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## **Planning for post-Saddam regime change began as early as October 2001**

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August 18, 2005

**State Department experts warned CENTCOM before Iraq war about lack of plans for post-war Iraq security**

***Planning for post-Saddam regime change began as early as October 2001***

National Security Archive Electronic Briefing Book No. 163

Posted - August 17, 2005

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**Washington, D.C., August 17, 2005:** Newly declassified State Department documents show that government experts warned the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) in early 2003 about "serious planning gaps for post-conflict public security and humanitarian assistance," well before Operation Iraqi Freedom began.

**In a February 7, 2003, memo** to Under Secretary of State Paula Dobriansky, three senior Department officials noted CENTCOM's "focus on its primary military objectives and its reluctance to take on 'policing' roles," but warned that "a failure to address short-term public security and humanitarian assistance concerns could result in serious human rights abuses which would undermine an otherwise successful military campaign, and our reputation internationally." The memo adds "We have raised these issues with top CENTCOM officials."

By contrast, a **December 2003 report to Congress**, also released by the State Department, offers a relatively rosy picture of the security situation, saying U.S. forces are "increasingly successful in preventing planned hostile attacks; and in capturing former regime loyalists, would-be terrorists and planners; and seizing weapons caches." The document acknowledges that "Challenges remain."

Since then, 1,393 U.S. military fatalities have been recorded in Iraq, including two on the day the report went to Congress.

**[:: flash news](#)**

:: 19 agosto:  
IRAQ: UCCISO  
MEMBRO  
CONSIGLIO  
MUNICIPALE  
VICINO KIRKUK ■

The new documents, released this month to the National Security Archive under the Freedom of Information Act, also provide more evidence on when the Bush administration began planning for regime change in Iraq -- as early as October 2001.

:: 19 agosto:  
Giordania, razzo  
manca di poco  
nave Usa ad  
Aqaba ■

The declassified records relate mainly to the so-called "Future of Iraq Project," an effort, initially run by the State Department then by the Pentagon, to plan for the transition to a new regime after the overthrow of Saddam Hussein in 2003. They provide detail on each of the working groups and give the starting date for planning as October 2001.

Entire sections of a **Powerpoint presentation** the State Department prepared on November 1, 2002 - including those covering "What We Have Learned So Far" and "Implications for the Real Future of Iraq" -- have been censored as still-classified information.

:: 19 agosto: Iraq:  
il presidente russo  
Putin propone una  
conferenza  
internazionale e  
chiede il ritiro di  
tutte le truppe  
internazionali ■

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## Documents

Note: The following documents are in PDF format.

You will need to download and install the free [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#) to view.

:: 19 agosto: War  
is over? La  
settimana in  
Afghanistan e  
Iraq, dove la  
guerra non è mai  
finita... ■

### **Document 1: State Department cable, *Future of Iraq Expert Working Groups, July 8, 2002***

State Department officials held planning meetings with "free Iraqis"-described as "Iraqis who live outside Iraq or in northern Iraq"-as early as April 2002, according to this document. Directed to embassy posts in several allied countries, the State Department cable announces the establishment of 15 "Future of Iraq Project" working groups to prepare for the transition to a post-Saddam Hussein Iraq, adding that priority subjects had been identified at a "planning meeting with Iraqis on April 9-10."

:: 19 agosto: Iraq,  
Gran Bretagna:  
non ci sono tempi  
per ritiro ■

### **Document 2: State Department briefing, *Future of Iraq Project, November 1, 2002***

State Department planning for the transition in Iraq began in October 2001, according to a "Project History" included in this set of briefing slides (p. 6).

:: IRAQ: USA,  
PROTESTA  
INNESCA  
PROPOSTA RITIRO  
ENTRO 2006 ■

### **Document 3: State Department Information Memorandum for Paula J. Dobriansky, Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs, *Iraq Contingency Planning, February 7, 2003***

One month before the beginning of U.S. military operations in Iraq, three State Department bureau chiefs warn of "serious planning gaps for post-conflict public security and humanitarian assistance" in a memorandum prepared for Under Secretary of State Paula Dobriansky (Democracy and Global Affairs). Recognizing that the military is reluctant "to take on 'policing' roles," the bureau heads predict that "a failure to address short-term public security and humanitarian assistance concerns could result in serious human rights abuses which would undermine an otherwise successful military campaign, and our reputation internationally."

:: 18 agosto: Iraq:  
alla stesura della  
Costituzione  
partecipano  
inglesi, americani  
e rappresentanti  
dell'Onu ■

:: 18 agosto:  
IRAQ: SUNNITI,  
SI' AL  
FEDERALISMO A  
TRE CONDIZIONI  
■

### **Document 4: State Department Action Memorandum for Secretary of State Colin Powell, *Response to Secretary Rumsfeld, April 10, 2003***

William Burns, the head of the State Department's Near Eastern Affairs bureau, recommends that Secretary Powell approve a (still classified) response to Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's "suggested messages and demarches to capitals related to Iraq." Burns notes that, "These are all actions that we already have taken or have planned." Powell's approval (stamped "CLP") is indicated in this copy of the memo.

:: 18 agosto: Una  
decina di vittime  
oggi in Iraq ■

:: 18 agosto: Usa;  
Bush resta a  
minimi storici,  
sondaggio ■

### **Document 5: State Department, *Report to Congress Submitted consistent with PL 107-243: "Authorization for Use of Military Force***

:: 18 agosto: Su  
sito Al-Arabiya  
confessione di '  
contrabbandiere '



pacifista che sfida  
Bush

:: Iraq.  
Sull'Independent i  
segreti  
dell'obitorio di  
Baghdad: a luglio  
1100 morti

:: 17 agosto: Iraq:  
triplice attentato  
fa strage a  
Baghdad

:: 17 agosto: Un  
recluso è stato  
assassinato nel  
carcere di Abu  
Ghraib

:: 17 agosto: Iraq.  
Tre autobombe a  
Baghdad, almeno  
31 morti

:: 16 agosto:  
Uccisione di 30  
iraqeni in un  
bombardamento  
USA su un hotel di  
Baghdad

:: 16 agosto: Nel  
"nuovo" Iraq,  
torna il boia: tre  
condanne a morte  
annunciate da  
Jaafari

:: 16 agosto: Iraq:  
USA; perdite a  
1855, ad agosto  
già 60

:: 16 agosto: Iraq:  
cinque iracheni  
uccisi, 40 feriti in  
attentati

:: 16 agosto:  
Iraq : nuove  
accuse di abusi a  
soldati britannici

:: 16 agosto:  
IRAQ: ESERCITO  
USA ARRESTA 5  
BAMBINI A BAJI

:: Gli USA  
ammettono che il  
panorama  
iracheno è  
scoraggiante

:: 16 agosto: Iraq:  
Esercito Usa,  
Morte Sospetta  
Detenuto Ad Abu

Ghraib ■

:: 16 agosto: Iraq:  
ostaggi, ucciso  
canadese rapito ■

:: 15 agosto:  
Blindati svizzeri  
per Iraq: ora  
Deiss vuole  
garanzie ■

:: 15 agosto: Iraq:  
costituzione,  
parlamento decide  
proroga a 22/8 ■

:: 15 agosto: Iraq:  
costituzione,  
commissione  
chiederà altri 10  
giorni ■

:: 15 agosto: Iraq.  
Sparatorie e  
agguati, 6 morti e  
10 feriti ■

:: 15 agosto:  
IRAQ: DEPUTATO  
SCIITA,  
«COSTITUZIONE  
PRESENTATA  
ENTRO LE 18» ■

:: 15 agosto: Iraq,  
polizia scopre 30  
cadaveri in una  
fossa comune ■

:: 15 agosto: Iraq:  
Costituzione,  
manca accordo ■

:: 15 agosto: Iraq.  
Biden e McCain  
'licenziano'  
Rumsfeld alla Nbc:  
nessuna fiducia in  
lui ■

:: 14 agosto: Iraq:  
autobomba a  
Baghdad, altro  
morto incrementa  
bilancio ■

:: 14 agosto:  
IRAQ:  
COSTITUZIONE,  
CONVOCATA  
DOMANI  
SESSIONE  
PARLAMENTO ■

:: 14 agosto:  
IRAQ:  
TERRORISTA  
RIVELA, ZARQAWI  
SI NASCONDE NEL

NORD ■

:: 14 agosto 2005:  
IRAQ:  
COSTITUZIONE,  
TRATTATIVE  
ANCORA ARENATE  
SU FEDERALISMO  
E ISLAM ■

:: 14 agosto 2005:  
Iraq, 5 soldati Usa  
uccisi da bombe  
piazzate nelle  
strade ■

:: 14 agosto 2005:  
Iraq: Usa;  
Pentagono  
modifica protezioni  
veicoli blindati ■

:: 14 agosto 2005:  
IRAQ: RAPITO A  
BAGHDAD  
DIRETTORE  
BANCA CENTRALE  
■

:: 13 agosto: Iraq.  
Pecoraro: non  
confondere  
rispetto caduti con  
giustificazione  
guerra ■

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