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108th Congress, 1st Session - - - - - - - - - - - - - - House Document 108–63

REPORT CONSISTENT WITH THE AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF MILITARY FORCE AGAINST IRAQ RESOLUTION OF 2002

COMMUNICATION

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TRANSMITTING

A REPORT CONSISTENT WITH PUBLIC LAW 107–243, "AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF MILITARY FORCE AGAINST IRAQ RESOLUTION OF 2002"

PURDUE UNIVERSITY
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The Treasury Department will be active in assisting in the formulation and execution of Iraqi economic policies. Using its technical assistance advisors, Treasury will focus on restoring essential operations of the Finance Ministry, the Central Bank, the commercial banks, and the stock market. A crucial near-term challenge will be paying civil servants, teachers, and pensioners in a fair, orderly, and prompt manner.

The Administration is also investigating options for helping a post-conflict Iraqi Government deal with its financial vulnerability, including Iraq's very large national debt. We will work with the international community (including international financial institutions and Iraq's creditors), to understand Iraq's overall financial situation, to recognize legitimate claims on Iraq, and to find ways to assist with Iraq's pressing need for the resources necessary to rehabilitate itself.

IV. Military Operations

Current coalition military operations to disarm Iraq commenced on March 19, 2003. The Coalition consists of 49 countries that have publicly aligned themselves with our goal of disarming Saddam Hussein. The deployment of U.S. Armed Forces to Iraq continues as necessary to support the conduct of ongoing military operations. As the President has indicated previously, it is not possible to know at this time either the duration of active military operations or the scope or duration of the deployment of U.S. Armed Forces necessary to accomplish our goals fully. Officials from the Defense Department are providing Congress with daily updates on the status of military operations in closed briefings. The State Department and the Central Intelligence Agency are also providing daily updates to Congress on the status of their activities that relate to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

V. Free Iraqi Forces

Background. Consistent with the authority of the Iraq Liberation Act of 1998, the United States Government conducted a training program to prepare Iraqi exiles from around the world to participate in military operations inside Iraq. Free Iraqi Forces (FIF) volunteers received four weeks of training at a military base in Taszar, Hungary. Under the instruction of a U.S. Army Training Task Force, they were taught basic battlefield self-protection techniques, and prepared to serve alongside U.S. forces in combat support roles as translators, guides, and experts in civil affairs. FIF volunteers from North America and Europe have completed the training and deployed to the Persian Gulf, where they are integrated fully with U.S. forces under General Tommy Franks, Commander, U.S. Central Command.

Recent Developments. Since the war began, FIF participants have provided critical assistance to U.S. forces. They have given tactical commanders extensive briefings on conditions in various parts of Southern Iraq, and have already served as effective liaisons with local populations in areas under U.S. military control. One FIF member serving with the 402nd Civil Affairs Battalion team in Nasiryah managed to uncover and translate the records of

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the local Ba'ath Party, providing an important intelligence coup. Another volunteer, while assisting the 354th Civil Affairs Brigade provide humanitarian relief in Umm Qasr, persuaded two Iraqi soldiers intermingled with the civilian population to surrender. The men had been trained in Baghdad to serve as suicide bombers targeting American or British soldiers. But upon hearing Coalition objectives explained to them in Arabic, by a fellow Iraqi, they abandoned their mission and gave themselves up to U.S. forces.

The FIF program is showing the world that Iraqis everywhere are united against Saddam Hussein's tyranny and willing to make great sacrifices to help liberate their country. FIF members have played an important role in the war thus far, and they will continue to help in the effort to build a free and democratic Iraq.

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