

May 22, 2004

Memo to SD

From: Doug Feith

Subject: President's speech on Iraq

- I am told this is planned as the first in a series of presidential speeches about Iraq. So it should deal with some basics – in particular, why we went to war in Iraq in the first place.
- It would be useful to make clear the tie-in between Iraq and the broader war on terrorism:
 - After 9/11, the danger posed by the Saddam Hussein regime was reexamined.
 - The regime had used WMD, supported various terrorist groups, was hostile to the US and had a record of aggression and of defiance of numerous UN resolutions.
 - The danger that Saddam's regime could provide biological weapons or other WMD to terrorist groups for use against us was too great in light of 9/11.
 - Other ways of countering the danger – containment, sanctions, inspections, no-fly zones – had proven unsustainable or inadequate.
 - Given these purposes, what kind of success can be achieved in Iraq?
 - A unified Iraq that does not support terrorism or pursue WMD will in and of itself be an important victory in the war on terrorism.
 - But the war has liberated the Iraqi people and opened the way to the creation of democratic institutions in Iraq.
 - Our success in helping Iraq get on the path to democracy can produce an even greater success in the war in terrorism, for it can help transform the Middle East and the broader world of Islam