

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY, EMERGING THREATS,  
AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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## **Statement of Rep. Christopher Shays July 18, 2003**

It has been observed that modern warfare consumes governments and civic order, leaving anarchy and chaos in its wake. Lasting victory can only be declared when security, the rule of law and economic vitality have been restored.

The liberation of Iraq was a modern war. Superior military force brought down a brutal, repressive regime, but also severed all the sinews of a highly centralized governmental control system. The resulting lawlessness and instability dispersed the field of fire into the alleys and byways of Baghdad, where the battle for the hearts, minds, health and welfare of the Iraqi people is also being waged. Coalition armed forces must defend against the elusive but lethal remnants of the Hussein regime. At the same time, Ambassador Paul Bremer and the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) are working to build the physical infrastructure and democratic institutions needed to sustain a victory still being purchased in blood.

On May 13, General Jay Garner, then serving as Director of the Department of Defense (DOD) Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance, set before the Subcommittee eleven essential tasks which, if achieved by now, would put assistance efforts in Iraq on what he called a “positive slope to success.” They were:

1. Establish Security in Baghdad
2. Pay Civil Service Salaries (Catch up by 6/30/03)
3. Get Police Trained and Back to Work
4. Get Government Ministries Functioning
5. Restore Basic Services in Baghdad to Pre-War Levels or Better
6. Prevent a Fuel Crisis
7. Purchase Crops
8. Solve Food Distribution System Gaps
9. Install Town Councils in All Communities
10. Reestablish Provincial Governments, Target Specific Needs
11. Prevent Disease (Cholera) Outbreaks

At that hearing, representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) providing humanitarian assistance in Iraq also testified on the urgent need for basic security and their hopes for more effective civil-military coordination that does not compromise their impartiality. Yesterday, nine relief agencies wrote the President requesting stronger steps to increase security, mobilize the Iraqi civil service and provide greater access to CPA officials.

Today we ask what progress has been made achieving these goals, what lessons from previous conflicts can be applied in Iraq, and what barriers still block the path of food, medicines and other essentials needed by the Iraqi people.

Winning the war required courage, strength, and speed. Securing the peace demands humility, flexibility and patience: humility to acknowledge the enormity of the task, flexibility to learn and adapt, and patience to nurture the democratic aspirations of a long-oppressed people.

To help us better understand the pressing issues surrounding humanitarian assistance in Iraq, we are joined this morning by three panels of witnesses. They all bring impressive expertise and experience to our discussion. We are grateful for their time and their dedication, and we look forward to their testimony.