

Most Americans and Iraqis will agree that US policy toward Iraq needs to move in a new direction and soon. Like many Americans we are searching for the right course for ourselves and for the Iraqi people, specifically how to responsibly disengage.

What are American responsibilities to the Iraqi people? First and foremost, it is to let Iraqis decide how they govern themselves and let them be stewards of their own natural resources and economy. True sovereignty cannot coexist with occupation, military or economic.

We consequently believe that the US

should:

- *Withdraw all US, coalition armed forces from Iraq beginning immediately, and renounce all plans for permanent US bases in Iraq*
- *Make UN peacekeeping forces available to the Iraqi people during the period of withdrawal of US/UK forces*
- *Rescind US imposed privatization that permits foreign business to control Iraqi resources and assets.* (continued on back)

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Adapted from statement by the Interfaith Network of Concern for the People of Iraq (INOC). For a longer discussion see: www.concernforiraq.org

- *Fund new medical research in Iraq on the health and genetic effects of DU*
- *Fund clean up of toxic and radioactive contamination by depleted uranium (DU) and destroy unexploded cluster bombs and other ordinance of US/UK origin.*
- *Fund reconstruction of the health care and educational systems to pre-1991 condition*
- *Fund rebuilding civilian infrastructure destroyed by the US/UK in their two wars and twelve years of economic sanctions*

- *Fund efforts to restore cultural treasures lost during the first days of US occupation in 2003.*
- *The US should fund the reconstruction but not otherwise be engaged directly in it. The rebuilding effort should be directed by, employ and benefit Iraqis, not foreign nationals or multinational corporations.*

An American exit from Iraq is inevitable.

We can save many human lives by exiting soon and responsibly.