

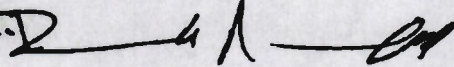
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October 16, 2002 8:54 AM

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TO: OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
Vice President Richard B. Cheney
Honorable Colin Powell
Honorable George Tenet
Honorable Condoleezza Rice

CC: Honorable Andrew H. Card, Jr.

FROM: Donald Rumsfeld. 

SUBJECT: Coup Scenario

Attached are some thoughts on a coup scenario that might be of interest.

Thanks.

Attach.
09/19/02 Coup Scenario

DHR:dh
101602-15

Office of the Secretary of Defense
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
Date: 19 Jul 2019 Authority: EO 13526 + 5 U.S.C. § 552
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Reason: 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6)
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OSD Policy
draft
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Coup Scenario – Contingency Planning

Scenario

- We should plan to deal with the following scenario:
 - Either before a conflict begins, or in its early stages, a senior military or security officer stages a *coup d'état* against Saddam.
 - Alternatively, a senior military or security officer could take power after Saddam dies, whatever the cause of his death.
 - The new ruler announces his intention to abide by all UN Security Council resolutions; he denounces the invasion of Kuwait and all of Saddam's other "sins."
 - He argues that no possible grounds for war exist any longer; if the conflict has already begun, he calls for an immediate cease-fire.
- There is intense international pressure on us to drop our regime change policy and not commence (or cease) hostilities.
- However, we face the threat of "Saddamism without Saddam," i.e., *a new regime that pursues the same policies as the current one, but without the international opprobrium.*

Key Principles

- Our response should be guided by a set of key principles:
 - Any senior military or security official in a position to grab power is likely to be similar to Saddam in ambition, political attitudes and methods of operation.
 - We can't have confidence in any inspection regime unless the government is cooperative and acts in good faith.
 - Ultimately, a broad-based, representative government will be necessary to resolve all of our problems with Iraq: not only development of WMD, but support for terrorism, threatening behavior directed at neighbors, and tyrannical repression at home.

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Proposed Policy

- As the price of recognizing the new ruler, we should demand that he agree to turn over power to a civilian, broad-based, representative government within a short period of time, e.g., two weeks.
- Our policy would depend to some extent on when the scenario took place – either before or during hostilities.
 - If hostilities had already commenced (and especially if U.S. ground troops had already entered Iraq), we could demand, as the price of a cease-fire, that the new ruler accept the presence of U.S. troops in Baghdad and elsewhere in Iraq to oversee the transition process.
- In any case, we would have to be ready with a series of demands that would seem reasonable and would test the good faith of the new ruler.
- We would, of course, demand immediate compliance with all UNSCRs; however, the new ruler could plausibly claim that, in some cases, this would take time.
- In addition, we could condition recognition of the new ruler on his willingness to undertake the following steps within days:
 - As part of the transition process, immediately enter into negotiations with all segments of Iraqi society, including the opposition groups.
 - Accept international observers at such negotiations.
 - Send the key scientists in the WMD program, together with their families, to New York, to be interviewed by the inspectors.
 - Dismantle the Himaya (Saddam's bodyguards) and the Special Security Organization, placing their members in protective custody.
 - Allow human rights NGOs access to all prisons.
 - Recognize the no fly zones and cease firing at coalition aircraft.
 - Permit overflight by U-2s and Predators.
 - Extradite Yasin, and other named terrorists being harbored in Iraq.
 - End all restrictions on media, especially foreign media.

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- Broadcast and publish, in Arabic, through domestic media, all statements, assurances, etc. made to the international community.

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