



U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

For Release:
January 11, 2007

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United States Senator Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
Opening Statement in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Hearings on Iraq
Alternative Plans Series: Troop Surge, Partition, Withdrawal or Strengthen the Center?
January 11, 2007
*****Remarks as Prepared for Delivery*****

This afternoon we begin our examination of the various plans for securing our interests in Iraq. Today, we will hear three starkly different proposals from thoughtful and articulate witnesses. While they each have very different ideas, they are united in their devotion to this country and their desire to help see it through a difficult time.

After Chairman Lugar's opening statement, we will begin with Ambassador Peter Galbraith, Senior Diplomatic Fellow with the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation. He is also a former staff member of this Committee.

Ambassador Galbraith argues that we should: "Accept the partition of Iraq that has already taken place, withdraw from Arab Iraq, and redeploy a small force to Kurdistan that can strike at al-Qaeda if necessary."

Next, we will hear from Dr. Frederick Kagan, Resident Scholar at the American Enterprise Institute.

Dr. Kagan has authored a recent study that: “calls for a sustained surge of American combat forces into Iraq in order to restore and maintain stability and security in Baghdad, reduce sectarian violence, protect the Iraqi population, and help establish a normal life for the Iraqi people.”

Finally, we will hear from Dr. Ted Galen Carpenter, Vice President for Defense and Foreign Policy Studies at the Cato Institute. Dr. Carpenter argues that: “the president should begin the process of removing American troops immediately, and that process needs to be complete in no more than six months.”

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