

Iraqi Interim Authority Talking Points

- Our goals in Iraq will be to destroy weapons of mass destruction and to liberate the people of Iraq
 - It is clear that for a brief period following liberation, coalition military forces will have to provide security and facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid and basic services.
 - Our goal will be for Iraqis to take full control of their country as soon as possible.
 - We will assist the Iraqi people in their efforts to adopt a new constitution, hold elections, and build a legitimate government based on democratic principles and institutions.
 - We will help the Iraqi people establish the rule of law as a basis of their new government.
 - U.S. policy is to de-Baathize Iraq -- that is, to disestablish the Baath party and remove the Baathist influence from Iraq's government, military, intelligence and security institutions.
- We are committed to staying as long as we need to, and to leaving as soon as we can.
- The goal is for liberated Iraqis to run their own affairs even before a new, elected government is established.
- An Iraqi Interim Authority (IIA) will be established.
 - The IIA will be an Iraqi administration, operating until such time as a legitimate, permanent government in Iraq is established by the Iraqi people.
 - The IIA will be Iraqi, not American or coalition military or civilian.
 - Its members will come from all Iraq's ethnic groups and regions.
 - This Interim Authority will be as broad-based and inclusive as possible. It will include:
 - Kurds who lived out of regime control in northern Iraq;



- Shia and Sunni Arabs and other groups, such as Turkomans and Assyrians;
- Representatives of the many important tribes of Iraq;
- Iraqis who suffered for so long under the Saddam Hussein regime; and
- Iraqis who were active in opposing the regime while living in exile.
- The exact mechanism for choosing this interim group will be determined in close consultation with Iraqis from all groups and all regions.
- The US will take the lead in such consultations, and will get the advice of others including the UN Special Coordinator.
- The IIA is a means for Iraqis to participate immediately in the economic and political reconstruction of their country.
- It is a means of channeling the talent and energy of the Iraqi people toward reform, prosperity, and democracy.
- It is the means through which Iraqis can start building democratic institutions.
- As the situation in Iraq stabilizes and develops, the IIA will exercise increasing authority over government institutions in Iraq.
 - Some ministries will likely be ready for Iraqi leadership sooner than others.
 - For example, the ministry of Agriculture might be ready sooner than the ministry of Justice or Education, which are more permeated with Baathist elements close to Saddam Hussein.
 - Security ministries and organizations will likely take longer.
 - But the pattern is clear: we will encourage and facilitate Iraqi control of Iraqi affairs.
 - Authority will be returned to local government in Iraq as soon as possible.
 - Local elections should be possible in some regions sooner than a national election, which will require a new constitution
 - The IIA will help oversee the process of electing officials at the local levels.

- As soon as feasible, an assembly will be convened to draft a new constitution.
- The IIA will include a judicial council to help remove the Baathist influence from Iraq's legal system.
 - New personnel and new or reformed legal codes may be needed to address those problems.
 - The work of the judicial council can lay the groundwork of the introduction of the rule of law in Iraq.
- The IIA will work with aid donors and UN agencies to help in the reconstruction of Iraq.
- The US will support and promote the ability of the IIA to represent Iraq's interests internationally.
 - We will work to claim frozen assets abroad that belong to the Iraqi people, and turn them over to Iraq.

