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Inglis, Graham see progress but differ on Iraq

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By Ellyn Ferguson

WASHINGTON -- Iraq remains dangerous for U.S. troops and Iraqi civilians, but there are signs of improvement despite bloody events like Thursday's bombing of the Iraqi parliament, Rep. Bob Inglis said.

Inglis, part of a six-member bipartisan House delegation, learned of the attack inside the fortified Green Zone as the group prepared to leave Baghdad International Airport on Thursday after spending two days in the country.

His assessment of progress made by the U.S. commander, Army Gen. David Petraeus, generally mirrored that of Sen. Lindsey Graham, who shared his views with President Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney and National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley on Thursday in the Oval Office. Graham was part of a delegation to Iraq in early April led by Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who also attended the White House meeting.

"I told the president nothing good happens in Iraq without sacrifice," Graham said.


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He told reporters the attack on the Iraqi parliament, which killed at least eight people, should not overshadow the advances being made.

"The fact (that) there is an explosion in the parliament is not the reason to stop," Graham said.

Inglis, R-Travelers Rest, and Graham, R-S.C., remained divided over setting timelines or benchmarks for Iraqi political leaders to meet.

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**STORYCHAT** 

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