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THE PROPOSED U.S. SECURITY COMMITMENT TO IRAQ: WHAT WILL BE IN IT AND SHOULD IT BE A TREATY?

JOINT HEARING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND OVERSIGHT

AND THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

JANUARY 23, 2008

Serial No. 110–151

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Mr. DELAHUNT. It is about Iraq, but my point is, if there is a precedent that is consistent, in terms of the behavior of this administration, it is the fact that they do not respect precedent; they just make it up as they go along, and that is why I think that we have to be particularly attentive to what is occurring, in terms of these negotiations.

Mr. RUBIN. But we should not rewrite what constitutes a treaty, sir.

Mr. DELAHUNT. I am not even suggesting that.

Mr. RUBIN. Okay.

Mr. DELAHUNT. As Dr. Matheson has indicated, and as others have put forth in their own testimony, there are various forms in which Congress plays a role. Executive-legislative agreements, I dare say, make up the bulk of our international agreements, working together. But we have an administration that, as Senator Hagel said, considers Congress as an adversary and as a constitutional nuisance.

Gentlemen, thank you so much for your testimony. We are adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 2:05 p.m., the subcommittees were adjourned.]

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