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Inglis calls for Iraq 'success checkpoints'

Congressman fleshes out his position on war

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SPARTANBURG -- Still under fire for siding with Democrats on legislation critical of the administration's plan for a troop surge in Iraq, U.S. Rep. Bob Inglis on Monday asked President Bush to adopt "a schedule for ... success checkpoints."

Inglis compared his proposal to the administration's previous timetable for an Iraqi constitution and election. He suggested to the White House, "At a minimum, these success checkpoints should include (1) a fair division of oil and (2) the return of banned Baath Party members to positions of public trust."

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The Travelers Rest Republican said, "I'm saying to the president, we're committed in Iraq -- let's get the Iraqis committed to us."

Bush has resisted efforts to impose timetables that could impact military operations in Iraq.

Advertisement Inglis came under criticism when he sided with 16 other Republicans and 229

Democrats on Feb. 16 to pass a resolution critical of Bush's proposed 21,500 troop surge to quell sectarian violence in Baghdad.

The resolution died in the Senate.

"There's not much fan mail," Inglis said, and "a fair amount of mail in pretty significant opposition to my position. We're going to communicate with those folks and ask them to consider the possibility that I'm actually trying to make the surge a success by this, I think, helpful suggestion."