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File

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The issue underlying everything is this: have we got the country into a mess and therefore any bad news is our fault; or is Iraq the battleground whose outcome will determine our own security and therefore the bad news is worth it in the end?

We simply aren't in this debate at present. We need to make the following points:

- (1) Those in Iraq are not Iraqis – they are foreign jihadists.
- (2) Al-Zarqawi is not Iraqi.
- (3) Al-Zarqawi was in Iraq well before March 2003 and refer to the Butler Report finding.
- (4) Najaf shows these and Iraqi extremists do not have support. Once they left Najaf, the people were delighted.
- (5) What is happening in Iraq is that the same groups who have been in Afghanistan, Chechnya, Pakistan who are conducting terrorism round the world including in Europe, see Iraq as a battleground . Therefore so should we.
- (6) Democracy in Iraq and Afghanistan would deal a huge blow to terrorism worldwide and therefore it is an intricate part of our own security.

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- (7) Those who think we are provoking the terrorists should remember September 11th, done before military action in Afghanistan and Iraq was even thought of; Bali; Tanzania; and scores of other incidents in countries opposed to Iraq.
- (8) The presence of foreign jihadists was not the danger contemplated prior to the Iraq war. The warning was of a humanitarian catastrophe (averted); or of another Saddam. It is the jihadists who have seen the importance of Iraq and therefore so should we.
- (9) Al-Zarqawi and his associates, and Al Qaida more generally, are increasingly sophisticated.

We need a concerted effort, organised and disciplined, to get this across.

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