

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 10, 2003

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to you concerning the situation in Iraq and the need to speed up the process by which Iraqis assume greater responsibility for their own security.

The New Iraqi Army, which is being created from scratch, currently has less than 1,000 members. We cannot afford to transfer security functions to Iraqis at that slow a pace. The quicker we get the New Iraqi Army in place, the more security we are likely to have and the better off Iraq will be.

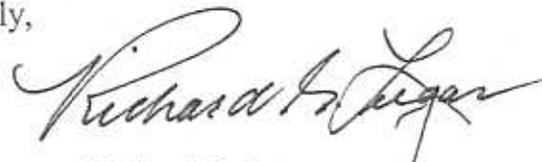
The October presiding officer of the Iraqi Governing Council, Iyad Alawi, in an opinion piece published in the *New York Times* on October 19, proposed that Iraqi Army units be recalled at the mid-officer level and below. They are presently being paid by the Coalition Provisional Authority and thus can easily be identified. They would have to be vetted, of course, to remove high-ranking Baathists. Since they are already being paid, they should do useful work. Taking over some of the security responsibilities presently being performed by U.S. forces and making our troops less of a target would be very useful. These are the units that Saddam Hussein did not trust and that refused to fight for him.

Accordingly, we ask that you give serious consideration to recalling Iraqi Army units at the mid-officer level and below.

Sincerely,



Carl Levin



Richard G. Lugar