

THIRD TIME'S NOT THE CHARM

Three Recent Reports All Reach Same Conclusion: Iraq Progress Is Unsatisfactory

On Monday, General David Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Crocker will present a White House Report on Iraq that is expected to present the rosier scenario possible. However, a clear pattern has already been established by three recent, independent reports: despite the surge, Iraqis are not making progress toward political reconciliation, and there has not been a clear decrease in violence.

National Intelligence Estimate

“Iraq's leaders remain ‘unable to govern effectively,’ as rival Shiite factions maneuver for position and Sunnis continue to boycott the beleaguered government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, a National Intelligence Estimate released Thursday said.” – *USA Today*, 8/24/07

“‘The level of overall violence . . . remains high; Iraq's sectarian groups remain unreconciled . . . and to date Iraqi political leaders remain unable to govern effectively,’ the new report said.” – *The Washington Post*, 8/24/07

“In particular, a National Intelligence Estimate by U.S. spy agencies concluded that the increase has produced measurable security gains, but that the Iraqi government, led by Prime Minister Nouri Maliki, seemed incapable of taking advantage of the situation to forge political compromises thought needed to keep the country from disintegrating.” – *LA Times*, 9/7/07

GAO Report

“Despite all Mr. Bush’s cheerleading, a new report by nonpartisan Congressional investigators tells a much grimmer and closer to reality tale, concluding that the Iraqi government has failed to meet 11 of 18 military and political benchmarks to which it had agreed.” – *NY Times*, 9/5/07

“‘Overall, key legislation has not been passed, violence remains high, and it is unclear whether the Iraqi government will spend \$10 billion in reconstruction funds,’ according to testimony from David M. Walker, comptroller general, to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.” – *CNN*, 9/5/07

“Comptroller General David Walker, who heads the GAO, told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee yesterday that ‘the least progress has been made on the political front.’ Fifteen of 37 cabinet ministers have ‘withdrawn support’ for the government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, and serious problems remain in other ministries, Walker said.” – *The Washington Post*, 9/5/07

Independent Commission on the Security Forces of Iraq Report

“[The report] describes the Iraqi police as fragile, ill-equipped and infiltrated by militia forces. And it is led by the Ministry of Interior, which is ‘a ministry in name only’ that is ‘widely regarded as being dysfunctional and sectarian, and suffers from ineffective leadership.’” – *AP*, 9/5/07

“General James L. Jones said the high-profile presence of U.S. troops has engendered animosity among Iraqis.” – *LA Times*, 9/7/07

“Iraq's security forces will be unable to take control of the country in the next 18 months, and Baghdad's national police force is so corrupt that it should be scrapped, according to a new independent assessment.” – *AP*, 9/6/07