

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 397

Expressing the sense of the Senate on the transition of Iraq to a constitutionally elected government.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 24, 2004

Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina, and Mr. BIDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate on the transition of Iraq to a constitutionally elected government.

Whereas June 30, 2004, marks Iraq's assumption of sovereignty and the beginning of the transition of Iraq to a free and constitutionally elected government, which is to be established by December 31, 2005;

Whereas the Senate congratulates the Iraqi people, expresses its appreciation to the Iraqi Interim Government, and reaffirms the United States desire for the people of Iraq to live in peace and freedom;

Whereas the successful transition of Iraq to a constitutionally elected government requires that Iraq develop the capacity to provide security to its citizens, defend its borders, deliver essential services, create a transparent and cred-

ible political process, and set the conditions for economic prosperity;

Whereas the people of Iraq have a long tradition of cultural and technological achievement and a talented and dedicated population;

Whereas the United States desires peace and prosperity for the citizens of Iraq;

Whereas more than three decades of dictatorial rule have deprived the people of Iraq of the benefits of that tradition and history, caused extraordinary personal suffering, and robbed the people of Iraq of the opportunity to reach their full potential;

Whereas establishing security is a prerequisite to the successful transition to democracy and reconstruction of Iraq;

Whereas providing security to the people of Iraq will require a well-trained and well-equipped police force, a professional military accountable to civilian leadership, the disbanding of militias, and a fair and efficient judicial system;

Whereas the current program to train and equip Iraq security services could benefit from better vetting of candidates, expanded training time, follow-on field training with experienced police and military professionals, and the accelerated provision of equipment and resources;

Whereas the administration of the institutions of government and the delivery of essential services in Iraq will require technical expertise and training not yet fully developed in Iraq;

Whereas Iraq faces a shortage of essential services, including sanitation, safe water, and a reliable supply of electricity;

Whereas economic prosperity in Iraq will require viable financial institutions, conditions that encourage private investment, and the significant reduction of foreign debt incurred by the regime of Saddam Hussein;

Whereas the people of Iraq were the victims of three decades of economic mismanagement under the regime of Saddam Hussein, and have inherited \$120,000,000,000 in debt incurred by that regime;

Whereas Prime Minister Allawi has requested assistance from the international community to aid in the rebuilding and security of Iraq, including assistance from the neighbors of Iraq to improve intelligence-sharing and to tighten controls of the borders with Iraq in order to prevent the infiltration of terrorists and illicit goods, and assistance from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to train and equip Iraqi Security Forces;

Whereas the international community, through a unanimous vote of the United Nations Security Council in Resolution 1546 (2004), called on United Nations member states and international and regional organizations to contribute to a multinational force in Iraq and a dedicated force to provide security for the United Nations presence in Iraq, to help Iraq build the capability of its security forces and governing institutions, to aid in rebuilding the capacity for governance in Iraq, and to commit additional resources to reconstruct and develop the economy of Iraq;

Whereas since the adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1546, some members of the international community who have long expressed concern for the plight of the people of Iraq, and who voted for the adoption of the Resolution in the Security Council, have failed to respond to the urgent needs of the people of Iraq;

Whereas improved security in Iraq and the increased capacity of the people of Iraq to provide essential services will reduce the burdens on United States military personnel in the region;

Whereas the United States supports the determination of the Iraqi Interim Government to defeat the loyalists to Saddam Hussein, radical militias, common criminals, and terrorists who make up the insurgency in Iraq;

Whereas the United States is committed to assisting Iraq in reasserting its full sovereignty, consistent with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1546;

Whereas the Senate acknowledges the efforts and sacrifices of the Armed Forces, other employees of the United States Government, contractors, and their counterparts in the coalition to promote Iraq's security, recovery, and transition; and

Whereas the United States and other members of the international community have a profound stake in the success of the transition of Iraq to a constitutionally elected government: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

2 (1) the members of the Armed Forces and their
3 families have performed courageously and nobly and
4 have earned the deep gratitude of the people of the
5 United States;

6 (2) success in Iraq is a global priority and
7 therefore demands cooperation from all states and
8 international organizations;

1 (3) states and international organizations
2 should fulfill their commitments to contribute what
3 resources and skills they can to the establishment
4 and security of an independent Iraq with a constitu-
5 tionally elected government;

6 (4) states and international organizations
7 should fulfill the financial commitments they have
8 already made to the reconstruction of Iraq;

9 (5) the international community should estab-
10 lish, to the highest standards, additional police train-
11 ing academies inside and outside of Iraq, contribute
12 additional trainers to those academies, and dedicate
13 experienced police to train Iraq police officers in the
14 field;

15 (6) the North Atlantic Treaty Organization
16 (NATO) is uniquely qualified to respond to the call
17 for assistance in United Nations Security Council
18 Resolution 1546 (2004) to meet the needs of the
19 people of Iraq for security and stability, including by
20 assisting in training the Iraq military, providing se-
21 curity for elections in Iraq, and helping secure the
22 borders of Iraq and should, therefore, respond posi-
23 tively to the request of Interim Iraqi Prime Minister
24 Allawi to provide training, equipment, and other
25 forms of technical assistance that his government

1 determines is appropriate to help Iraq's security
2 forces defeat terrorism and reduce Iraq's reliance on
3 foreign forces;

4 (7) in order to ensure that the United Nations
5 can play the leading role called for by United Na-
6 tions Security Council Resolution 1546, member
7 states should contribute additional military and se-
8 curity forces, and other resources as appropriate, to
9 provide security for a United Nations presence in
10 Iraq;

11 (8) countries unable to contribute security per-
12 sonnel to help stabilize Iraq should contribute to the
13 transition of Iraq in other ways, including by pro-
14 viding technical experts, civil engineers, municipal
15 management advisers, and to fill other needs re-
16 quested by the Iraqi government;

17 (9) countries holding debt incurred under the
18 Saddam Hussein regime should meaningfully reduce
19 amounts of that debt;

20 (10) the United States is committed to a free
21 and peaceful Iraq; and

22 (11) it is appropriate to thank coalition part-
23 ners and other countries that have helped promote

- 1 security, stability, reconstruction, and democracy in
- 2 Iraq.

