

108TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. RES. 691

Congratulating the Interim Government of Iraq on its forthcoming assumption of sovereign authority in Iraq.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 23, 2004

Mr. HYDE (for himself, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. HUNTER, and Mr. SKELTON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

---

## RESOLUTION

Congratulating the Interim Government of Iraq on its forthcoming assumption of sovereign authority in Iraq.

Whereas in April 2003, the United States Armed Forces and other Coalition forces liberated the people of Iraq from the dictatorial regime of Saddam Hussein;

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 1483 (May 22, 2003) and the laws and usages of war authorized the Coalition Provisional Authority to govern Iraq on a temporary basis;

Whereas the Coalition Provisional Authority established an Iraqi Governing Council, broadly representative of the major geographic, ethnic, and religious groupings of Iraq,

as well as a Cabinet, to assist in the governing of Iraq, and the Council was recognized by many members of the international community as a legitimate voice of the Iraqi people;

Whereas the United States and other Coalition members, in response to the desire of the Iraqi people for early self-government, worked with the Iraqi Governing Council to accelerate the transfer of power to the Iraqi people, with sovereignty to be transferred no later than the end of June 2004;

Whereas the Coalition Provisional Authority and the Iraqi Governing Council on March 8, 2004, agreed upon a Law of Administration for the State of Iraq for the Transitional Period that strongly protects the civil and political rights of Iraqis;

Whereas that Law and its Annex provide for a transition of power to an Iraqi Interim Government, for elections by the end of January 2005, for a Transitional National Assembly, which shall form an Iraqi Transitional Government and provide for the drafting and adoption of a permanent constitution, and, by the end of 2005, for a government chosen under the new constitution;

Whereas the Iraqi people have begun electing local officials in parts of Iraq under Coalition auspices and will have the opportunity to express their will in free and meaningful national elections for the first time in Iraq's history;

Whereas the United Nations Secretary General appointed a Special Adviser to conduct political consultations aimed at putting in place an Interim Government to assume sovereignty over Iraq;

Whereas the Iraqi Governing Council made recommendations about the composition of the Interim Government, after which, when the recommendations were accepted by the Coalition Provisional Authority, the Council dissolved itself;

Whereas on June 8, 2004, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1546, welcoming the formation and forthcoming “assumption of full responsibility and authority by a fully sovereign and independent Interim Government of Iraq” and authorizing the multinational force under unified command to continue its activities;

Whereas the Coalition Provisional Authority will dissolve at the end of June 2004 and will not be replaced;

Whereas members of the United States Armed Forces, a total force consisting of active, reserve, and National Guard personnel, have performed their mission with great skill and courage, in the process being awarded at least 18 Distinguished Service Crosses, 6 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 133 Silver Stars, 16,551 Bronze Stars, and 4,161 Purple Hearts;

Whereas, as of June 23, 2004, 833 members of the United States Armed Forces, approximately 100 members of the Coalition forces, and many members of the Iraqi security services, have given their lives to advance the cause of liberty in Iraq, and thousands of members of the United States Armed Forces and Coalition forces, and many members of the Iraqi security services, have suffered wounds for that cause;

Whereas the families of American soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen have made and continue to make enormous sacrifices for their country;

Whereas in addition, Coalition forces, civilians employed by or assisting the Coalition Provisional Authority, the Iraqi government and its employees, international organizations, and American and other international volunteers, as well as large numbers of Iraqis, have made and continue to make enormous efforts to reconstruct the country and improve the lives of the Iraqi people;

Whereas Ambassador L. Paul Bremer, III, Presidential Envoy to Iraq and Administrator of the Coalition Provisional Authority, has ably advanced the international coalition's goals in Iraq of transforming Iraq into a safe, secure, stable, sovereign, democratic state that serves the interests of the Iraqi people;

Whereas the United States will be represented in Iraq by an Embassy led by Ambassador John D. Negroponte, and the United States will deal with the Government of Iraq on the basis of the sovereign equality of states under international law, including the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, to which both the United States and Iraq are parties;

Whereas after June 30, 2004, the Interim Government of Iraq and its successors, and United States Armed Forces and Coalition forces, will cooperate to meet ongoing security challenges and to extend security and stability to all regions of Iraq; and

Whereas the United States has never desired to exercise permanent sovereignty over Iraq and welcomes the formation

of the Iraqi Interim Government and its imminent assumption of authority: Now, therefore, be it—

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2           (1) congratulates the Interim Government of  
3       Iraq on its forthcoming assumption of sovereign au-  
4       thority in Iraq;

5           (2) offers its continued support to the people  
6       and government of Iraq as they deal with the con-  
7       sequences of decades of misrule by the former re-  
8       gime of Saddam Hussein;

9           (3) expresses its gratitude to the United States  
10      Armed Forces for their ongoing valiant service to  
11      their country and commitment to the highest ideals  
12      and traditions of the American people;

13          (4) expresses its gratitude to the families of  
14      United States Armed Forces personnel, especially  
15      the families of those who have lost loved ones in Op-  
16      eration Iraqi Freedom and of those wounded in the  
17      service of their country, for their sacrifices;

18          (5) expresses its condolences to the families of  
19      the innocent Iraqis who have been killed or wounded  
20      during the conflict, including those who were victim-  
21      ized by the illegal and terrorist tactics of the enemy,  
22      and despite the concerted efforts by the Coalition  
23      forces to minimize civilian casualties;

1           (6) expresses its gratitude to the Coalition  
2 forces, the Coalition Provisional Authority, the Iraqi  
3 Governing Council, the current Iraqi cabinet and  
4 government officials, and the many international  
5 bodies and voluntary organizations which have come  
6 to the aid of the people of Iraq in an effort to help  
7 them address the consequences of decades of misrule  
8 by the former regime of Saddam Hussein, as well as  
9 to the families of those mentioned in this paragraph,  
10 who have been lost in Iraq;

11           (7) offers its continued support to the United  
12 States Armed Forces, civilians associated with the  
13 United States Government, Coalition forces, and  
14 Iraqi security forces who continue to bear the bur-  
15 den of attacks from former regime elements, foreign  
16 and Iraqi terrorists, and other criminals who are at-  
17 tempting to undermine the interests of the Iraqi peo-  
18 ple and thwart their evident desire to live in peace;

19           (8) calls on the entire international community  
20 to promote the welfare of the Iraqi people by ren-  
21 dering, in addition to the generous assistance pro-  
22 vided by the American people and, in varying de-  
23 grees, by some nations, immediate, tangible, and  
24 generous assistance to the Iraqi people in the recon-  
25 struction of their nation, including, in response to

1 requests from the Iraqi government coordinated with  
2 the command of the multinational forces, forces ca-  
3 pable of assisting in the provision of security to the  
4 Iraqi people;

5 (9) reaffirms—

6 (A) that the United States Armed Forces  
7 operating in Iraq after June 30, 2004, will re-  
8 main under the full authority, direction, and  
9 control of their American commanders; and

10 (B) the need to ensure that such Armed  
11 Forces will possess all necessary authority to  
12 fulfill their mission effectively and to provide  
13 for their operational safety; and

14 (10) urges the people of the United States and  
15 of other countries to celebrate the restoration of  
16 freedom to the people of Iraq through the efforts of  
17 the peoples of the United States, the Coalition, and  
18 Iraq.

○