

# Granny Peace Brigade

## Leaving Iraq – Attention, Senators/Representatives!

What Iraq needs is not continuing U.S. military intervention, but international peace-keeping, and reconstruction of infrastructure and human services. We should take our troops out of harm's way, and restart diplomatic efforts with the Iraqi authorities, our many allies, international organizations, and concerned governments that can move to bring an end to the civil discord. In collaboration with Iraq, these should be identified and their assistance sought, their services to be remunerated in large part by the U.S.

We strongly support the provisions of bill H.R. 4232 (109 Congress) – “End the War in Iraq,” introduced by Representative Jim McGovern, which would prohibit the use of funds to deploy United States Armed Forces to Iraq but would provide for safe and orderly withdrawal of all troops; consultations with the Government of Iraq, other foreign governments, NATO, the UN, and other international organizations; financial assistance or equipment to Iraqi security forces and international forces in Iraq; but which would not prohibit or restrict non-defense funding to carry out reconstruction in Iraq.

Here we refer especially to two plans, one detailed by Representative Dennis Kucinich and one set forth by George McGovern and William R. Polk, detailed in their book "Out of Iraq - A Practical Plan for Withdrawal Now." The McGovern-Polk plan includes estimated financial costs. Some of the elements of these two plans are summarized, as follows:

### **Representative Dennis Kucinich Plan:**

1. UN interim management of oil assets
2. UN management of contracts, awarded under transparent conditions
3. U.S. must renounce any privatization plans
4. UN to handle transition to viable self governance
5. U.S. to pay for what has been destroyed
6. U.S. to pay reparation
7. U.S. to contribute financially to UN peacekeeping mission
8. UN to commit 130,000 peacekeepers to Iraq on temporary basis until Iraq can maintain its own security
9. UN troops rotate into Iraq, and all U.S. troops to return home
10. U.S. to abandon "preemption" and unilateralism and commit itself to strengthening the UN. Representative Kucinich has indicated that under this plan U.S. troops should return home in 90 days

### **George McGovern and William R. Polk Plan:**

Here is a statement and a summary of some of the recommendations set forth in Chapter 5 “How to Get Out of Iraq” (Chapter 6 is “What Happens If We Do Not Get Out of Iraq?”)

"Withdrawal is not only a political imperative but also a strategic requirement. Before the American invasion, Iraq was devoid of terrorists; today as the American command and

senior civil military officers have repeatedly admitted, has become the primary recruiting and training ground for them. ... We suggest that phased withdrawal should begin on or before December 31, 2006, with promise to make every effort to complete it by June 2007.

"Withdrawal is not without financial costs. These costs are unavoidable and will have to be paid sooner or later ..."

Some of the recommendations:

1. An international force to police the country short-term after American withdrawal (possibly contingents under the aegis of the Arab League or United Nations)
2. American assistance given during withdrawal, if requested by the Iraqi government
3. Creation and solidification of a national police force
4. Immediate cessation of work on U.S. military bases
5. American withdrawal from the Green Zone
6. The digging up and destruction of land mines and unexploded ordinance and, where possible, the cleaning up of depleted uranium in artillery shells and their targets
7. Rebuilding/reconstruction to be done by Iraqis
8. Ascertainment of the full extent of damage
9. Restoration of historic sites
10. Reparations to Iraqi civilians for loss of lives and property.

The chapter contains additional recommendations.

In Chapter 6, "What Happens If We Do Not Get Out of Iraq?" two points of note made are: (a) since no strong Iraqi leader who has power and legitimacy will be pro-American, if American departure is not soon and orderly, it will be eventual, under pressure, and in haste; and (b) relationships among the civilian components of Iraq having been inflamed during the occupation, the groups will seek to protect themselves with arms.

Senator McGovern and Dr. Polk are eminently qualified to concern themselves deeply in this matter -- both are knowledgeable in Middle East Affairs and Dr. Polk is a Middle East and Arabic scholar.

To reiterate, we emphasize that the withdrawal of the U.S. from Iraq by no means implies leaving a vacuum. What is required is our orderly turnover of programs and functions to non-U.S. competent bodies in order to promote cessation of hostilities, the rebuilding of physical and social infrastructure, provision of humanitarian assistance, and in order to bring to an end the dreadful carnage emanating to a great extent from the occupation.

We ask and know that you will pursue these recommendations for the early and orderly removal of U.S. military personnel from Iraq and that you will keep open the lines of communication with your constituents on steps underway for achievement of this end.

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