

**Iraq-Iran Coordinating Committee**  
**Notes for February 8th, 2008 2:30 PM – 4:00 PM**  
**Longworth HOB 1742**

1. Develop and Implement Long-Term Legislative Strategy

**Iraq**

a. Recent News

- i. Gates claims that “**declaration of principles**” is not a security guarantee, therefore Congress doesn’t need to be involved. We’re still supporting Lee & DeLauro’s responses to the “declaration of principles” (H.R. 5128 & H.R.4959 respectively)
- ii. **Signing statement on permanent bases**, everyone’s fired up about this, but there’s really nothing to be done short of a law suite or impeachment – although Lee is circulating a letter to Attorney Gen. Mukasey.

b. **Goal:** Bring all troops home from Iraq as soon as possible with no permanent bases and significant reconstruction/reparations funds to the Iraqi people

c. Senate Strategy: Pressure key Republican Senators to reach 60 votes: Coleman (MN), Collins (ME), Smith (OR) and Sununu (NH).

i. Update: **New Feingold Amendment**

- ii. Feingold’s **S.448** (Cosponsors: Boxer, Leahy and Sanders)
- iii. **S.2130** (Durbin, Casey, Kerry, Collins, Murkowski): “to express the sense of the Senate on the need for a comprehensive diplomatic offensive to help broker national reconciliation efforts in Iraq and lay the foundation for the eventual redeployment of United States combat forces.” Sort-of companion to **H.R. 3797**

d. House Strategy

i. Three new Congressional Progressive Caucus bills.

1. Lee’s **H.R.5128** (13 Cosponsors).
2. DeLauro’s **H.R.4959** (45 Cosponsors).
3. Water’s **H.R.3134** (7 Cosponsors).
4. Replacement to Lee, Waters and Woolsey’s **H.R.508** (52 Cosponsors).
5. Out of Iraq and **Progressive Caucus letter** (92 signatures).

ii. “Diplomatic Surge,” Price’s **H.R.3797** (49 Cosponsors, 7 GOP): 7 folks from HFAC, still need 3 more.

iii. Rep. Barbara Lee’s **sign-on letter to A.G. Mukasey** on No Permanent Bases signing statement.

iv. Honda’s **H.R.1346** (64 cosponsors): Student Privacy Protection Act to withhold minors’ contact information from military recruiters.

e. 4,000 U.S. Soldier Death expected late February/early March.

f. Supplemental

g. **Fifth anniversary of occupation** on March 19

i. Local actions

ii. Non-violent Civil Resistance actions at several DC-area war profiteers/IRS/White House

iii. Permitted protests at McPherson Sq./Lafayette Park/National Mall

iv. March 7<sup>th</sup>, Interfaith peace witness event in Upper Senate Park (out of Iraq, stay out of Iran, say no to torture) – tied to ecumenical advocacy days (March 6-10)

v. Christian Peace Witness

h. **Reconstruction and Development:** S. Simone (NETWORK), Erik Gustafson (EPIC)

i. **In-district visits:** Friday Feb. 15 – Monday Feb. 25, Congressional Presidents Day recess

j. Keeping Iraq an **election** issue

2. **Iran**

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- a. Recent News:
- b. Iran Goal: Prevent military action and sanctions.
  - i. Peace Action Iran **petition** <http://www.peace-action.org/iranpetition.html> with Just Foreign Policy, Council for a Livable World and others using language.
  - ii. Senate Strategy:
    - 1. Sen. Webb's **S.759** (Cosponsors: Clinton, Kerry and Whitehouse)
    - 2. Sen. Durbin's **S.R.356** (13 Cosponsors).
    - 3. **S.970** (70 cosponsors): companion to **H.R.1400** sanctions bill
    - 4. Still waiting for the **Hearings**, which Biden promised in reaction to letters from Feingold & other senators.
  - iii. House Strategy:
    - 1. Rep. Barbara Lee's **H.R.770** (19 Cosponsors)
    - 2. **H.R.5056** (12 Cosponsors)
    - 3. **H.R.5084** (Shays): responding to GAO report on sanctions & would require annual reports on the efficacy of our sanctions against Iran.
    - 4. **H.J.Res.64** has recently gotten a surge of cosponsors
    - 5. Gilchrest's **H.Con.Res.274**
  - iv. **Dialogue Caucus** Reps. Meeks and Gilchrest (16 Members)
  - v. **Sanctions and Divestment**
    - 1. 22 states have divestment bills pending thanks to [www.divestterror.org](http://www.divestterror.org).
    - 2. Aside from damaging effects to our policy with Iran as well as economic consequences of divestment for commonly held US companies, this sets a dangerous precedent for "50 foreign policies." Currently, the National Iranian American Council, Women in Legislatures Lobby, and Peace Action are tracking and fighting state divestment. Contact Emily Blout at NIAC for more information ([eblout@niacouncil.org](mailto:eblout@niacouncil.org))
  - vi. **"The Folly of Attacking Iran Tour"** with Stephen Kinzer and partnered with several organizations who come to these meetings. [www.follyofattackingiran.org](http://www.follyofattackingiran.org)
  - vii. **State Department Regime Change Slush Fund/"Democracy Promotion"**
    - 1. still can't figure out where \$30M of this money in State Dept. went
    - 2. Bush requested \$65M for this in his FY09 budget
  - viii. We need a **naval hotline** with Iran – we need to have a 'red telephone' to avoid disaster in the Strait of Hormuz.
  - ix. Iran Messaging Resources (Ira Shorr, [ishorr@psr.org](mailto:ishorr@psr.org))  
<http://www.peaceandsecurityinitiative.org>
  - x. Iran Policy Working Group Email List for NGO leaders, staffers and experts ([IranPWG-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:IranPWG-subscribe@yahoogroups.com))
- 3. Next Meeting: **Friday, February 29th, 2008 2:30 PM** - 4:00 PM in a House Office Building  
TBA