  
Draft #10

I am pleased to welcome a statesman and a friend back to the White House.<sup>1</sup> Prime Minister Blair is a visionary leader, and a man of unshakable conviction. America's alliance with Great Britain has never been stronger,<sup>2</sup> and we are working closely every day to spread the freedom that leads to peace.

Our two nations have shared in some of the most hopeful and positive achievements of our time. The people of Afghanistan have now chosen their President in a free election.<sup>3</sup> The Taliban and the terrorists did everything they could to intimidate the long-suffering people of that country<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Prime Minister Blair last visited the White House on April 16, 2003. Remarks by the President and United Kingdom Prime Minister Tony Blair in Press Availability, Rose Garden, April 16, 2003 (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2004/04/20040416-4.html>)

<sup>2</sup>It is debatable whether the "Special Relationship" between the United States and Great Britain is stronger today than it was during the time of President Franklin Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill, or during the time of President Ronald Reagan and Prime Minister Thatcher. Kurt Volker, NSC, agreed that re-wording this sentence to say that America's alliance with Great Britain is as strong as ever might be safer, but Mike Anton wanted to leave as is. "The United Kingdom is one of the United States' closest allies, and British foreign policy emphasizes close coordination with the United States. Bilateral cooperation reflects the common language, ideals, and democratic practices of the two nations. **Relations were strengthened by the United Kingdom's alliance with the United States during both World Wars, and its role as a founding member of NATO, in the Korean conflict, in the Persian Gulf War, and in Operation Iraqi Freedom.** The United Kingdom and the United States continually consult on foreign policy issues and global problems and share major foreign and security policy objectives." Department of State, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, Background Note: United Kingdom" (October 2004) (<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/3846.htm>)

<sup>3</sup> "Afghanistan identifies itself as an "Islamic Republic." The new national constitution adopted on January 4, 2004 paved the way for nationwide presidential and parliamentary elections. **Afghanistan held its first national democratic Presidential elections on October 9, 2004. Hamid Karzai was announced as the official winner on November 3, 2004.** Parliamentary and local elections are planned for spring 2005." Department of State, Bureau of South Asian Affairs, "Background Note: Afghanistan" (November 2004) (<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5380.htm>)

<sup>4</sup> Confirmed with Herro Mustafa, NSC (X69381) "There are still some huge challenges, mainly in the security area," Lt. Gen. David W. Barno, the top American commander in Afghanistan, said by telephone from his headquarters in Kabul, the capital. "But on a broad scale, as we look to the election, we think this country is very much on the road to success." While the attacks have increased, they still do not approach the level of violence in Iraq and have failed in many ways to halt reconstruction efforts, American and Afghan officials say. **A Taliban campaign to derail a voter registration drive for the Afghan presidential election in October has largely failed, with roughly 8 million of 10 million eligible voters defying Taliban death threats and registering.** Taliban attacks appear to have virtually no effect on Afghanistan's main cities, where foreign reconstruction money, remittances from Afghans living abroad and the opium trade are fueling a construction boom. But the Taliban appear to be hampering the flow of aid in rural areas, particularly in remote regions in the south." Eric Schmitt and

– yet men and women lined up at the polls, some of them waiting for hours to have their first taste of democracy.<sup>5</sup> The success of Afghanistan's election is a standing rebuke to cynicism and extremism ... and a testimony to the power of liberty and hope. The people of the United States and Great Britain can be proud of the role we have played in aiding the rise of a free nation, and in making our own countries more secure.

Together, we are serving the same cause in Iraq. Prime Minister Allawi authorized military operations to rid Fallujah of Saddam holdouts and foreign terrorists<sup>6</sup> – and American and Iraqi forces have made substantial progress in the last several days.<sup>7</sup> Our coalition is training Iraqi security

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David Rohde, "Taliban Fighters Increase Attacks, With Troubling Toll Among G.I.'s and Afghans," *New York Times*, August 1, 2004 (NEXIS).

<sup>5</sup> "Initial reports indicate that voter turnout was extraordinarily high. **Long lines were reported at polling stations throughout the country**, and voting hours were extended to accommodate the turnout. In Bamiyan, for instance, Afghans stood in line for up to two hours in the snow to cast their vote." "U.S. Congratulates the Afghan People on Successful Election; Voter turnout was high for first election in 5,000 years," News From Washington File, State Department, October 9, 2004. (NEXIS) In Kandahar, once the stronghold of the Taleban, **long lines formed at polling places**. "We are just so happy to be voting and to be choosing the president who will lead Afghanistan in the future," one Afghan woman told a British Broadcasting Corporation correspondent. Another voter said, "a few years ago every group was coming to power by killing others, by bloodshed. Now after this election there will be a legal transfer of power." "EDITORIAL: AFGHANISTAN VOTES," Voice of America News, October 15, 2004. (NEXIS) "The electoral practices of this village headman illustrate both the potential and the limitations of the first presidential election in **Afghanistan, where voting began early today with long lines in some places and difficulties elsewhere**." David Zucchini, "Afghans Try Their Hand at Democracy," *The Los Angeles Times*, October 9, 2004. (NEXIS)

<sup>6</sup> Confirmed with Lt. Col. Robert H. Cole, USAF, Executive Assistant to the Vice Director of the Joint Staff, via Hedy Henderson, OASD-PA. "SEC. RUMSFELD: ... **So at the request of the interim Iraqi government**, coalition soldiers are today assisting Iraqi forces in conducting coordinated offensive operations in and around the city of Fallujah to restore law and order to this troubled area." Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld Press Briefing, November 8, 2004, (<http://www.dod.gov/transcripts/2004/tr20041108-secdef1541.html>).

"QUESTION: If we could begin with Fallujah, which is the story of the day, **Prime Minister Allawi has given the authorization**. And I'd like to see, well, does this make or break for the Iraqi process? I mean, it's a defining moment that will set the tone for the elections and the elections are held successfully or not. How do you see Fallujah in them? So why the contacts? SECRETARY POWELL: Fallujah has become a hotbed of the insurgency, a magnet for terrorists and a source of instability in the Sunni Triangle, and so it was time to deal with Fallujah. **And as you know, Prime Minister Allawi has put in place emergency powers and used his emergency powers and has given the political go ahead from the Iraqi side for actions in Fallujah, and the United States and other coalition forces and Iraqi security forces will be moving into the city to clear the insurgents, former regime elements, terrorists, and place it back under the control of the Iraqi Interim Government.**" Hubert Wetzel and Guy Dinmore, INTERVIEW with Secretary of State Colin L. Powell, *Financial Times*, November 8, 2004

<sup>7</sup> Confirmed with Lt. Col. Robert H. Cole, USAF, Executive Assistant to the Vice Director of the Joint Staff, via Hedy Henderson, OASD-PA.

forces, who are performing bravely and taking increasing responsibility for their country's security.<sup>8</sup> British, American and other coalition forces are helping provide the stability necessary for national elections.<sup>9</sup> And UN officials are helping the Iraqi people prepare for those elections,<sup>10</sup> to be held on schedule in January.<sup>11</sup>

As those elections draw near, the desperation of the killers will grow ... and the violence could escalate. The success of democracy in Iraq will be a crushing blow to the forces of terror – and the terrorists know it. The defeat of terror in Iraq will set that nation on a course to lasting freedom, and will give hope to millions – and the Iraqi people know it. The United States and Great Britain have shown our determination to help Iraqis achieve their liberty, and to defend the security of the world. We will continue to stand by our friends, and we will finish the job.

Prime Minister Blair and I are also committed to the next steps that must be taken to build a future of peace and progress.<sup>12</sup> We share a vision of freedom for the Broader Middle East. And we are committed to seeking a just and peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. We are committed to the security of the state of Israel. The Palestinian people deserve peace and security in a democratic state of their own, and we will work hard to help them achieve these goals. In less than two months, the Palestinian people will have an opportunity to elect a new president committed to fighting terror and to the cause of reform.<sup>13</sup> There are many

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<sup>8</sup> Confirmed with Lt. Col. Robert H. Cole, USAF, Executive Assistant to the Vice Director of the Joint Staff, via Hedy Henderson, OASD-PA.

<sup>9</sup> Confirmed with Stuart Jones, NSC (X69381).

<sup>10</sup> The team in Iraq currently consists of 9 UN representatives, which will grow to about 21 representatives over the next few weeks. These are experts in international elections who are giving technical advice to the IECI on election rules and regulations for the upcoming January election. Information provided by Drew Erdmann, NSC, (X69381).

<sup>11</sup>The Transitional Administrative Law calls for the election to be held no later than January 31, 2005. No change has been made to this schedule. Information from Stuart Jones, NSC (X69381)

<sup>12</sup> The language of this paragraph has been cleared with Elliott Abrams, Rob Danin and Adnan Kifayat, (Near Eastern and North African Affairs), NSC.

<sup>13</sup> Wording cleared with Elliott Abrams, NSC. "Arafat had not anointed a successor, but within hours the Palestine Liberation Organization elected former Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas to replace him as its new chief, virtually ensuring he takes over as Palestinian leader, at least for now. The Palestinian legislature also swore in Speaker Rauhi Fattouh as caretaker president of the Palestinian Authority, the self-ruling power in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, though that position will likely have far less power than when Arafat held it. **Fattouh is to serve for 60 days until elections can be held**, though the law may be

challenges ahead, and we look forward to the emergence of new Palestinian leaders who will be true partners in this process. The objective of two states living side by side in peace and security can be reached by only one path: the path of democracy, reform, and the rule of law. In the period of transition that lies ahead, the Prime Minister and I look forward to working closely and constructively with the Palestinian people's new leaders. And we urge governments in the region and around the world to play a constructive role in helping to achieve a lasting peace.

All that we hope to achieve together requires that America and Europe remain close partners.<sup>14</sup> We are the pillars of a free world. We face the same threats, and share the same belief in freedom and the rights of the individual. In my second term, I will work to deepen our transatlantic ties with the nations of Europe. My government will continue to work through the NATO alliance and with the European Union to strengthen cooperation between Europe and America. America applauds the success of NATO and EU enlargement ... and welcomes the stability and prosperity that this brings. We must apply the combined strength and moral purpose of Europe and America to effectively fight terror, and to overcome poverty, disease, and despair ... and to advance human dignity and freedom.

In all that lies ahead – in the defense of freedom, in the advance of democracy, in the spread of prosperity – America, the United Kingdom, and all of Europe must act together.

Thank you.

*Drafted by: Michael Anton, NSC Speechwriting  
Office: 202/456-9379  
Cell: 703/851-3512*

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amended to allow parliament to choose the new president." Ravi Nessmann, "Arafat Successors Picked; Questions Remain," *The Associated Press*, November 11, 2004 (NEXIS).

<sup>14</sup> The language of this paragraph was check and approved by Daniel Fried and Kurt Volker (European and Eurasian Affairs), NSC.

Radio Address  
Saturday, November 13, 2004  
Draft #7

Good morning.

Earlier this week, Prime Minister Allawi of Iraq authorized military operations to rid the city of Fallujah of Saddam holdouts and foreign terrorists.<sup>1</sup> American Marines and soldiers, alongside Iraqi security forces, are on the offensive against the killers who have been using Fallujah as a base of operations for terrorist attacks<sup>2</sup> ... and who have held the local population in the grip of fear. Fighting together, our forces have made significant progress in the last several days.<sup>3</sup> They are taking back the city,

<sup>1</sup> Language confirmed by Stu Jones, NSC, (X69381) and Drew Erdmann, NSC, (X69381). "SEC. RUMSFELD: ... **So at the request of the interim Iraqi government**, coalition soldiers are today assisting Iraqi forces in conducting coordinated offensive operations in and around the city of Fallujah to restore law and order to this troubled area." Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld Press Briefing, November 8, 2004, (<http://www.dod.gov/transcripts/2004/tr20041108-secdef1541.html>).

"QUESTION: If we could begin with Fallujah, which is the story of the day, **Prime Minister Allawi has given the authorization**. And I'd like to see, well, does this make or break for the Iraqi process? I mean, it's a defining moment that will set the tone for the elections and the elections are held successfully or not. How do you see Fallujah in them? So why the contacts? SECRETARY POWELL: Fallujah has become a hotbed of the insurgency, a magnet for terrorists and a source of instability in the Sunni Triangle, and so it was time to deal with Fallujah. **And as you know, Prime Minister Allawi has put in place emergency powers and used his emergency powers and has given the political go ahead from the Iraqi side for actions in Fallujah, and the United States and other coalition forces and Iraqi security forces will be moving into the city to clear the insurgents, former regime elements, terrorists, and place it back under the control of the Iraqi Interim Government.**" Hubert Wetzel and Guy Dinmore, INTERVIEW with Secretary of State Colin L. Powell, Financial Times, November 8, 2004.

<sup>2</sup> Confirmed by Lt. Col. Robert H. Cole, USAF, Executive Assistant to the Vice Director of the Joint Staff, via Hedy Henderson, OASD-PA. "GEN. CASEY: ... **As you know, Fallujah has been the center of terrorist and insurgent activity in Iraq. It has been used as a planning, staging, and logistics base for foreign fighters and the Iraqi insurgents that support them.** From Fallujah they have exported terror across Iraq against all Iraqis. **As we have seen in Najaf, Tall Afar, Samarra and Thawra, the Iraqi people are fighting to throw off the mantle of terror and intimidation so that they can elect their own government and get on with building a better life for all Iraqis.** Elimination of Fallujah as a terrorist safe haven will go a long way in helping them achieve these goals." Gen. Casey, SPECIAL DEFENSE DEPARTMENT BRIEFING SUBJECT: IRAQ SECURITY FORCES AND MULTINATIONAL FORCES OFFENSIVE ACTIONS IN FALLUJAH, IRAQ, November 8, 2004. (nexis) "An estimated 10,000-15,000 American troops launched Operation Phantom Fury in Fallujah on November 8, 2004. This followed weeks of aerial bombardment by U.S. planes. A number of trained Iraqi forces also participated in the operation. U.S. commanders expected about 2,000 members of Iraqi Security Forces to fight with American troops but Gen. George W. Casey Jr., the top American commander in Iraq, acknowledged that an unknown number of the Iraqis did not show up." (<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/ops/oif-phantom-fury-fallujah.htm>)

<sup>3</sup> Language confirmed by Ted Stout, Lt. Col., Joint Chiefs of Staff, via b(3) 10 USC 130b DOD, 703-587-2747 (cell). "GEN. SATTLER: Okay. I will not get into the exact locations in the forward progress of any of the forces for obvious reasons. But I can -- I'll take you to the map, and I'll just cover

clearing mosques of weapons and explosives stockpiled by insurgents<sup>4</sup>, and restoring order for law-abiding citizens. They have secured more than 70 percent of the city.<sup>5</sup>

In the course of this operation, Iraqi troops have discovered new evidence of the enemy's brutality.<sup>6</sup> An Iraqi general has described "hostage slaughterhouses"

where we have moved. The mission is the liberation of the entire city of Fallujah. And part of that mission is to ensure that there are no safe havens, no safe havens throughout the entire city of Fallujah. In performing that mission, that means we must cover the entire city. So there has been no concentration on the center of Fallujah. **We've actually worked the entire city to this point, and as you saw in the film, with the Iraqi armed forces leading the way in many of the areas, fighting in all the areas but actually leading the way in many, with both of our missions being the elimination of the terrorists, murderers and intimidators;** the reestablishment of the rule of law; and then to build the conditions for reconstruction. The return of essential services to the town can follow immediately after the offensive operations, right behind offensive operations." Presenter: Major General Abdul Qader Mohammed Jassem Mohan, Chief of Iraqi Military Operations; Lieutenant General John Sattler, USMC, Commander, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Fallujah, November 10, 2004, (<http://www.dod.gov/transcripts/2004/tr20041110-1581.html>).

<sup>4</sup> Language confirmed by Ted Stout, Lt. Col., Joint Chiefs of Staff, via b(3) 10 USC 130b DOD, 703-587-2747 (cell). "GEN. METZ: First let me answer the last piece. Discipline problems, no. There have been no discipline problems since we began this operation. They have performed very well, as I mentioned earlier. They are essentially light infantry troops that have been trained at squad and platoon level. They are operating in those configurations on the battlefield. The better battalions have been given sectors to fight as their piece of terrain. Some of the more elite forces, like the 36th Commandos who took the hospital the night before last, or an equivalent special unit from the police that helped take the Haidra (ph) Mosque today, have done very, very well. They have assisted in clearing buildings and homes because it's a manpower-intensive battle in the urban terrain. And they have performed very well in all those clearing operations. **Fallujah is called the City of Mosques, and I think the number is 77. And so for cultural reasons, we find it much better for Iraqis to search the mosques. In several mosques today, lots of munitions and weapons were found, and they were found by those Iraqi soldiers.** And they're just -- they're performing very well and I'm very proud of them." Presenter: Lt. Gen. Thomas Metz, Commander, Multinational Corps-Iraq, Special Defense Department Video Teleconference Briefing, November 9, 2004, (<http://www.dod.gov/transcripts/2004/tr20041109-1561.html>).

<sup>5</sup> NOTE: CENTCOM says that this statement is correct, but they are uncomfortable stating a specific statistic because the situation is fluid. By Saturday, more of the city may have been secured. This statement was confirmed by Marty Sullivan, NSC, (X69191) and Commander Jim Fisher, Joint Staff, ((703) 695-0100) agreed with the statement based upon reports he had reviewed.

<sup>6</sup> "GEN. SATTLER: Please? A question for the general. Go ahead. Q Earlier in the -- in the earlier press conference, apparently you mentioned that you had found homes where -- that had been -- what was the phrase, slaughter houses for hostages? GEN. SATTLER: Slaughter houses. Q Slaughter houses for hostages. And I'm wondering if you can elaborate, tell us what you know about that. ... INTERPRETER: General Sattler and himself, they were both in Fallujah area. GEN. MOHAN: (In Arabic.) INTERPRETER: He witnessed the CDs that they broadcast. And actually, early on I think he said that there was even the name of who was the victim, right? GEN. MOHAN: CD? INTERPRETER: Mm-hmm. Yes. **GEN. MOHAN: And also there was clothing, the black clothing that you've seen in some of the TV that they were broadcasting when they captured some hostages. The Iraqi armed forces unit that they were there, they found in specific homes.**" Presenter: Major General Abdul Qader Mohammed Jassem Mohan, Chief of Iraqi Military Operations; Lieutenant General John Sattler,

<sup>7</sup> where terrorists have killed innocent victims<sup>8</sup>, and proudly recorded their barbaric crimes.<sup>9</sup> The terrorists have shown, once again, the stakes of this struggle. Either Iraq will be overcome by fear and violence, and the Middle East and the world will be more dangerous ... or the terrorists will be defeated, Iraq will be free, and the world will be more secure. We have

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USMC, Commander, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Fallujah, November 10, 2004, (<http://www.dod.gov/transcripts/2004/tr20041110-1581.html>).

<sup>7</sup> NOTE: The Iraqi general referenced here is the Chief of Iraqi Military Operations, Major General Abdul Qader Mohammed Jassem Mohan. "The Iraqi commander, Maj. Gen. Abdul Qader Mohammed Jassem Mohan, announced the seizure of the abandoned houses in northern Fallujah that he said contained hostages' documents, CDs showing captives being killed, and black clothing worn by militants in videos. It appeared troops did not find any of the at least nine foreigners still in kidnappers' hands. 'We have found hostage slaughterhouses in Fallujah that were used by these people,' he said." EDWARD HARRIS, "U.S. forces batter southern Fallujah with airstrikes, artillery as offensive advances," *The Associated Press*, November 11, 2004. "An Iraqi general, meanwhile, said troops discovered abandoned houses in the northern part of Fallujah where kidnappers had 'slaughtered' foreign hostages. 'We found the insurgents' black clothes,' said Brig. Gen. Abdul-Qadir Muhammed Jasim, the Iraqi army's chief of operations for the region. 'We've found hundreds of CDs, documents with their names.'" Jackie Spinner and Omar Fekeiki, "Troops Secure Much of Fallujah," *The Washington Post*, November 11, 2004. "Maj. Gen. Abdul Qader Mohammed Jassem Mohan, leader of the Iraqi forces in Fallujah, said Iraqi troops had found more than one such house. He said they were in the northern part of the city. 'We have found hostage slaughterhouses in Fallujah that were used by these people and the black clothing that they used to wear to identify themselves, hundreds of CDs and whole records with names of hostages,' he told reporters at a military base outside Fallujah." MATTHEW MCALLESTER, "HOSTAGE SLAUGHTERHOUSES," *Newsday* (New York), November 11, 2004.

"GEN. SATTLER: Please? A question for the general. Go ahead. Q Earlier in the -- in the earlier press conference, apparently you mentioned that you had found homes where -- that had been -- what was the phrase, slaughter houses for hostages? GEN. SATTLER: Slaughter houses. Q Slaughter houses for hostages. And I'm wondering if you can elaborate, tell us what you know about that. ... INTERPRETER: General Sattler and himself, they were both in Fallujah area. GEN. MOHAN: (In Arabic.) INTERPRETER: He witnessed the CDs that they broadcast. And actually, early on I think he said that there was even the name of who was the victim, right? GEN. MOHAN: CD? INTERPRETER: Mm-hmm. Yes. GEN. MOHAN: And also there was clothing, the black clothing that you've seen in some of the TV that they were broadcasting when they captured some hostages. **The Iraqi armed forces unit that they were there, they found in specific homes.**" Presenter: Major General Abdul Qader Mohammed Jassem Mohan, Chief of Iraqi Military Operations; Lieutenant General John Sattler, USMC, Commander, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Fallujah, November 10, 2004, (<http://www.dod.gov/transcripts/2004/tr20041110-1581.html>).

<sup>8</sup> Language confirmed by Ted Stout, Lt. Col., Joint Chiefs of Staff, via b(3) 10 USC 130b DOD, 703-587-2747 (cell).

<sup>9</sup> Language confirmed by Ted Stout, Lt. Col., Joint Chiefs of Staff, via b(3) 10 USC 130b DOD, 703-587-2747 (cell). "The Iraqi commander, Maj. Gen. Abdul Qader Mohammed Jassem Mohan, announced the seizure of the abandoned houses in northern Fallujah that he said contained hostages' documents, CDs showing captives being killed, and black clothing worn by militants in videos. It appeared troops did not find any of the at least nine foreigners still in kidnappers' hands. 'We have found hostage slaughterhouses in Fallujah that were used by these people,' he said." EDWARD HARRIS, "U.S. forces batter southern Fallujah with airstrikes, artillery as offensive advances," *The Associated Press*, November 11, 2004.

made our choice. Our commitment to the success of democracy in Iraq is unshakable, and we will prevail.

Ultimately, Iraq must be able to defend itself – and Iraqi security forces are taking increasing responsibility for their country’s security. As we see in Fallujah – and as we saw in Najaf and elsewhere<sup>10</sup> – Iraqi security forces are standing and fighting, and risking their lives for the future of their nation. As terrorists have targeted these forces, still more brave Iraqis have come forward as volunteers. Today, nearly 115,000 trained and equipped Iraqi soldiers, police officers, and other security personnel are serving their country.<sup>11</sup> The Iraqi government is on track to meet its goal of fielding more than 200,000 security personnel by the end of next year.<sup>12</sup>

In January, the Iraqi people will elect a Transitional National Assembly, which will draft a new constitution and prepare the way for the

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<sup>10</sup> “GEN. CASEY: ... As you know, Fallujah has been the center of terrorist and insurgent activity in Iraq. It has been used as a planning, staging, and logistics base for foreign fighters and the Iraqi insurgents that support them. From Fallujah they have exported terror across Iraq against all Iraqis. **As we have seen in Najaf, Tall Afar, Samarra and Thawra, the Iraqi people are fighting to throw off the mantle of terror and intimidation so that they can elect their own government and get on with building a better life for all Iraqis.** Elimination of Fallujah as a terrorist safe haven will go a long way in helping them achieve these goals. ... Q General, it's John Hendren at the L.A. Times. We've often been told that the future of Iraq rests on the shoulders of their security forces. How have they performed leading up to this battle and in the early hours? And I ask this in particular because there was an NPR report that one Iraqi battalion shrunk from over 500 men down to 170 over the past week as they prepared for battle. GEN. CASEY: I don't know if that last report is true. I've not heard those numbers. Let me just go back. **There are a good number of Iraqi battalions involved in this operation. In Najaf, there were two. In Samarra, there were about five. There are more than that involved in this operation. In both Najaf and Samarra, the Iraqi security forces performed well. Everything I have seen of the forces, during the preparations for this operation, has indicated to me that these forces will perform well in this operation. I have -- one of the brigades is the brigade of the Iraqi intervention force and they have fought in Najaf.** They're seasoned forces, and again, I expect them to perform very well. The other thing is that their brigade and division commanders here are also with them, and so we have Iraqi leadership involved directing Iraqi forces here during the operation.” Gen. Casey, SPECIAL DEFENSE DEPARTMENT BRIEFING SUBJECT: IRAQ SECURITY FORCES AND MULTINATIONAL FORCES OFFENSIVE ACTIONS IN FALLUJAH, IRAQ, November 8, 2004. (nexis)

<sup>11</sup> Grand total of all Iraq Security Forces, as of November 3, 2004. Ministry of Interior Forces, Trained and Equipped (Police, Civil Intervention Force, Emergency Response, Border Enforcement, Highway patrol, Dignitary Protection): 63,844. Ministry of Defense Forces, Trained and Equipped (Army, National Guard, Intervention Force, Special Operations, Air Force, Coastal defense Force): 50,941. Total: (MOI and MOD): 114,785. Department of Defense, Iraqi Security Forces Update, November 3, 2004, p. 2.

<sup>12</sup> Based on current projections. The projected number of trained and equipped Iraqi security forces by August 2005 is 202,000, The number is projected to be well above 200,000 by the end of 2005, and to be 234,000 by February 2006. Department of Defense, Iraqi Security Forces Update, 3 November 2004, p. 3.

election of a permanent Iraqi government.<sup>13</sup> The Iraqi people, like the people of Afghanistan before them, are embracing a democratic future, even in the face of threats and intimidation. Throughout the country, Iraqi men and women are registering to vote.<sup>14</sup> Political parties are forming.<sup>15</sup> Candidates for office are stepping forward.<sup>16</sup>

International support for the Iraqi election is essential ... and that support continues to grow. Military forces from some 30 nations are working alongside Iraqi forces, helping to establish stability and security.<sup>17</sup> A UN team is providing critical technical support to Iraq's Independent Electoral Commission.<sup>18</sup> Other diplomatic personnel are helping the Iraqi people prepare for those elections<sup>19</sup>, to be held on schedule in January.

As those elections draw near, the desperation of the killers will grow, and the violence could escalate. The success of democracy in Iraq would

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<sup>13</sup> Language confirmed by Stu Jones, NSC, (X69381) and Drew Erdmann, NSC, (X69381). See Appendix, "Governance – Iraq Elections Timeline," taken from Iraq Weekly Status Report, November 3, 2004, provided by Department of State.

<sup>14</sup> Language confirmed by Stu Jones, NSC, (X69381) and Drew Erdmann, NSC, (X69381). As of November 10, 2004, "Voter registration continues in all provinces except Al Anbar." Department of State, Iraq Weekly Status Report, November 10, 2004, p. 3.

<sup>15</sup> Language confirmed by Stu Jones, NSC, (X69381) and Drew Erdmann, NSC, (X69381). "Iraqi political parties continue the process of developing party coalitions and candidate lists at both the national and governorate level for submission to the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq (IECI)." Department of State, Iraq Weekly Status Report, November 10, 2004, p. 3.

<sup>16</sup> Language confirmed by Stu Jones, NSC, (X69381) and Drew Erdmann, NSC, (X69381). "Iraqi political parties continue the process of developing party coalitions and candidate lists at both the national and governorate level for submission to the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq (IECI)." Department of State, Iraq Weekly Status Report, November 10, 2004, p. 3.

<sup>17</sup> As of November 10, 2004, there are 31 countries, excluding the United States, are considered Coalition Force Contributors to Iraq. These nations are Albania, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Mongolia, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, Slovakia, Thailand, Tonga, Ukraine, United Kingdom. Department of Defense, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Coalition Force Contributors—Iraq, November 10, 2004 (Unclassified). Of these 31 nations, 28 are MNF-I partners with forces currently on the ground in Iraq and three are MNF-I partners that have scheduled deployments but do not yet have forces in Iraq. Details are in Department of Defense, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Coalition Force Contributors—NMF-I, November 10, 2004 (Classified).

<sup>18</sup> The team in Iraq currently consists of 9 UN representatives, which will grow to about 21 representatives over the next few weeks. These are experts in international elections who are giving technical advice to the IECI on election rules and regulations for the upcoming January election. Information provided by Drew Erdmann, NSC, (X69381).

<sup>19</sup> Language confirmed by Drew Erdmann, NSC, (X69381).

be a crushing blow to the forces of terror – and the terrorists know it. The defeat of terror in Iraq will set that nation on a course to lasting freedom, and will give hope to millions – and the Iraqi people know it. And a free, democratic Iraq will inspire reformers throughout the Middle East, and make America more secure.

The United States and our allies have shown our determination to help Iraqis achieve their liberty. We will continue to stand by our friends, and we will finish the job.

Thank you for listening.

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APPENDIX

Governance – Iraq Elections Timeline



SOURCE: Iraq Weekly Status Report, November 3, 2004, DOD