



Security Council

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Letter dated 13 December 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you our report on behalf of the Multinational Force in Iraq, as mandated under Security Council resolution 1546 (2004) (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) John C. **Danforth**



Annex to the letter dated 13 December 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1546 (2004), the United States, on behalf of the Multinational Force, is pleased to submit the second report to the Security Council describing the efforts and progress of the Multinational Force in fulfilling its mandate.

MNF RESPONSIBILITIES

The Multinational Force-Iraq (MNF-I), comprised of 30 countries, in addition to the United States, with more than 150,000 personnel, remains in Iraq at the invitation of the Iraqi government. As per United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1546, the MNF-I conducts the full spectrum of military operations in order "to contribute to the maintenance of security and stability in Iraq." These range from provision of humanitarian assistance, civil affairs, and relief and reconstruction activities, to detention of those who are threats to security, prevention and deterrence of terrorism, looking for and securing weapons that threaten Iraq's stability, intelligence gathering, and – when necessary – combat operations against insurgents and terrorists. Through these activities, the MNF-I seeks to support the Iraqi government by creating an environment in which free and fair elections can be held, Iraq can move ahead with its political transition process, and essential services can be restored.

Military forces, as well as civil affairs personnel continue to provide humanitarian and reconstruction assistance throughout Iraq. This assistance is coordinated on the ground with the Iraqi government, and international and national non-governmental organizations also providing assistance. Humanitarian and reconstruction activities are focused on restoring essential services, such as water treatment plants and electricity lines. The MNF-I also establishes Civil Military Operations Centers (CMOC) to support humanitarian relief activities, municipal government administration and contracts with Iraqi companies for reconstruction projects. Most recently, the MNF-I established such a CMOC in Fallujah.

MNF-I engineering units continue to repair bridges, ports, roads, and railroads. Tactical units construct and repair local schools, hospitals, post offices, and other public buildings throughout Iraq. MNF-I medical units treat Iraqi civilians throughout the country and assist in children's vaccination programs. For example, Filipino troops set up Medical Civil Assistance Programs in their area of responsibility to provide Iraqi civilians with food, medical and other needs, including the distribution of school supplies.

MNF-I explosive ordnance disposal units continue to dispose of thousands of tons of captured or found Iraqi ammunition, including land mines.

The full resources of the MNF-I will assist the Iraqi Government and its security forces to provide the necessary security for upcoming January 2005 elections, related events and subsequent elections. The United States is dispatching an additional 1,000 troops to Iraq and extending the stays of currently deployed units solely for the January elections effort.

All of these aforementioned activities are critical for Iraqis to return to normal life.

REBUILDING IRAQ'S SECURITY FORCES

UNSCR 1546 welcomes ongoing efforts by the Interim Iraqi Government (IIG) to develop Iraqi Security Forces (ISF), including the Iraqi armed forces that are progressively playing a greater role and will ultimately assume full responsibility for the maintenance of security and stability in Iraq. The resolution also recognizes that the MNF-I will assist in building the capability of the Iraqi security forces and institutions, through a program of recruitment, training, equipping, mentoring and monitoring.

The organization within the structure of the MNF-I, devoted to the development of the Iraqi Security Force is the Multinational Security Transition Command – Iraq (MNSTC-I), commanded by Lieutenant General (LTG) David Petraeus. LTG Petraeus, upon assuming his position in Iraq as Commander, MNSTC-I, conducted a “troops-to-task” exercise in consultation with ISF officials. LTG Petraeus and MNSTC-I work closely with the Ministry of Interior (MOI) and the Ministry of Defense (MOD) to train, equip, mentor, and make operational the Iraqi security forces. The MNSTC-I organization responsible for training and equipping Iraqi police is the Civilian Police Advisory Training Team, commanded by Major General Joseph Fil.

Forces falling under the MOI include the Iraqi Police Service (IPS), Civil Intervention Force, Special Police Commando units, Emergency Response Unit (ERU), Department of Border Enforcement (DBE), and elements of the Facilities Protection Service (FPS). They are the lead civilian agencies for maintaining order within Iraq. The MOI is responsible for training all law enforcement personnel, and for the Iraqi police and border enforcement operations. The IPS in particular,

continues to improve, performing on the whole far better than in past months, although the position of some local police elements remains tenuous. The FPS now has elements managed by each Ministry; visibility of staffing numbers is limited.

Significant changes in how the MNF-I reports Iraqi Security Force numbers have occurred since the last report. The total number of MOI forces as of December 6, 2004 were as follows:

- IPS: 92,727 officers of which 50,798 were trained and equipped; goal remains 135,000.
- Civil Intervention Force: 1,091 personnel; goal is 3,720.
- ERU: 147 personnel; goal is 270.
- DBE: 18,599 personnel of which 14,999 were trained and equipped; goal is 29,360. This goal was adjusted from the last reporting period.

Falling under the MOD are the Iraqi Army, the Iraqi National Guard, the Intervention Force, the Special Operations Force, the Iraqi Air Force, and the Coastal Defense Force. These forces, in partnership with the MNF-I, conduct operations to protect key leadership and the political process, and to neutralize insurgents; build and support well-trained Iraqi security forces capable of assuming responsibility for Iraq's security; and make measurable and visible gains in the quality of life of the Iraqi people.

As of December 6, 2004 there was a total of 98,539 personnel, of which 46,930 were operational (trained, equipped and capable of conducting operations). The following is a breakdown by service of the operational forces:

- Iraqi Army: 3,428 troops; goal is 27,000.
- Iraqi National Guard: 40,115 troops; goal is 61,904.
- Intervention Force: 2,062 troops; goal is 6,584.
- Special Operations Force: 674 troops; goal is 1,967.
- Iraqi Air Force: 167 troops; goal is 502.
- Coastal Defense Force: 484 troops; goal is 582.

Reports from recent operations by MOD forces have been positive. The ISF are coordinating operations and standing and fighting in the face of armed insurgents. The ISF increasingly lead patrolling operations in partnership with MNF-I as the Iraqi forces work to attain full operational capability. Other counter-insurgency operations include combined operations against insurgent strongholds, and border security and anti-smuggling operations.

Building the ISF remains a “work in progress” and a top priority. The security forces must be reconstituted, trained and equipped. It will take time for them to reach full operational capacity. This process will require continued MNF-I support and sustainment. New vetting and training requirements are continually being evaluated and implemented based on the evolving security situation.

SECURITY SITUATION

Iraq’s security situation remains a real concern and a top priority for Iraqis and the MNF-I alike. Prime Minister Allawi has responded strongly to attacks, especially against members of the government, but insurgents and terrorists continue their attempt to thwart Iraq’s progress towards democracy and peace. There are increased activities of intimidation against Iraqi leaders and citizens, especially in the Sunni areas and Baghdad, targeted towards the ISF including Iraqi police and National Guard; civilians and government contractors; and smaller numbers of third-country nationals. Significant attacks against the MNF-I with small arms and rocket-propelled grenades, mortars, and command-detonated improvised explosive devices that are buried or hidden along roadways and highways, or delivered in vehicles continue. Most countries that have had their citizens taken hostage or killed support the MNF and help ensure that it retains enough personnel to fulfill its mission. The loss of lives of innocents, witnessed first-hand and through the variety of media are brutal, tragic and unnecessary. These individuals are working for the greater good of Iraq.

The nature of the attacks indicate that Baathist supporters of Saddam Hussein’s regime, as well as extremists and foreign fighters are trying to intimidate the local population from cooperating with the IIG and participating in a peaceful political process. They are targeting for kidnapping and assassination IIG officials, recruits for the police and military, and employees of MNF-I and assistance organizations. There is some evidence that Baathists and Sunni extremists are targeting Kurdish and Shia members of the security forces in hopes of provoking ethnic and religious violence.

MNF-IIG RELATIONSHIP

The IIG and local authorities – in the face of insecurity – continue to stand firm in the face of this violence and remain committed to keeping the political transition process intact. Iraqi national and local governments and the MNF-I continue to cooperate closely to employ more effective tactics to prevent and thwart attacks, and defeat the anti-coalition fighters. The U.S. Ambassador and the MNF-I leadership continue to attend, as appropriate, Iraq's Ministerial Committee on National Security, where the Iraqi leadership discusses and makes recommendation on national security matters to the Iraqi Prime Minister. The Prime Minister, his key ministers, and the MNF-I also work closely on all issues of strategic importance and of a sensitive nature.

This cooperation extends beyond current operational issues. Examples include the combined operations in Najaf and Fallujah to support the IIG's efforts to resolve peacefully the standoff with insurgents and militias of Moqtada al-Sadr and others. In both instances, the IIG and the MNF-I explicitly sought what the residents of Najaf and Fallujah desperately wanted: an end to the fighting; a disarming of the militias; and a return of the shrines to the control of the legitimate religious authority.

Indeed, these operations are joint efforts. In Najaf, Iraqi Army Special Operations Forces – along with Iraqi Intervention Forces, Iraqi National Guard, and Iraqi Police – fought well alongside the MNF-I. The Iraqi forces were instrumental in setting conditions for the withdrawal of al-Sadr's militia and the preservation of the Imam Ali Shrine. And while the MNF-I provided extensive military and logistical support, the IIG defined the operation's tactical goals and authorized their execution.

The IIG's approach to the Najaf stand-off provides a model to resolving conflicts with armed opposition elsewhere in the country just as the strong performance of Iraqi security forces gave them confidence in confronting other armed aggression. As such, Iraqi Prime Minister Allawi made the decision, in consultation with the MNF-I and after exhausting opportunities to draw rejectionists into the political process, to prosecute the counter-insurgency operation in Fallujah, and to "bring to justice" the insurgents and terrorists who "rejected a political solution."

SECURITY FOR THE UNITED NATIONS IN IRAQ

Finally, resolution 1546 notes the creation of a distinct entity under the unified command of the MNF-I with the dedicated mission of providing security for the United Nations in Iraq. The United States remains committed to working with the international community to ensure that the security needs of the United Nations are met. The security of the Secretary General's Special Representative (SRSG), Ashraf Qazi, and his approximately 50 international, civilian staff in Baghdad is critical to enabling the UN, as per resolution 1546, to play a leading role in advising and supporting the Iraqis in preparing and holding elections. We are committed to assisting the Iraqis and the UN in this regard, particularly in the run-up to January 30, 2005 national elections.

U.S. troop contingents of the MNF-I have provided this security in the absence of the distinct entity referenced in resolution 1546. However, other governments have recently confirmed their contributions to this distinct entity, and it should be established in January 2005. The UN also is taking important steps to provide for its own security; the UN Assistance Mission in Iraq will include a substantial formed guard unit and personal security details.

However, our task is not complete. I strongly urge all member states to contribute to the future of Iraq by providing financial and troop assistance. We must continue to do all we can to prevent another attack against the United Nations. I underscore the value of this security, especially in allowing the UN to deploy additional electoral assistance staff and others on a timely basis. Time is of the essence – and Iraq's free, democratic future is at stake.

CONCLUSION

The events of recent months demonstrate yet again that there are those who believe that they should decide Iraq's political future through violence. Yet, as justice, enforced by the rule of law and not the gun, and freedom from fear of terror or a return of former regime elements, all Iraqi citizens will be able to participate fully in political and economic life.

Like others, we look forward to Iraq's upcoming elections, to its new, permanent constitution, followed by elections in December 2005. We look forward to the day when the ISF assume full responsibility for Iraq's security. We look forward to the day when insurgents no longer terrorize Iraqi and international people working towards the good of Iraq. We look forward to continued and increased UN activities, especially in electoral assistance to Iraq. The MNF-I remains committed to assisting the Iraqis in creating an environment, which would make this possible.