Key Quote

There has been a lot of reporting about security incidents in the last week or so. There have, indeed, been a number of attacks against coalition forces, against Iraqi civilians and against Iraq’s infrastructure. None of this is surprising, nor unexpected. Day by day, conditions in Iraq continue to improve, freedom becomes more and more entrenched, and the dark days of the Ba’athist regime fade further and further into the past. And those few remaining individuals who have no desire or ability to fit into an open and modern society, are becoming more and more desperate.

As they continue to attack not only coalition forces, but the infrastructure that serves the Iraqi people, and even Iraqis themselves, their desperation is evident. And they are increasingly alienating the rest of the population which is beginning to enjoy their new-found freedoms. Which is why more and more Iraqis are coming forward with information on who is behind these attacks, and why our raids are more and more successful. The coalition will succeed in its goal to establish real freedom and democracy in Iraq. Until these individuals realise that, they will remain in our sights.

Meanwhile, we continue to work hard on our strategic priorities: law and order, economic reform, and political progress.

Amb Bremer, Opening Statement Press conference, 1 July

Key Messages

- Coalition Forces continue to robustly patrol Iraq to eliminate crimes against people and property, rid populated areas of weapons, ammunition and explosives, and stop the black market trade in fuel and other commodities.
- Coalition Forces continue to conduct joint security patrols with Iraqi police in their efforts to increase the professionalism of the police force and prepare them for their role in a self-governed Iraq.
- Our task now is to help the Iraqis rebuild their economy.
- Economic team are working hard on a number of initiatives which will help get the economy going, and provide some much-needed jobs.
- After decades of manipulation and mismanagement, the road to a free and flourishing economy will not be an easy one. But we’ve already taken one big step: which was the ending of sanctions.

Facts

Electricity and Fuel

Baghdad
- Baghdad received over 1000 Mega Watts of power on 29 June.
- Baghdad Governorate received 6.4 million liters of gasoline on 28 JUN 03, and the city of Baghdad received 4.8 million liters. There is now 7 days of reserves in Baghdad and 2 days nationwide. Lines at gas stations were noticeably shorter than a few weeks ago. Although small diesel lines are forming in Baghdad.
- Baghdad received 39,000 LPG cylinders on 25 JUN 03.

Basrah
- Electricity in Basra is up to 18 hours a day, although further progress is hampered by continued looting of power lines. As part of the process of tackling this problem, British forces recently arrested 14 people and recovered 40 tons of copper that had been smelted down from power lines. Also, in the last few days, two 400KV main distribution lines have been re-energised allowing a regional grid to function. This should significantly improve electricity supplies in the Basra area.

Hartha, Najibeer, Narraryah
- The 400kV line joining Nartha and Najibeer power stations and the Nassaryah line has been energized. Both these events should mean that these areas should have a more stable supply in future.

Diary

1400 –Arabic and Iraqi Media  Press Conference, Mr Slocombe – re – New Iraqi Army