

# International Herald Tribune.htm

## Iraq panel to recommend pullback of troops

By David E. Sanger and David S. Cloud / The New York Times  
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WASHINGTON: The bipartisan Iraq Study Group reached a consensus on Wednesday on a final report that will call for a gradual pullback of the 15 American combat brigades now in Iraq but stop short of setting a firm timetable for their withdrawal, according to people familiar with the panel's deliberations.

The report, unanimously approved by the 10-member panel, led by James A. Baker III and Lee H. Hamilton, is to be delivered to President Bush next week. It is a compromise between distinct paths that the group has debated since March, avoiding a specific timetable, which has been opposed by Mr. Bush, but making it clear that the American troop commitment should not be open-ended. The recommendations of the group, formed at the request of members of Congress, are nonbinding.

A person who participated in the commission's debate said that unless the government of Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki believed that Mr. Bush was under pressure to pull back troops in the near future, "there will be zero sense of urgency to reach the political settlement that needs to be reached."

The report recommends that Mr. Bush make it clear that he intends to start the withdrawal relatively soon, and people familiar with the debate over the final language said the implicit message was that the process should begin sometime next year.

The report leaves unstated whether the 15 combat brigades that are the bulk of American fighting forces in Iraq would be brought home, or simply pulled back to bases in Iraq or in neighboring countries. (A brigade typically consists of 3,000 to 5,000 troops.) From those bases, they would still be responsible for protecting a substantial number of American troops who would remain in Iraq, including 70,000 or more American trainers, logistics experts and members of a rapid reaction force.

As the commission wound up two and a half days of deliberation in Washington, the group said in a public statement only that a consensus had been reached and that the report would be delivered on Dec. 6 to President Bush, Congress and the American public. Members of the commission were warned by Mr. Baker and Mr. Hamilton not to discuss the contents of the report.

But four people involved in the debate, representing different points of view, agreed to outline its conclusions in broad terms to address what they said might otherwise be misperceptions about the findings. Some said their major concern was that the report might be too late.

"I think we've played a constructive role," one person involved in the committee's deliberations said, "but from the beginning, we've worried that this entire agenda could be swept away by events."

Even as word of the study group's conclusions began to leak out, Gen. Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said two or three battalions of American troops were being sent to Baghdad from elsewhere in Iraq to assist in shoring up security in the capital. Another Pentagon official said the additional troops for Baghdad would be drawn from an American brigade now in Mosul that was equipped with fast-moving, armored Stryker vehicles.

As described by the people involved in the deliberations, the bulk of the report by the Baker-Hamilton group focused on a recommendation that the United States devise a far more aggressive diplomatic initiative in the Middle East than Mr. Bush has been willing to try so far, including direct engagement with Iran and Syria. Initially, those contacts might take place as part of a regional conference on Iraq or broader Middle East peace issues like the Israeli-Palestinian situation, but they would ultimately involve direct, high-level talks with Tehran and Damascus.

Mr. Bush has rejected such contacts until now, and he has also rejected withdrawal, declaring in Riga, Latvia, on Tuesday that while he will show flexibility, "there's one thing I'm not going to do: I'm not going to pull the troops off the battlefield before the mission is complete."

Commission members have said in recent days that they had to navigate around such declarations, or, as one said, "We had to move the national debate from whether to stay the course to how do we start down the path out."

Their report, as described by those familiar with the compromise, may give Republicans political cover to back away from parts of the president's current strategy, even if Democrats claim that the report is short on specific deadlines.

## Criteria to judge newsworthiness

- Frequency 5
- Threshold 4
- Unambiguity 3
- Meaningfulness 4
- Consonance 5
- Unexpectedness 1
- Continuity 5
- Composition 1
- Reference to elite nations 5
- Reference to elite people 5
- Reference to person 2
- Reference to something negative 5

## Caso Litvinenko radioattività su due aerei - Corriere della Sera.htm

**LONDRA (GRAN BRETAGNA)** - Si allarga l'inchiesta sui [luoghi contaminati](#) a seguito dell'uccisione a Londra della ex spia russa [Aleksandr Litvinenko](#) assassinato con un particolare composto radioattivo il Polonio 210. «Tracce molto basse di una sostanza radioattiva» sono state trovate a bordo di due aerei della British Airways. Ne ha dato notizia un comunicato della compagnia di bandiera britannica.

**La compagnia aerea ha dichiarato in un comunicato** che tre B767 in servizio su rotte brevi sono stati messi fuori servizio per essere esaminati. I risultati iniziali hanno mostrato "deboli tracce di una sostanza radioattiva a bordo di due dei tre aerei", si legge nel comunicato.

**I velivoli erano impiegati sulle tratte da Londra dirette a Mosca, Barcellona, Dusseldorf, Atene, Larnaca, Stoccolma, Vienna, Francoforte, Istanbul, Madrid.** In una nota diffusa sul suo sito web la compagnia aerea ha chiesto ai passeggeri in volo sulle tratte coinvolte tra il 25 ottobre e il 28 novembre di «contattare il servizio sanitario nazionale britannico. Si tratta di circa 33.000 passeggeri nelle ultime quattro settimane». Si allarga quindi l'allarme per il rischio di contaminazione radioattiva a seguito della morte di Litvinenko. Finora le ricerche di Scotland Yard lungo i percorsi seguiti da Litvinenko hanno permesso di trovare tracce di Polonio 210 in cinque punti di Londra: l'ufficio londinese di Boris Berezovsky, il magnate russo amico dell'ex agente segreto; gli uffici di una società, la Erynis, che si occupa di valutazione dei rischi; il ristorante di sushi di Piccadilly dove alle 15 del primo novembre Litvinenko pranzò con Mario Scaramella e gli consegnò «documenti preoccupanti»; il bar dove un'ora più tardi incontrò per affari due russi, Andrei Lugovoi e Dimitri Kovtun; e la casa stessa dell'ex colonnello dell'Fsb. 29 novembre 2006

- **Frequency 5**
- **Threshold 4**
- **Unambiguity 3**
- **Meaningfulness 3**
- **Consonance 2**
- **Unexpectedness 5**
- **Continuity 5**
- **Composition 1**
- **Reference to elite nations 5**
- **Reference to elite people 1**
- **Reference to person 4**
- **Reference to something negative 5**

# The Sun Online – Brown's baby has cystic fibrosis

By GEORGE PASCOE-WATSON  
Political Editor  
and GERRY DUFFY  
NOVEMBER 30, 2006

FRIENDS of Gordon and Sarah Brown last night called their second baby heartache an "enormous blow" — but said the couple were determined to stay strong.

They insisted the Chancellor and his wife are keeping upbeat about the cruel news that their four-month-old son Fraser has cystic fibrosis.

They will ensure the mite gets the best care possible — and hope advances in medical science will give him a longer life.

*The diagnosis comes just four years after Mr Brown, 55, and Sarah, 42, lost first baby Jennifer Jane, who had a brain haemorrhage after being born seven weeks premature.*

One friend said: "Fraser's condition has been an enormous blow, as anyone can imagine, particularly after the loss of Jennifer.

"But Gordon and Sarah are determined to be strong and positive. You would never know Fraser was any different to any other little boy. He is putting on weight as he should."

Last night a Treasury spokesman said: "While Gordon and Sarah's younger son, Fraser, has been diagnosed with cystic fibrosis, he is fit, healthy and making all the progress that you would expect any little boy to make.

"They were told in late July that Fraser may have cystic fibrosis. Tests since then have confirmed this.

"Thousands of other parents are in the same position.

"They are confident that the advice and treatments available, including proper exercise and, later, sporting activity will keep him fit and healthy.

"The NHS is doing a great job, and Gordon and Sarah are very optimistic that the advances being made in medicine will help him and many others, and they hope to be able to play their part in doing what they can to help others."

Cystic Fibrosis is the UK's most common life-threatening, inherited disease and affects more than 7,500 babies, children and young adults.

Average life expectancy is just 31.

- **Frequency 1**
- **Threshold 2**
- **Unambiguity 3**
- **Meaningfulness 4**
- **Consonance 1**
- **Unexpectedness 5**
- **Continuity 2**
- **Composition 3**
- **Reference to elite nations 5**
- **Reference to elite people 5**
- **Reference to person 2**
- **Reference to something negative 5**