

Sent: Fri, 06 Feb 2004 18:00:44 -0500
From: "Besanceney, Brian R." </O=EOP/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE
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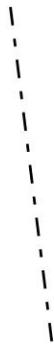
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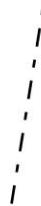
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Subject: TALKING POINTS: Removing Saddam Hussein - The Right Decision for America & the World

[Removing Saddam the Right Choice 2-04.pdf](#)

Removing Saddam Hussein: The Right Decision for America & the World

September 11th taught us that we must confront gathering threats before it is too late. The gravest threat to the United States today is the potential cooperation between terrorist groups and rogue states developing or possessing weapons of mass destruction.

Saddam Hussein was a threat to America and the world. He had the intention, capability, and resources to develop or acquire weapons of mass destruction, and he had used them in the past. Despite all his denials, he continued to hide proscribed activities. He was developing ballistic missiles that he told the world did not exist. Given Saddam Hussein's history of using these weapons and his 12-year record of defying the international community, relying on the good intentions of Saddam Hussein was not a valid option.

Removing Saddam Hussein from power was the right decision then and it remains the right decision today. The world is safer and better off without him in power, America is more secure, and the Iraqi people have been freed from one of the world's most brutal dictatorships.

Saddam Hussein had the intention, the capability, and the resources to develop or acquire weapons of mass destruction.

- In Iraq, our Survey Group is still collecting the facts. We will compare what the intelligence indicated before the war with what we learn afterwards. As the chief weapons inspector has said, we have not yet found the stockpiles of weapons that we thought were there. Yet the Survey Group has uncovered some of what the dictator was doing. We now know Saddam had the capability to produce weapons of mass destruction he had the scientists and technology he needed. We know he had the necessary infrastructure because we found labs and dual-use facilities that could be used to produce chemical and biological agents. We know he was developing ballistic missiles that the UN had prohibited. We know Saddam had the intent to arm his regime with weapons of mass destruction because he hid all of these activities from the world.

Saddam Hussein was in clear violation of UN Security Council Resolution 1441, which gave Iraq one last chance to comply or face serious consequences.

- Saddam Hussein defied 17 UN Security Council resolutions over a period of more than 12 years. He continued to defy the international community even after the United Nations gave him one final opportunity to comply or face serious consequences. He was in material breach of UN Security Council Resolution 1441 unanimously passed by the Security Council.
- *Iraq was in clear and material violation of 1441. They maintained programs and activities, and*

they certainly had the intentions at a point to resume their program. So there was a lot they wanted to hide because it showed what they were doing that was illegal. David Kay, Senate Armed Services Committee, 1/28/04

Saddam Hussein had a record of using weapons of mass destruction against a neighbor and his own people.

- Saddam Hussein's regime had used chemical weapons against Iran and his own people. The regime used a combination of nerve agents, mustard gas, and conventional munitions to kill 5,000 innocent Iraqi civilians in the town of Halabja in March, 1988.

Saddam Hussein had a history of sudden and unprovoked aggression against neighbors.

- Saddam's invasion of Iran in 1980 resulted in an estimated one million Iranian dead, and his 1990 invasion of Kuwait killed at least 1,000 Kuwaitis. He launched missiles against Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Israel.
- *I think it's often easy to forget that in the case of Saddam, here's an individual who had invaded two neighboring countries, used chemical weapons against one of those, used them against his own neighbors and who, by U.N. testimony, had cheated and lied for a decade.* David Kay, Senate Armed Services Committee, 1/28/04

Saddam Hussein sponsored and harbored known terrorists.

- Saddam sponsored and harbored known terrorists and terrorist groups in Iraq and had funded terrorists outside Iraq paying the families of suicide bombers \$25,000 for killing innocent civilians.
- *Earlier this year, Saddam increased the sum paid to relatives of suicide bombers from \$10,000 to \$25,000 per family in hopes of encouraging more attacks.* Associated Press, Iraq Pays Palestinians Compensation, 9/13/02
- *American forces in Baghdad today captured the leader of a Palestinian terrorist group responsible for the attack in 1985 on an Italian cruise ship, the Achille Lauro, in which an American was killed. The terrorist leader, Abu Abbas, led a faction of the Palestine Liberation Front in the 1980's and 1990's and has been living in Baghdad since 2000.* New York Times, A Nation at War: Prisoners, 4/15/03
- *"Ansar al-Islam, which operates in northeastern Iraq, has close links to and support from al-Qaida. Al-Qaida and Usama Bin Laden participated in the formation and funding of the group, which has provided safehaven to al-Qaida in northeastern Iraq."* U.S. State Department Designation of Ansar al-Islam as a Terrorist Group, 2/20/03

Saddam Hussein murdered hundreds of thousands of his own people.

He was one of the most brutal and tyrannical dictators in the world, who condoned the torture and rape

of his own people and was responsible for the murder of more than hundreds of thousands of Iraqi citizens.

- *For 11 years, until recently, Mr. Hamed was the caretaker of this cemetery for the Mukhabarat, the feared Iraqi intelligence service. The dead had stopped arriving here in truckloads by the time he came here, but Mr. Hamed said he held the meticulous files in his office and knew that 6,011 people were buried there Human rights groups have estimated that about 300,000 Iraqis are missing and were probably executed. New York Times, A Keeper of Secrets Now Opens Up About Iraq's Dead, 7/29/03*

Iraq was a dangerous place perhaps even more dangerous than we thought according to David Kay.

- *I think the world is far safer with the disappearance and the removal of Saddam Hussein. I have said I actually think this may be one of those cases where it was even more dangerous than we thought...And in a world where we know others are seeking WMD, the likelihood at some point in the future of a seller and a buyer meeting up would have made that a far more dangerous country than even we anticipated with what may turn out not to be a fully accurate estimate. David Kay, Senate Armed Services Committee, 1/28/04*

In a post 9-11 world, the President had a responsibility to deal with this gathering threat to America and the world.

- Rather than allowing the threat to grow in strength, this President acted. The liberation of Iraq removed an enemy of this country, and America is more secure. Thanks to the skill and sacrifice of the U.S. military and our coalition partners, that threat is no more, and the Iraqi people are free and on a path to self-government.
 - *The liberation of Iraq was an act of justice, delivering an oppressed people from an evil regime. The liberation of Iraq removed a source of violence and instability from the Middle East. And the liberation of Iraq removed an enemy of this country and made America more secure Knowing what I knew then, and knowing what I know today, America did the right thing in Iraq. President George W. Bush, 2/5/04*

Removing Saddam Hussein: The Right Decision for America & the World

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