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United States Senate  
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

January 25, 2007

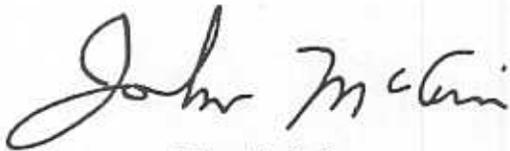
The Honorable Condoleezza Rice  
Secretary of State  
Department of State  
2201 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Madam Secretary:

On November 14, 2006 Senator Levin sent you a letter (attached) asking that you provide the agreed timeline and benchmarks (or the U.S. proposal for such) of political issues to be resolved by the Iraqi Government in the coming months. At that time he also requested the same from Secretary Rumsfeld. On December 4, he heard from Under Secretary of Defense Edelman that the State Department had received his letter and had agreed to respond on behalf of the Administration. Having not heard from the State Department for two months, Senator Levin again wrote to you (attached) on January 16, 2007 reiterating his request and noting his expectation that you would be courteous enough to respond by the end of last week. Unfortunately, you have not done so, which necessitates yet another request.

In his January 10 address to the nation on his new strategy for Iraq, President Bush said that "America will hold the Iraqi government to the benchmarks it has announced." It is essential that Congress have the information on those benchmarks to comprehensively consider as it addresses the way ahead in Iraq. It is both baffling and disturbing that the Administration will not provide the timeline and benchmarks, and it is our joint expectation that you will do so promptly, and by the end of this week at the latest. If the benchmarks to which the President referred include additional commitments beyond those initially agreed to by the Iraqi government, then our expectation is that you will make that clear in your response, and will clearly indicate which are new commitments.

Sincerely,



John McCain  
Ranking Member



Carl Levin  
Chairman

Attachments

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**United States Senate**  
 COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES  
 WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

January 16, 2007

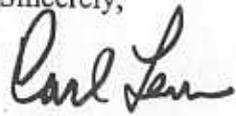
The Honorable Condolezza Rice  
 U.S. Department of State  
 2201 C Street, N.W.  
 Washington, DC 20510

Dear Madam Secretary:

On November 14, 2006 I sent you a letter (attached) asking that you provide the agreed timeline and benchmarks (or the U.S. proposal for such) of political issues to be resolved by the Iraqi Government in the coming months. At that time I requested the same from Secretary Rumsfeld. On December 4, I heard from Under Secretary of Defense Edelman that the State Department had received my letter and had agreed to respond on behalf of the Administration. I have yet to hear from the State Department in this regard.

As I stated in my first letter, this information will be essential to the Congress' consideration of a way ahead on Iraq. Now that the President has announced his new strategy for Iraq, this information is even more vital. I am very disappointed that two months have gone by and you have not responded to my initial request. In view of the passage of time and the importance of this issue, I expect to receive the timeline and benchmarks by the end of this week.

Sincerely,



Carl Levin  
 Chairman

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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

November 14, 2006

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Madam Secretary:

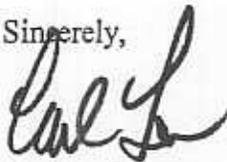
The top priority for the coming months must be finding a way forward to change course in Iraq. U.S. policy must include urging the Iraqis to make the necessary political compromises, which only they can make, to preserve Iraq as a nation. Our military commanders have made clear there is no military solution; only a political solution can restore security in Iraq.

The Administration announced last month that Iraqi leaders had agreed to a timeline and benchmarks for a political process over the coming months. On October 25, 2006, President Bush stated that the Administration and the Iraqi Government were developing benchmarks for determining whether the "hard decisions necessary to achieve peace" were being made. Earlier, on October 24, 2006, Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad stated that Iraqi leaders had agreed to a timeline for making the hard decisions on outstanding issues and that President Talibani had made those commitments public. According to Ambassador Khalilzad and General Casey, these included enactment of an oil law for sharing resources; a constitutional amendment on power-sharing that would guarantee democratic rights and equality to all Iraqis; reforming the de-Ba'athification Commission; and increasing the credibility and capability of Iraqi forces. However, on October 25, 2006, Iraqi Prime Minister Maliki stated publicly that no timetable has been set.

Please provide the agreed timeline and benchmarks (or the U.S. proposal for such) of political issues to be resolved by the Iraqi Government in the coming months. This information will be essential to the Congress' consideration of a way ahead on Iraq.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Carl Levin  
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable John Warner  
Chairman