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IRAQ "DAY AFTER": US MAKES INITIAL PLANNING PUBLIC  
From: WASHINGTON

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## Summary

1. Grossman (State) and Feith (Defence) give evidence to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Their message is liberation, not occupation. The establishment of an Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance is announced, but they offer little detail on financing. Specific denial that action is motivated by oil.

## Detail

2. Marc Grossman (Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs), and Douglas Feith (Under Secretary of Defence for Policy) gave evidence to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on 11 February. Both reiterated US commitment to meet the humanitarian, reconstruction and administrative challenges facing Iraq in the aftermath of combat. They emphasised that "the United States wants to liberate, not occupy Iraq or control Iraqis or their economic resources".

3. Grossman covered five areas: guiding principles for establishing a democratic Iraq; the removal of Weapons of Mass Destruction (the top priority); meeting humanitarian needs; reconstruction; and the political future, with reference to the Future of Iraq project. He noted that inter-agency planning had been begun by the NSC and Office of Management and Budget in the White House, and stressed that USAID and State were engaging the UN and IFIs ("who will be important partners in addressing Iraq's humanitarian needs"). He said that \$15m had been authorised to support the planning process, with an additional \$35m made available from existing accounts.

4. He added that no decision had been made on the structure or timing of transition, but outlined three conceptual stages of stabilisation (interim Coalition military administration), transition (authority progressively given to Iraqi institutions) and transformation (a new democratic Iraqi government).

5. Feith reiterated Grossman's principles. He stressed the desire for contribution and participation from "coalition partners, NGOs, the UN and other international organisations". He announced that the initial interim administration would report to General Franks, and that the President had ordered the creation of the a post war planning office, now called the Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance, located in DoD but staffed from across the administration. He said its task was to make operational the planning of the NSC interagency group, and that it would have three main operations: humanitarian relief, reconstruction and civil administration, led by General Garner.

6. Feith specifically addressed the question of oil, with the

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ted intent of denying accusations of a "War for Oil". He said that detailed planning was underway for the safe resumption of production, and reiterated that "Iraq's oil belongs to the people of Iraq". In the immediate aftermath this would mean protection of oil fields from sabotage, and rapid reconstruction and operation of the oil sector. The intention would be that the proceeds, together with humanitarian aid, could help to support Iraqi needs.

7. In the ensuing discussion, Feith said that military occupation could last two years. Both admitted to "enormous uncertainties". They said that they did not know how the Iraqi oil industry would be managed, who would cover the costs of oil installation reconstruction, or how the detailed transition to a democratic Iraq would operate. The committee's response was one of incredulity, with encouragement to plan for the worst, as well as the best, case.

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