

13 February 2003

TO: Ryan Henry
FROM: Torie Clarke
SUBJECT: Embed Program
cc: Larry DiRita

As I'm sure you know, we have a very substantial media embed program planned in the event we engage in combat operations in Iraq. This program is one of our cornerstones for countering Iraqi disinformation and propaganda as well as being key to us dominating the media coverage of this potential operation. The media embed plan has the full support of both the Secretary and the Chairman, as well as General Franks. However, this plan could be seriously compromised because a number of the host nations may not permit embedded journalists in their countries. Saudi Arabia has made it clear that they don't want any embedded journalists and Qatar and Kuwait will not allow them on key air bases such as Al Udeid in Qatar, and Al Jaber in Kuwait. I am confident that journalists would readily agree not to reveal the names of countries where they are embedded and would also agree to other restrictions on reporting about those countries as long as they could focus on the U.S. forces there. I could use your help if you think there is anything you could do from the Policy side to help us gain access for the embedded reporters. Thanks.