

The Defeatist “Non-Binding” Democratic Iraq Resolution Actually Binds Our Fate in Iraq

February 15, 2007

Dear Colleague:

We must ask ourselves a simple, straightforward question in examining the Democratic Iraq resolution: “Does this resolution support or undermine U.S. efforts to defeat militant jihadists around the world and win the war on terror?”

The truth is that this resolution damages our efforts in Iraq and around the world to combat terror and will strengthen the resolve of our enemies.

By sending a clear signal that the U.S. government does not have the will to continue the fight in Iraq, Bin Laden and his ilk will undoubtedly claim that they were right all along – that the U.S. is a weak power that does not have the will to achieve victory and that continued attacks against U.S. soldiers and civilians will ultimately lead us to abandon the Middle East.

Furthermore, once the U.S. has abandoned Iraq, these jihadists will move toward their goal of reestablishing the Caliphate, which will help gather more jihadists to the cause and give them greater credibility in the Islamic faith to advocate so-called “offensive jihad” against the West.

So then, while the resolution before us may be described as non-binding, it will in reality significantly undermine our efforts to keep the United States safe from future attacks.

By openly declaring that we have written off the objective of a stable, secure Iraq, this resolution is a message to jihadists to fight harder, recruit more, attack more, and deepen their struggle because victory is near.


As General Casey stated two weeks ago in testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee when asked about the consequences of this type of resolution:

“It certainly strengthens the enemy, and with the particular enemy that we’re dealing with, I think they would use it with their information campaigns as a recruiting tool. I’ve already seen it start to come out – the Americans are being beaten, they’re being defeated. Come to Iraq now if you want to be involved in beating the Americans.”

Passing this “non-binding resolution” will in reality bind our fate in Iraq, for we cannot succeed there or anywhere without the will to achieve victory. The militant Islamic jihadists have clearly stated their goals to push the U.S. and the West out of Iraq and the Middle East and to reestablish the Caliphate. This resolution sends the message that victory is in their grasp and exhorts them to push harder. It lends hope and confidence to our enemies, while telling our soldiers that they are fighting a lost cause. It tells our friends and allies in the region that we cannot be trusted to keep our word and should not be trusted again.

So let’s stop pretending that this resolution is non-binding. It has consequences, and they are dire.

Sincerely,


John Shadegg
Member of Congress


Pete Hoekstra
Member of Congress