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Proposed Plan to End the Violence in Iraq and Withdraw All U.S. Armed Forces from Iraq in a Just, Peaceful and Timely Manner

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This is a work in progress. Critical comments and suggestions are welcomed and can be sent directly to the compiler, Ron Fisher, at Fisher@acersnow.org, 703-725-7849 (cell)

Nothing in this document is intended to be a criticism of our courageous U.S. Military troops.

INTRODUCTION

This document provides the outline of a proposed plan to curtail and essentially end the violence in Iraq and withdraw all United States Armed Forces from Iraq in a just, peaceful and timely manner and take the initial steps toward:

1. Resolution of the U.S. Iran and the U.S.-Syria situation.
2. Helping to resolve the Israel-Palestine-Lebanon situations.
3. Global nuclear and offensive weapons disarmament.
4. A stable and peaceful Middle East.
5. Renaming and revamping the "war on terror"

This plan is based on inputs from numerous individuals, organizations and other documents including:

□ Out of Iraq: "A Practical Plan for Withdrawal NOW", by George McGovern and William R. Polk, provide background, details and estimated costs for the major initiatives of the plan.

□ H. R. 508, *to require United States military disengagement from Iraq, etc.*
(<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/C?c110:./temp/~c110sAuLco>) filed on 17 January, 2007.

□ H.R. 1234: The Plan to End the Iraq War.

□ A dozen or so other proposed related House and Senate bills.

BACKGROUND

Background information for this plan can be found in the following documents, which can be downloaded from www.ACERSNow.org:

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The Summary of the Occupation of Iraq

The lawsuit titled *Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief for a Peaceful, Just and Timely U.S. Withdrawal from Iraq*,

Exhibit 1 to the Lawsuit- *Palestine and U.S. Policy* by John Steinbach

Exhibit 2 to the Lawsuit- *Nuclear Nightmare* by John Steinbach.

MAJOR INITIATIVES OF THE PLAN

Responsible civilian and military officials of commence and follow through with the following major initiatives as rapidly as possible with the Iraqis in charge of their country and the U.S. answering to them:

1. Address the Iraqi people and the world community and:

a. Sincerely apologize to the Iraqis for the economic sanctions, invasion, war and occupation, the deaths, maiming, abuse and torture of Iraqis, the damage and destruction of Iraqi mosques, homes, facilities, treasures, occupation, etc., the attempted thief of Iraqi oil and oil profits, the attempted subjugation of Iraq and their economy and for the other mistakes the U.S. has made in Iraq and in the Middle East.

b. Promise to immediately return sovereignty, the control of all oil reserves and other resources to the people of Iraq, to make amends, make restitution, reparations, and condolence payments for all the physical and emotional damages to Iraqi's and their country, to treat Iraqi's as equals, to respect the fundamental rights of Iraqis, etc.

c. Announce and describe the other key elements of this legislation/policy/plan.

2. In coordination with other coalition forces and the Iraq government:

a. Immediately restore Iraq sovereignty and complete control over Iraq's oil reserves, other resources/assets, economy, government agencies, political processes, media, institutions, laws, etc. to the Iraqi people so that they, not foreigners, are making the decisions about the future of their country and are in control of Iraq's reconstruction.

b. Order an immediate halt of all offensive and clandestine operations and an immediate unilateral cease fire by coalition forces, the CIA, U.S. paid mercenaries, any other U.S. armed individuals, etc. except for clearly defensive and protective measures. Call on all factions in Iraq to please do the same.

c. Order an immediate withdrawal of CIA operatives and U.S. paid mercenaries, etc.

d. Move aircraft carriers, other surface combatants and submarines, if any, out of the Persian Gulf and outside the sight of land.

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- e. Redeploy U.S. Armed Forces away from population centers where they are not needed or wanted.

- f. Return U.S. nuclear weapons in the Middle East, if any, to the U.S.

- g. Commence massive humanitarian aid effort to insure that all the people of Iraq have access to food, water, shelter, health care, etc. paid for by the U.S. with Iraqi's and NGO's doing the work, distributing food, etc.

- h. Insure while U.S. Armed Forces, CIA agents, contractors, etc. are in Iraq, they treat Iraqis as equals and with respect, fully respect and comply with Iraqi laws, the Geneva Convention, Hague Regulations, UN Security Council Resolution 1483 of May 22, 2003, other international laws, etc.

- i. Immediately release all "security detainees" who have not been charged with a crime and pay them restitution if their confinement has been wrongful and unlawful and/or if they have been abused or tortured. If they have been held in connection with the post-invasion conflict amnesty should be considered or as appropriate, turn them over to their own country or to the International Criminal Court or indict and try them in a regular U.S. court. In any case, persons should be detained only in places which practice restorative justice and in which they can enjoy the full protection of the law and have prompt access by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

- j. Request that the United Nations:
 - i. Prepare an appropriate international peace-keeping mission from neutral nations with at least 50 percent of the mission to be from nations with large Muslim populations. This mission will monitor the cease-fire, strengthen local police forces and the judicial system, help organize and monitor timely, fair, fully creditable regional and national elections so that true democratic self rule can be put into place. This mission is to be paid for by the United States and any U.S. equipment or facilities useful to the mission should be turned over to the mission.

 - ii. Prepare an international government assistance team, to be paid for by the U.S., with at least 50 percent of the team to be from nations with large Muslim populations, to be deployed to Iraq to replace United States officials and contractors that are imbedded in and assisting the Iraq government. This mission is to be paid for by the United States and any U.S. equipment or facilities useful to the team should be turned over to the team.

 - k. Cease all efforts to privatize Iraq's oil, other resources, industries, etc. and do not request any no new oil laws or contracts until peaceful, post-occupation conditions guarantee a full and democratic national debate about the future of Iraq 's oil.

 - iii. In coordination with the Iraq government:
 - a. Along with the United Nations, Arab League and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, encourage, support and participate in, but not attempt to control, comprehensive and broadly-inclusive negotiations on all relevant issues. Means of negotiations should include phone calls, email exchanges, meetings, video and regular conferences, among representatives from the Iraqi insurgents, Iran, Syria, Afghanistan, Jordan, Israel, Lebanon, Turkey, Egypt, Pakistan, India, Saudi Arabia, the Palestinian Authority, the political wings

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of Hezbollah and Hamas, the European Union, etc., with no preconditions for negotiation and with everything "on the table." Negotiations should include:

- i. Security and stability of Iraq and the Middle East.
- ii. Installation of an appropriate UN international peace-keeping mission in which at least 50 percent of the mission are from nations with large Muslim populations.
- iii. Just, peaceful and timely withdrawal of U. S. Armed Forces
- iv. Resolution of the Sunni, Shia and Kurd power sharing situation
- v. Plans for timely, fair, fully creditable regional and national elections so that true democratic self- rule can be put into place.
- vi. Responsibilities of occupying powers (U.S. in Iraq and Israel in the West Bank and the Golan Heights), including prohibitions against changing a country's laws and taking its resources, etc.
- vii. Resolution of the Israel-Palestine-Syria-Lebanon situations including borders, settlements, right of return, two state solution, etc.
- viii. Resolution of the Turkey-Kurdish situation
- ix. Nuclear non proliferation and disarmament
- x. International truth, reconciliation, amnesty, restitution, and restorative justice processes.
 - b. After political settlements are negotiated and as the violence subsides, deploy the United Nations peace-keeping mission and government assistance teams into Iraq into the more peaceful and stable areas.
 - c. As the UN peace-keeping mission government assistance teams are phased in:
 - i. Conduct a timely phased withdrawal of all United States Armed Forces personnel and civilian military contractors in Iraq, except U.S. Marines serving in the U. S. Embassy in Baghdad and performing solely embassy security and guard duties, and return them to the United States.
 - ii. Require that all U. S. contractors and subcontractors turn over all contracting work to the Iraqi Government and leave Iraq.
 - d. Consider arranging for the United Nations to guarantee the borders of Iraq so that Iraq does not need a standing army and pay for part of the Iraqi Army to be reorganized and trained as a Civil Engineering Corps and the other part to be trained and become part of the national and local police forces.
 - e. Cause all the "Bremer Orders," "privatization laws" passed under the occupation to be canceled or repealed and all associated contracts, "production sharing agreements (PSA's), memorandum of understanding (MOU's), other similar contracts, any of which provide a percentage of profits to any companies or individuals to be voided.

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- f. Provide the necessary assistance to the Iraq government to restore their 1970 Constitution and to remove/revise other laws enacted/changed by the U.S.
- g. Have no involvement in regional and national elections except to pay for the assistance of the United Nations.
- h. Cease the planning for and construction work on all U.S. military bases, facilities and installations and turn all this property over to the Iraqi people/government. and/or temporarily to the UN peace-keeping mission as appropriate.
- i. Markedly reduce the size and staffing of the US Embassy and move it away from the Iraqi government to show that the U.S. is not running Iraq.
- j. Fund the UN international peace-keeping mission until the Iraqi Government is capable of handling its own security.
- k. Make restitution, reparations, and condolence payments:
 - i. For physical and emotional injuries to individuals abused or tortured and wrongfully and unlawfully detained
 - ii. To the families of Iraqi's killed or disabled by U.S. Armed Forces, private security contractors, the CIA, etc.
 - iii. To rescue the tens of thousands of Iraqi orphans from lives of destitution.
 - iv. To emigres to return to Iraq
 - v. To the employees of the government who were forced out of their jobs by the Coalition Provisional Authority.
 - vi. To the members of the Iraq military and Iraq military retirees who suffered pay losses when the Coalition Provisional Authority disbanded the Army and refused to pay military pensions.
 - vii. For reconstruction/restoration of what the U.S. has damaged or destroyed, for clearing and dismantling land mines, unexploded ordnance, depleted uranium, blast walls, wire barriers, etc., with Iraqis managing the contracts and doing the work.
 - viii. For what Iraq should have received for Iraq's oil and other resources since the invasion of Iraq.
 - ix. For any Iraqi funds that were paid to U.S. government contractors for reconstruction work that was not done or was incomplete, shoddy or otherwise wasted.
 - x. For other items as they develop:
- l. Pay the United Nations to assist the Iraqi Government, in acts of political sovereignty:

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- i. To immediately restart the failed reconstruction program in Iraq and rebuild roads, bridges, schools, hospitals, and other public facilities, houses, and factories with jobs and job training going to local Iraqis.
- ii. To set aside initiatives to privatize Iraqi oil interests or other national assets and abandon all efforts, whether at the behest of the United States or otherwise, to change Iraqi national law to facilitate privatization.
- iii. Set forth a plan to stabilize Iraq's cost for food and energy.
- iv. Strive for economic sovereignty for Iraq by working with the world community to restore Iraq's fiscal integrity without structural readjustment measures of the International Monetary Funds or the World Bank.

IRAN AND NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS (NPT)

4. Assist in maintaining the Middle East WMD/Nuclear Weapons Free Zone. Insure that there are no nuclear or other weapons of mass destruction on any U.S. Ships or in possession of any other U.S. forces deployed in the Middle East as required by article 14 of the U.S.-and drafted UN Security Council Resolution 687. This resolution calls for *"establishing in the Middle East a zone free from weapons of mass destruction and all missiles for their delivery."*
5. Do not threaten to attack, conduct any clandestine or offensive operations against or invoke economic sanctions against Iran or any other country unless Congress has specifically declared war on that country. This will encourage Iran and other countries to help with the grave problems in Iraq.
6. Take the lead on the cessation of the nuclear arms race and complete disarmament as required by Article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which requires: *pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.*
7. Cease expending any funds on any nuclear weapon development programs or to improve or refine existing programs. This will strengthen the U.S. government's position when requesting that other states cease the development of nuclear weapons.
8. Building on ongoing initiatives develop a comprehensive **Plan for Global Nuclear Disarmament** which includes identifying obstacles and the underlying reasons for these obstacles and proposes short and long range solutions.

ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

9. Support UN security guarantees for Israel, the timely establishment of a Palestinian State, and resolution of the Palestinian refugee crisis and their right of return.
10. Demand that Israel, as an occupying power, comply with applicable UN Security Council Resolutions and honestly negotiate the various aspects.
11. Resume payment of aid to the Hamas government.

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12. As required by the U.S. Arms Export Control Act (AECA) and to strengthen the U.S. government's position when demanding that other states cease supplying arms to Hezbollah, Hamas and warring factions in Iraq:

- a. Demand that Israel Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and other Israelis in positions of command and control cease the use of any weapons supplied by the U.S. for any offensive purposes.
- b. Order all U.S. government employees, military personnel, U.S. contractors, individuals and their agents involved in providing funds, selling, giving, supplying, delivering, transporting, supporting, maintaining, providing technical or logistical support for any offensive arms, weapons, weapons systems, munitions, and repair parts to or for Israel to cease and desist and to stop all shipments and work in progress.

13. Instead of providing arms and aid to Israel, use the funds to buy Israeli homes, buildings, facilities, roads, and infrastructure in selected settlements in the West Bank and turn them over to the Palestinian authority.

14. Building on ongoing initiatives, develop a comprehensive **Plan to Resolve the Israeli-Palestine Situation** which includes identifying obstacles and the underlying reasons for these obstacles and proposes short and long range solutions.

Cost and Paying for this Plan

15. The McGovern-Polk plan outlined in the book Out of Iraq estimated the cost of their plan to be \$12 to \$14 billion. Additional items in this plan and delays in getting starting, would probably double their estimates. However, \$28 billion would still be much less than one-third of the recent supplemental bill or three or four months of the current cost of the war. Funds are available to accomplish or assist in the accomplishment of all the above. Sources of these funds include, but are not limited to funds appropriated or made available under any provision of law including:

- a. Remainder of the \$70 billion in bridge funds Congress appropriated on October 1, 2006 and the recent Iraq Supplemental signed into law on April 25, 2007.
- b. To deploy or continue to deploy members or units of the United States Armed Forces or civilian military contractors to Iraq or the Middle East
- c. Savings from cancellation of the permanent U.S. bases in Iraq and other unneeded work .
- d. For offensive or clandestine operations in Iraq, Iran or in any country in the world in the absence of a formal declaration of war by the United States Congress.
- e. To deploy or operate U.S. aircraft carriers or other surface combat vessels in the Persian Gulf or within sight of land in the Middle East.
- f. To intervene or to plan to threaten or to overtly or covertly, intervene in the internal affairs of Iraq, Iran or any other nation.
- g. For CIA rendition, detention, interrogation programs and clandestine operations.

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h. To accomplish "regime change".

i. On any nuclear weapon development programs or to improve or refine existing nuclear weapons programs in that these programs violate the spirit and intent of Article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPR).

j. On any anti-ballistic missile development programs or to improve or refine existing anti-ballistic missile development programs.

k. Cancellation of unneeded offensive cold war weapons systems .

xvi. Have the status of all of these items continually maintained and available to the public on the White House and web site.

Renaming and revamping the "war on terror"

xvii. Repudiate and cease use of the metaphor "war on terror" and treat terrorist acts as crimes.

xviii. Building on ongoing initiatives develop a comprehensive **Plan to Address Terrorist Acts** which identifies the underlying causes of terrorist acts and proposes short and long range solutions.