

FICI-CG

SUBJECT: August 2007 Assessment and Recommended Way Ahead

We have a moral responsibility as well as a national security responsibility to continue to assist Iraq.

I truly believe that we can still attain our strategic goals in Iraq. My recommendation is based on the realization that we face increasing resource and political constraints from both the US and Iraqi governments and that Iraq currently exercises only partial control over its political and security affairs and must progressively assume greater responsibility consistent with its sovereignty. This recommendation outlines a concept for the gradual rebalancing of security responsibilities inside Iraq in favor of the GoI. Reinforcing population security means deliberate transfer of security authority to the GoI from the periphery to the center in the most volatile areas. It requires a gradual rebalancing of security responsibility accompanied by simultaneous reductions in CF mission, presence, and profile and a final CF set intended to secure our adjusted strategic goals. My recommended strategy for phased rebalancing of responsibilities in Iraq, "Gradual Empowerment", follows as Enclosure 1.

10 Encls

1. Gradual Empowerment Strategy
2. Nationwide Rebalancing Concept
3. Force Re-Posturing Concept
4. Joint Regional Support Base Concept
5. MND-B Assessment
6. MND-N Assessment
7. MND-W Assessment
8. MND-C Assessment
9. MND-SE Assessment
10. CJSOTF Assessment

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Approved for Release