AMERICA AGREES WITH DEMOCRATS' IRAQ GOALS: RESPONSIBLE REDEPLOYMENT, BENCHMARKS SUPPORTED BY THE AMERICAN PUBLIC, EXPERTS

"Since last summer, public opinion has turned against Bush's handling of the war and favors withdrawing, rather than increasing, troops."

[Washington Post 3/5/07]

AMERICANS SUPPORT A RESPONSIBLE REDEPLOYMENT OF U.S. TROOPS

60% of Americans favor setting a time-table for withdrawing all U.S. troops from Iraq by the end of next year.

[USA Today/Gallup Poll, March 2-4, 2007]

This trend holds even in conservative-leaning House districts: a survey of 50 Congressional districts – 35 of which were carried by Bush in 2004 – showed that 67% favor redeploying all U.S. troops from Iraq by early 2008. [Politico, 3/9/07]

Iraq Study Group: "By the first quarter of 2008, subject to unexpected developments in the security situation on the ground, all combat brigades not necessary for force protection could be out of Iraq."

Wayne White, State Department's top Iraq intelligence analyst from 2003-2005, suggesting the U.S. set a 'date certain' for troop withdrawal of February 2008: "If things haven't shaped up at that point, there's not much we're going to be able to do beyond that date to make this thing work." [Council on Foreign Relations, Feb. 2006]

AMERICANS SUPPORT HOLDING IRAQIS ACCOUNTABLE FOR TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR OWN COUNTRY

77% of Americans support requiring US troops to come home from Iraq if Iraq's leaders fail to meet promises to reduce violence there.

[USA Today/Gallup Poll, March 2-4, 2007]

Iraq Study Group: "The U.S. should lay out an agenda for continued support to help Iraq achieve milestones, as well as underscoring the consequences if Iraq does not act. It should be unambiguous that continued U.S. political, military, and economic support for Iraq depends on the Iraqi government's demonstrating political will and making substantial progress toward the achievement of milestones on national reconciliation, security, and governance."