



SEARCH

Choose Category

GO

Monday, May 17, 2004

News

After the Fires

In Iraq

War on Terror

Metro

North County

Tijuana/Border

California

Nation

Mexico

World

Business

Technology

Science

Health | Fitness

Politics

Military

Education

Travel

Solutions

Special Reports

Features

Weather

Obituaries

Forums

Opinion

Columnists

U-T Daily Paper

U-T E-mail Edition

AP Headlines

Archives

E-mail Newsletters

Wireless Edition

Noticias en Español

Internet Access

In Iraq

Powell says U.S. forces would leave Iraq if Iraqi interim governments asks

SAVE THIS EMAIL THIS PRINT THIS MOST POPULAR

By Harry Dunphy ASSOCIATED PRESS

May 15, 2004

WASHINGTON – U.S.-led coalition forces would leave Iraq if a new interim government should ask them to, Secretary of State Colin Powell said Friday, but such a request is unlikely.

Powell said the United States believes that a U.N. resolution passed last year and Iraqi administrative law provide necessary authority for coalition forces to remain even beyond the scheduled June 30 handover of government to Iraqis.



Associated Press E U.S. Marines from the 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment patrol in Nasar Wa Salam, Iraq, Saturday, as smoke rises in the distance from a mortar attack at a fuel depot in Abu Ghraib.

"We're there to support the Iraqi people and protect them and the new government," Powell said at a news conference with his counterparts from other Group of Eight nations preparing for an economic summit next month. "I have no doubt the new government will welcome our presence and am losing no sleep over whether they will ask us to stay."

But were the new government to say it could handle security, "then we would leave," Powell said.

- Marines tackle a double-pronged mission
Five U.S. soldiers die in separate incidents
Insurgents target military recruit center, killing four
Baghdad newspaper calls on Rumsfeld to resign



Quicklinks

- Hotels Restaurants
Bars Travel
Singles Weddings
Shopping Coupons
Baja Spas/Salons

Yellow Pages

Find a business...

Search box with GO button

Free Email Alerts

Enter email here

Submit

Stay informed with customized news and save time and money with community deals.

Mobile Alerts Privacy Policy

Newspaper Ads

See the latest ads from the San Diego Union-Tribune

Services

- Health Financial
Eldercare Legal

Careers

Find a Job...

Enter Job Keywords

Search box with GO button

Homes

Find a Home...

Autos





L. Paul Bremer, the top U.S. administrator in Iraq, told a delegation from Iraq's Diyala province Friday that American forces would not stay where they were unwelcome.

"If the provisional government asks us to leave, we will leave," Bremer said, referring to an interim Iraqi administration due to take power June 30. "I don't think that will happen, but obviously we don't stay in countries where we're not welcome."

Undersecretary of State Marc Grossman had told the House International Relations Committee on Thursday that although it was unlikely, the Iraqi interim government could tell U.S. troops to leave. But Lt. Gen. Walter Sharp, who was also at the hearing, contradicted his statement, telling the panel that only an elected government could order a U.S. withdrawal.

White House spokesman Scott McClellan told reporters Friday that the Iraqi people still want help from the United States and coalition forces to provide security.

"Iraqi security forces are not fully equipped and trained to provide for their own security and defend their country against terrorists," McClellan said. "And so, after the transfer of sovereignty on June 30, we expect to continue to partner with the Iraqi forces to improve the security situation."

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said at the news conference with Powell that stability in Iraq would not be served by an abrupt withdrawal.

"But were the government that takes over to ask us to leave, we would leave," Straw said. Britain is the main force other than the United States in the U.S.-led military coalition that brought down Iraq's authoritarian government last year and is trying to restore calm in the aftermath.

Powell said he expected the commander of coalition forces in Iraq to remain an American and report up his chain of command to maintain military effectiveness. Also, a consultative process can be established so the U.S. commander and the American ambassador kept the Iraqi government informed of their activities, he said.

French officials are urging that the new Iraqi government be given the power to evict U.S. forces if it so chooses.

"There has to be a complete break with the past, with the Iraqi government replacing the coalition," said French Foreign Minister Michel Barnier.

He repeated that France would not now nor in the future send troops to Iraq but said France would join its European partners in helping to rebuild Iraq.

Powell said he and the foreign ministers devoted considerable time to discussing Iraq "because all of us share an interest in a peaceful, stable Iraq."

They also discussed the Arab-Israeli peace process and how to bring



Buy and Sell Tickets

- Concerts
- Chargers
- Padres
- and More!

political and economic reform to a broader Middle East, he said.

That is expected to be on the agenda when the Group of Eight holds its annual summit next month in Sea Island, Ga.

Before their talks at the State Department, Powell and the ministers met briefly at the White House with President Bush.

McClellan said Bush and the ministers discussed the "mission they're working to accomplish in Iraq and about the importance of setting aside past differences."

■ ■ ■

Associated Press writer Pete Yost contributed to this report.

■ ■ ■

On the Net:

Group of Eight: www.g7.utoronto.ca/

G-8 Summit: g8usa.gov/

ADVERTISER LINKS

What's this?

[Iraq Reconstruction Rep't](#)

Tenders, bidding process: energy, roads, schools, telecom, etc.

www.wtexec.com

[Iraq Revenue Watch](#)

Monitors Iraq reconstruction funds, contracts, oil

www.iraqrevenuewatch.org

[Contact Us](#) | [Site Index](#) | [About Us](#) | [Advertise on SignOnSanDiego](#) | [Make us your homepage](#)
[Frequently Asked Questions](#) | [UTads.com](#) | [About the Union-Tribune](#) | [Contact the Union-Tribune](#)

© Copyright 2004 Union-Tribune Publishing Co.