

# NO REASON TO WAIT FOR CHANGE: NO PROGRESS & HIGHER COSTS DECREASE SUPPORT FOR WAR

Over the past week, several senior Senate Republicans have distanced themselves from President Bush's Iraq policy, while news reports revealed the increasing cost of the Iraq war, decreasing support among Americans, and the continued lack of progress in Iraq. A review of recent developments:

## 1) SENIOR SENATE REPUBLICANS CRITICIZE BUSH'S IRAQ POLICY, PAVE WAY FOR FURTHER DEFECTIONS

**Senator Pete Domenici (R-NM):** "There's no reason to wait... [I am] trying to tell [Bush] that he must change his ways because there is nothing positive happening." *[Baltimore Sun, 7/11/07]*

**Senator Elizabeth Dole (R-NC):** "It is my firm hope and belief that we can start bringing our troops home in 2008." *[AP, 7/11/07]*

**Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN):** "The president needs a new strategy." *[Baltimore Sun, 7/11/07]*

**Sen. George Voinovich (R-OH):** "I think we should continue to ratchet up the pressure — in addition to our words — to let the White House know we are very sincere." *[The Washington Post, 7/11/07]*

## 2) IRAQ WAR COST INCREASES 25%, COSTING TAXPAYERS \$10 BILLION A MONTH

A new CRS report finds that the increase in troop levels in Iraq has increased the cost of the war there from \$8 billion a month to \$10 billion a month, higher than the Pentagon's estimates. The CRS report notes that the war in Iraq has already cost \$450 billion — almost a half-trillion dollars — and that if Congress approves President Bush's supplemental request for fiscal year 2008, appropriations for Iraq will total \$567 billion. *[AP, 7/9/07]*

## 3) WHITE HOUSE DEBATES IRAQ REDEPLOYMENT

The New York Times reported that the Bush Administration is considering a gradual withdrawal of U.S. troops from Baghdad in order to prevent more Republicans from abandoning the President's Iraq strategy. An Administration official acknowledged that more Republicans will begin calling for withdrawal, and that, "Sept. 15 now looks like an end point for the debate, not a starting point." *[NY Times, 7/9/07]*

## 4) BLEAK PROGRESS REPORT PREDICTED

According to a U.S. official on Monday, the progress report on Iraq due to be submitted by the President to Congress before July 15<sup>th</sup> "will conclude that the U.S.-backed government in Baghdad has not met any of its targets for political, economic, and other reform." *[AP, 7/9/07]*

## 5) OPPOSITION TO IRAQ WAR REACHES RECORD HIGH

A USA Today/Gallup poll conducted over the weekend of July 6-8 shows record high opposition to the Iraq war:

- More than seven in 10 support withdrawing almost all U.S. troops from Iraq by April. *[USA Today, 7/10/07]*
- Half of Americans say the increase in U.S. forces in Iraq since January has not made a difference. *[USA Today, 7/10/07]*

## 6) ONE OF THE DEADLIEST SINGLE ATTACKS OF THE WAR

On Saturday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, a suicide bomber blew up a truck in the village of Amerli, killing at least 150 people and wounding another 250, making it one of the deadliest single attacks of the war. This attack is significant because it has increased fears that military crackdowns in Baghdad as a result of the surge are simply encouraging insurgents to direct their attacks elsewhere. *[NY Times, 7/9/07]*