



April 21, 2004

The Handover of Iraqi Sovereignty and the Reality of June 30th

June 30 Marks:

- the **transfer of sovereignty** to the representatives of the Iraqi people.
- the first day that the **new Transitional Administrative Law**, which includes a historic bill of rights, **becomes law of the land**.
- the beginning of **diplomatic relations with Iraq**, which will mark the **end of the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) and establishment of the U.S. Mission**.
- the beginning of a **new phase of economic, military, and political cooperation** between the United States, the Coalition, and the Iraqi civilian government.
- the next step in the **development of Iraq's democracy and civil society**. Actual elections won't come for another seven months, and even then, substantial institution-building will be necessary.
- an opportunity for **Iraqis to rule themselves under the principles of freedom and liberty for the first time** in their modern history.
- the commencement of the **first Arab democracy** in the heart of the Middle East.
- the first day that **Iraqis will be responsible for determining the fate of Saddam Hussein and his henchmen**.
- the first day that the **Iraqis will chart the course** for their own political and economic future.

*What June 30 Does **NOT** Represent:*

- **The withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq:** The recently signed status of forces agreement between the U.S. and the Iraqi Governing Council allows U.S. forces to remain in Iraq under U.S. command until December 31, 2005.
- **The end of U.S. engagement and reconstruction efforts in Iraq:** The United States and its coalition partners will continue to maintain a military presence throughout Iraq to assist with the stabilization and reconstruction of Iraq; the United States will transfer on-the-ground responsibility to a newly created American embassy; and the United States will continue to provide reconstruction monies and participate in massive reconstruction and reform activities.
- **The end of American interests in Iraq:** The United States has a vested interest in having Iraq become a functioning, stable democracy that benefits the Iraqi people, and also serves as a source of democratic influence on the peoples and leaders throughout the region. Additionally, U.S. and allied security interests will be greatly improved with a stable Iraq. A free, democratic Iraq denies terrorists a sanctuary and country of support.
- **The delay or postponement of transferring sovereignty to the Iraqi government:** To delay the handover would send the wrong message to the Iraqis about U.S. intentions, and would send a dangerous message to terrorists and extremists that violence and chaos have an effect on American resolve.
- **The end of hostilities toward the U.S. presence in Iraq, or the end of insurgent and terrorist forces seeking to destabilize Iraq and deny democracy:** This requires a vibrant U.S. presence to work with the Iraqis to stabilize their country.

Issues to Be Resolved Before June 30:

- Which Iraqi leaders will constitute the new Iraqi governing entity?
- What will be the relative responsibilities of the U.S. State Department, Defense Department, and others regarding U.S. policy and operations after June 30?
- What will be the specific responsibilities of the new U.S. Ambassador to Iraq?
- What restrictions will be on U.S. forces to conduct operations in Iraq after June 30?
- How will U.S. military operations be funded? Regular or supplemental appropriations?
- What will the United Nations' role be in Iraq after June 30?
- Will CPA-negotiated contracts be honored after June 30?