

ANTI-AMERICAN SENTIMENT

Question: How can we quiet the Anti-American sentiment that appears to be on the rise in Iraq? How will we repair relations around the world?

Answer:

- We will strengthen pro-American sentiment in a number ways. First, as the economic situation improves, Iraqis will have a more positive and confident view about their future. The lack of basic social services, notably electricity, water and sanitation, has understandably taken a toll on public morale. But the situation is improving. And as Iraqis see that Coalition forces are making economics a major priority, they will respond positively.
- We will also counter Anti-American sentiment by encouraging the growth of a fair political process, including the establishment of an Iraqi Interim Authority. Once Iraqis see that a genuine democratic polity is taking shape, they will feel more confident about their future for this reason as well. At present, the most organized groups, some of whom are dedicated to Iran's anti-American agenda, are playing a disproportionate role in the public debate. This will change as other sectors of Iraqi society join the debate.
- It is understandable that Iraqis feel a strong sense of insecurity given the uncertainty of the current economic and political situation. When there is a high level of social frustration in any country, there can be a lot of animosity. Some of this is currently focused on the US. But, I am confident that as economic and political stability take root, public attitudes will change.