

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3797

To require the President to seek to institute a regional diplomatic plan for the Middle East, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 10, 2007

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mr. UDALL of Colorado) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To require the President to seek to institute a regional diplomatic plan for the Middle East, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “New Diplomatic Offen-
5 sive for Iraq Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Iraq’s ability to establish stability and secu-
9 rity within its borders and defeat terrorist organiza-
10 tions is significantly affected by the actions of neigh-

1 boring nations and by regional conflicts and events,
2 while other nations in the region have a vested inter-
3 est in achieving a resolution to the conflict in Iraq.

4 (2) On December 6, 2006, the first rec-
5 ommendation released by the bipartisan Iraq Study
6 Group was that the United States, working with the
7 Iraqi Government, should launch a comprehensive
8 New Diplomatic Offensive to deal with the problems
9 in Iraq and in the region before December 31, 2006.

10 (3) The Iraq Study Group recommended the
11 following specific goals for the New Diplomatic Of-
12 fensive:

13 (A) Support the unity and territorial integ-
14 rity of Iraq.

15 (B) Stop destabilizing interventions and
16 actions by Iraq's neighbors.

17 (C) Secure Iraq's borders, including the
18 use of joint patrols with neighboring countries.

19 (D) Prevent the expansion of the insta-
20 bility and conflict in Iraq beyond its borders.

21 (E) Promote economic assistance, com-
22 merce, trade, political support, and, if possible,
23 military assistance for the Iraqi Government
24 from non-neighboring Muslim nations.

1 (F) Energize countries to support national
2 political reconciliation in Iraq.

3 (G) Validate Iraq's legitimacy by resuming
4 diplomatic relations, where appropriate, and re-
5 establishing embassies in Baghdad.

6 (H) Assist Iraq in establishing active work-
7 ing embassies in key capitals in the region (for
8 example, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia).

9 (I) Help Iraq reach a mutually-acceptable
10 agreement on Kirkuk.

11 (J) Assist the Iraqi Government in achiev-
12 ing certain security, political, and economic
13 milestones, including better performance on
14 issues such as national reconciliation, equitable
15 distribution of oil revenues, and the dismantling
16 of militias.

17 (4) The Iraq Study Group recommended re-
18 gional involvement in the diplomatic efforts of stabi-
19 lizing Iraq and the Middle East, including involve-
20 ment of the five permanent members of the United
21 Nations Security Council.

22 (5) On July 22, 2004, the bipartisan National
23 Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United
24 States (commonly known as the "9/11 Commission")
25 recommended the United States should engage other

1 nations in developing a comprehensive coalition
2 strategy against Islamist terrorism in the Middle
3 East.

4 (6) President George W. Bush and his Adminis-
5 tration have already undertaken critical elements of
6 such a diplomatic effort, including diplomatic talks
7 with key Iraqi neighbors in Sharm-al-Sheik, Egypt
8 and in Baghdad, Iraq in May 2007, as well as pro-
9 posing a comprehensive Middle East peace con-
10 ference.

11 (7) Despite these positive actions, significantly
12 more robust diplomatic effort is needed to establish
13 international consensus on achieving security and
14 stability in Iraq, promoting national reconciliation
15 efforts in Iraq, supporting the reconstruction of
16 Iraq, and supporting the sovereignty and territorial
17 integrity of the Iraqi nation.

18 **SEC. 3. MIDDLE EAST REGIONAL DIPLOMACY.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the
20 date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall seek
21 to develop and implement a regional diplomatic plan, in
22 conjunction with the United Nations Security Council,
23 that will attempt to accomplish the following objectives:

24 (1) Curtail the ongoing civil war in Iraq.

1 (2) Prevent the spread of violence from Iraq
2 into neighboring countries.

3 (3) Prevent the establishment of safe havens for
4 al-Qa'ida and other terrorist organizations.

5 (4) Prevent regional conflict.

6 (5) Prevent genocide, ethnic cleansing, and
7 other crimes against humanity.

8 (6) Promote a national process of reconciliation
9 within Iraq.

10 (b) STATEMENT OF UNITED STATES POLICY.—In
11 the implementation of the regional diplomatic plan re-
12 quired by subsection (a), it is the policy of the United
13 States to—

14 (1) undertake a sustained diplomatic effort to
15 engage the governments of nations in the region on
16 the regional diplomatic plan required in subsection
17 (a) and on issues and actions that impact the situa-
18 tion in Iraq;

19 (2) continue and expand United States direct
20 bilateral talks with nations neighboring Iraq on
21 issues of mutual interest;

22 (3) support the goals specified in the Inter-
23 national Compact for Iraq; and

24 (4) encourage the increased engagement of
25 international organizations, including the United

1 Nations, the Arab League, and the Organization of
2 the Islamic Conference, in working toward solutions
3 to achieve stability and security in Iraq.

4 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date
5 of the enactment of this Act, and every 90 days thereafter,
6 the President shall transmit to Congress a report on the
7 status of efforts to implement the regional diplomatic plan
8 required by subsection (a), including—

9 (1) progress being made to accomplish the ob-
10 jectives described in paragraphs (1) through (6) of
11 subsection (a);

12 (2) efforts of the United States to promote re-
13 gional dialogue on Iraq's future, including the orga-
14 nization of regional peace conferences and the estab-
15 lishment of sustained regional structures such as
16 working groups;

17 (3) the progress of bilateral discussions with
18 key nations neighboring Iraq;

19 (4) the status of pledges of financial assistance
20 for the relief and reconstruction of Iraq made by
21 members of the international community at the Ma-
22 drid International Conference on Reconstruction in
23 Iraq and other international conferences for the re-
24 lief and reconstruction of Iraq since March 2003,

1 and the efforts of the United States to encourage
2 nations and organizations to fulfill such pledges; and

3 (5) the progress of efforts to address other crit-
4 ical regional issues and conflicts that significantly
5 affect the situation in Iraq.

6 **SEC. 4. SPECIAL ENVOY FOR IRAQ REGIONAL SECURITY.**

7 (a) SPECIAL ENVOY FOR IRAQ REGIONAL SECUR-
8 RITY.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enact-
9 ment of this Act, the President shall appoint a Presi-
10 dential Special Envoy for Iraq Regional Security.

11 (b) DUTIES.—The Presidential Special Envoy ap-
12 pointed pursuant to subsection (a) shall have the following
13 duties:

14 (1) Carry out, in consultation with the United
15 States Ambassador to Iraq, the Commander of the
16 Multi-National Forces–Iraq, and leaders of foreign
17 nations and international organizations, the policy
18 set forth in section 3(b) of this Act.

19 (2) Enter into discussions with the Government
20 of Iraq and governments of neighboring countries to
21 support Iraq’s efforts to achieve peace and stability
22 and to take necessary actions to prevent regional in-
23 stability. Such discussions shall include the estab-
24 lishment of security along Iraq’s borders, the preven-
25 tion of entry of weapons and foreign terrorists into

1 Iraq, and cessation of destabilizing actions or inter-
2 ventions from outside Iraq's borders.

3 (3) Organize an Iraq Support Group, consisting
4 of representatives of the entities described in para-
5 graph (2), to coordinate regional and international
6 policy in support of Iraq's efforts to achieve peace
7 and stability.

8 (4) Work with officials of the Government of
9 Iraq and other domestic stakeholders to organize a
10 forum for negotiations on national reconciliation.

11 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry
12 out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated
13 such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years
14 2008 and 2009.

15 **SEC. 5. COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS.**

16 (a) INTERNATIONAL DONORS CONFERENCE.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall
18 undertake the organization of an international do-
19 nors conference to solicit additional commitments of
20 funding and support from the international commu-
21 nity for ongoing reconstruction and economic devel-
22 opment activities in Iraq.

23 (2) LEADERSHIP OF CONFERENCE.—The inter-
24 national donors conference should be presided over
25 by the Secretary-General of the United Nations or

1 by the head of another international organization, as
2 appropriate.

3 (3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To
4 carry out this subsection, there are authorized to be
5 appropriated such sums as may be necessary for
6 each of the fiscal years 2008 and 2009.

7 (b) UNITED NATIONS.—The President shall direct
8 the Permanent Representative of the United States to the
9 United Nations to consult with the United Nations Secu-
10 rity Council to institute the regional diplomatic plan de-
11 scribed in section 3(a) of this Act and to seek a new reso-
12 lution in the United Nations Security Council that—

13 (1) supports regional and international coopera-
14 tion in promoting stability and development in Iraq
15 in accordance with the International Compact with
16 Iraq;

17 (2) encourages increased support for and par-
18 ticipation in efforts to rebuild and expand Iraq's
19 economy and critical infrastructure; and

20 (3) authorizes renewed United Nations assist-
21 ance to promote security and political reconciliation
22 in Iraq, including a commitment to an increased
23 United Nations role following the beginning of a

- 1 strategic redeployment of United States Armed
- 2 Forces personnel from Iraq.

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