

Castle Reaction to Iraq Study Group Recommendations -- December 6, 2006

Washington, D.C. -- Delaware Congressman Mike Castle today released the following statement regarding the recommendations of the Iraq Study Group:

"After reviewing the Iraq Study Group's report this morning, it appears that the group has compiled a very pragmatic collection of recommendations. In particular, I support the report's recommendation to launch an intense diplomatic offensive to bring Iraq's neighbors to the table in the form of a regional conference. Not engaging Iraq's neighbors in a constructive dialogue has been one of our greatest failures and I feel it is crucial that our government employ all available diplomatic tools to make this happen as soon as possible. I also support the report's call for the U.S. military to finally transfer responsibility for combat operations over to the Iraqi army, with limited American soldiers remaining primarily in an advisory role. Hopefully, this will serve as a basis for real change in Iraq and a shift in what has become a dire situation.

"However, I think it also important that we take these recommendations along with a dose of reality. The truth is there are no easy solutions. I commend the Iraq Study Group for prescribing the basis for a course forward, but it is clear that we will continue to face many obstacles. Over the next few weeks, it will be crucial that both Democrats and Republicans work together with the Bush Administration and our military leaders to improve conditions on the ground and to urge the Iraqi people to take responsibility for their future so we can begin bringing our men and women home. Our brave soldiers are risking their lives in an ever evolving and chaotic environment and they deserve an effective solution to this conflict."

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