4.G 74/7:109-250

IRAQ: DEMOCRACY OR CIVIL WAR?

HEARING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY, EMERGING THREATS, AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED NINTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

SEPTEMBER 15, 2006

Serial No. 109–250

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Mr. SHAYS. I'll just make this last point in doing something I don't always do enough of, and that's to thank my committee. When I told them about a month ago we were going to have a set of three hearings in 1 week just shortly after having a hearing next week, they looked at me, and I said this is really important, and they knew it was. I want to thank Dr. Nicholas Palarino, my staff director. He has been to Iraq 14 times, 13 with me and once on his own. My wife doesn't like me going if he's not with me. He was a former colonel and has earned his doctorate.

I want to point out the gentleman sitting next to me, Mr. Robert Kelley, the chief counsel, has been in Iraq for 20 months. He did something so unusual working for the State Department, he would help us in our travels but he would tell me candidly, kind of, when I was getting the straight story and when I wasn't. He would once in a while say, you may need to ask this question to draw out the answers that you need as a Member of Congress. He's done a fabulous job in putting together this.

And Mr. Robert Briggs, analyst of the subcommittee, and Mr. Michael Girbov, a Georgetown University graduate student, and Mr. Kaleb Redden, the Presidential management fellow. A lot of work has gone into these hearings and I'm very grateful to my committee. And I'll just again say I just can't thank you enough for the dialog and the challenging information you presented us with that we need to wrestle with. I'm just so grateful.

Mr. Van Hollen, any last comment that you'd like to make before we go?

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Just to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for holding these hearings and to thank the last panel for their very insightful comments.

Mr. SHAYS. Thank you very much. This hearing is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 12:19 p.m., the subcommittee was adjourned.]

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