

FAX from ...

Senator Dianne Feinstein

of California

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Washington, DC 20510
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DATE: 9/5/03

TIME: _____

TO: Secretary Rumsfeld

FROM: Senator Feinstein

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SEP. 5. 2003 4:03PM

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE NO. 954

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DIANNE FEINSTEIN
CALIFORNIA



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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504

<http://feinstein.senate.gov>

September 5, 2003

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

I am writing to you about an item of tremendous and urgent concern: It has been brought to my attention that there are at present approximately 50 unsecured Iraqi munitions sites which are, and have been, vulnerable to looting and pillaging by Iraqi civilians, paramilitary groups and possibly, terrorists. These sites contain Soviet-era munitions, including bombs and bomb material, shoulder-launched missiles, and Rocket Propelled Grenades (RPGs). The reason they have not been secured, I have been told, is because our current force structure in Iraq is inadequate and no troops are available for the job.

I have been informed that a story addressing these questions will be in *The New York Times* tomorrow.

Although U.S. forces have, apparently, succeeded in removing some of the munitions, RPGs and missiles from a few of these sites, others apparently have not been remediated, and none have been secured. It is my understanding, for example, that U.S. forces in helicopters have observed looting at these sites using night-vision goggles. Clearly, these unsecured sites pose a clear and present danger to U.S. forces in Iraq, other international personnel, and the Iraqi people. The ready access of munitions and other weapons from these sites threatens efforts to bring stability to Iraq and our reconstruction efforts in that country.

It is also my understanding that the FBI has found that Soviet-made munitions were used in the bombing of the United Nations headquarters building in Baghdad, leading to very real concerns that the material used in that terrorist act were derived

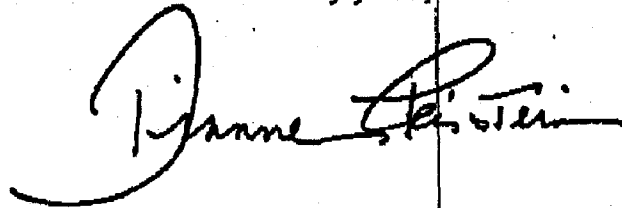
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from the very munitions sites in Iraq that U.S. forces should have immediately secured as part of the post-conflict security and reconstruction effort.

On May 1, I wrote to Secretary Powell to express my concern about the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in post-conflict Iraq. At that time, I urged that the "requisite resources to address this issue are allocated. If we fail to act comprehensively, we risk undermining the return of order and stability in Iraq, the rebuilding process, and the safety of U.S. troops tasked with maintaining the peace." As this new evidence about these unsecured sites indicates, there are clearly challenges that remain.

I believe that making sure that these sites are secure so that no additional munitions or small arms and light weapons find their way into the hands of those who would do harm to our forces or our efforts in Iraq is critical. I look forward to your thoughts on this issue, and to working with you to assure that this situation is addressed.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dianne Feinstein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "D".

Congressional

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