

PRESIDENT BUSH'S NEW IRAQ STRATEGY

January 10, 2007

Only about a third of Americans watched President George W. Bush's speech on Iraq last night - and even they were not swayed very much by what he had to say about the way forward in Iraq.

Before the speech, Americans were uneasy about the President's ability to make the right decisions about Iraq, and the speech and the days of discussion beforehand did little to change that feeling. Immediately after the speech last night, CBS News re-interviewed 458 adults who were first interviewed last week. Americans, including those who watched the speech and those who did not, remain mostly uneasy about the President's handling of Iraq.

PRESIDENT'S ABILITY TO MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT IRAQ

	Now	1/1-3/2007
Confident	28%	30%
Uneasy	68	68

There were few differences between those who watched the speech and those who did not on the single most important characteristic that typically differentiates those who support the war and those who do not - partisanship. Democrats, Republicans and Independents were about equally likely to have watched the speech. However, watchers as a whole were older and more likely to be male. And, unlike the typically supportive viewers of presidential State of the Union addresses, watchers had been a little more skeptical about American progress in Iraq than non-watchers before the speech.

In fact, when asked in general about the President's proposals, speech watchers were surprisingly negative. Half said they disapproved of the President's proposals.

VIEWS OF THE SPEECH'S PROPOSALS

(Among Speech Watchers)

Approve	37%
Disapprove	50

These are immediate reactions, and may change in the days ahead with continuing discussion of the proposals.

At the moment, however, Americans view two critical proposals President Bush made last night mostly negatively. Only a third of

watchers (and a third of all Americans) supports sending more than 20,000 additional troops to Iraq, the so-called "surge." And Americans disapprove of funding a large-scale jobs and reconstruction program in Iraq, although speech watchers were more open to that.

DO YOU FAVOR OR OPPOSE...?

	Speech Watchers	All Adults
Sending more troops to Iraq		
Favor	33%	31%
Oppose	59	63
Funding a jobs program in Iraq		
Favor	48%	33%
Oppose	46	55

When asked in general about U.S troop strength in Iraq, three in 10 Americans now approve of increasing troop numbers overall - an increase of 10 points among these same individuals since last week. And the number that favors reducing troop strength or withdrawing altogether has dropped from 57% to 46%.

U.S. TROOP LEVELS IN IRAQ SHOULD BE...

	Now	1/1-3/2007
Increased	30%	20%
Kept same	15	17
Decreased	25	27
All removed	21	30

CONTINUING DOUBTS ABOUT THE FUTURE

There remains an extraordinary level of skepticism about whether or not the U.S. can succeed in Iraq. Although the President sees his plan as leading to eventual success, Americans (even many speech watchers) aren't sure. Just about half overall are doubtful U.S. success is likely. Speech watchers are a bit more optimistic.

IF BUSH'S PLANS ARE IMPLEMENTED U.S. SUCCESS IN IRAQ IS ...

	Speech Watchers	All Adults
Very likely	12%	12%
Somewhat likely	33	28
Not very/not at all likely	43	49

Before the speech, there was a similar level of pessimism in general about success in Iraq.

One reason for the doubt may be that many Americans aren't convinced the Iraqi government and military are willing to take more of the lead in stopping the violence. The President himself noted that while the Iraqi government had committed to a set of benchmarks, he warned them that if they

did not follow through, they would "lose the support of the American people."

WILL IRAQI GOV'T TAKE THE LEAD IN STOPPING VIOLENCE?

	Speech Watchers	All Adults
Yes	45%	40%
No	45	49

Many Americans are still concerned that a stable and democratic Iraq may be an impossible goal - even though 73% of Americans say a stable government in Iraq IS important to the security interests of the United States. Nearly half say that Iraq will never become a stable democracy, but that is a slight improvement since last week.

WILL IRAQ BECOME A STABLE DEMOCRACY?

	Now	1/1-3/2007
Yes, in the next year or two	3%	5%
Yes, but will take longer	49	42
No, never	45	51

WORKING WITH CONGRESS

There is no doubt from this poll that Americans want to see cooperation between the President and the now Democratic-controlled Congress. The President has decided to send more U.S. troops to Iraq, but Americans think he should have to get Congressional approval before he commits those troops.

SHOULD BUSH GET CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL BEFORE SENDING MORE TROOPS?

	Speech Watchers	All Adults
Yes, get approval	71%	75%
No, decide himself	27	22

Interviews were conducted among 458 adults by telephone on January 10, 2007, after the President's speech. These respondents were originally interviewed in a CBS News Poll conducted January 1-3, 2007. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus five percentage points.

CBS NEWS POLL
President Bush's New Iraq Strategy
January 10, 2007

rq1 Did you watch or listen to President Bush's speech tonight on the war in Iraq?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **			
	Total	*** Party ID ***		
	Rep	Dem	Ind	
	%	%	%	%
Yes	31	32	31	30
No	69	68	68	70
DK/NA	0	0	1	0

rq2 In general, do you approve or disapprove of the plans the President announced in his speech tonight concerning the war in Iraq?

	SPEECH WATCHERS
	%
Approve	37
Disapprove	50
Some of them (Vol.)	2
DK/NA	11

rq3 Do you have confidence in George W. Bush's ability to make the right decisions about the war in Iraq or are you uneasy about his approach?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				SPEECH WATCHERS
	Total	*** Party ID ***			
	Rep	Dem	Ind		
	%	%	%	%	
Confident	28	68	5	20	28
Uneasy	68	30	92	76	71
DK/NA	4	2	3	4	1

rq4 From what you have seen or heard about the situation in Iraq, what should the United States do now--should the U.S. increase the number of U.S. troops in Iraq, keep the same number of U.S. troops in Iraq as there are now, decrease the number of U.S. troops in Iraq, or remove all its troops from Iraq?

	Rep	Dem	Ind	
	%	%	%	%
Increase	30	63	13	21
Keep the same number	15	14	11	20
Decrease	25	13	37	23
Remove all troops	21	6	30	24
DK/NA	9	4	9	12

rq5 BLANK

rq6 The President announced several plans for Iraq in his speech tonight. Do you favor or oppose the U.S. funding a large scale jobs and reconstruction program in Iraq in order to try to make that country more stable?

	Rep	Dem	Ind	
	%	%	%	%
Favor	33	44	21	34
Oppose	55	41	70	52
DK/NA	12	15	9	14

rq7 Do you favor or oppose sending more than 20,000 additional U.S. troops to Iraq in order to try and gain control of Baghdad and some other areas?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				SPEECH WATCHERS
	Total	*** Party ID ***			
	Rep	Dem	Ind		
	%	%	%	%	
Favor	31	62	14	23	33
Oppose	63	32	82	68	59
DK/NA	6	6	4	9	8

rq8 BLANK

rq9 If the President's plans are implemented, do you think the U.S. would be very likely to succeed in Iraq, somewhat likely to succeed, not very likely to succeed, or not at all likely to succeed in Iraq?

Very likely	12	30	3	7	12
Somewhat likely	28	45	18	25	33
Not very likely	29	16	30	39	30
Not at all likely	20	4	32	21	13
DK/NA	11	5	17	8	12

rq10 Do you think the Iraqi government and Iraqi military are willing to take more of the lead in stopping the violence in Iraq, or not?

Willing	40	54	32	36	45
Not willing	49	38	54	54	45
DK/NA	11	8	14	10	10

rq11 Do you think the President should have to get the approval of Congress before increasing the number of U.S. troops in Iraq, or should he be able to make that decision himself?

Get approval	75	51	93	78	71
President's decision	22	48	5	18	27
DK/NA	3	1	2	4	2

rq12 Which of these do you think is most likely? 1. Iraq will become a stable democracy in the next year or two, OR 2. Iraq will become a stable democracy, but it will take longer than a year or two, OR 3. Iraq will probably never become a stable democracy.

In the next year or two	3	4	0	5	4
Will take longer	49	72	45	35	44
Will never become a democracy	45	22	52	56	49
DK/NA	3	2	3	4	3

rq13 How important is a stable democracy in Iraq to the security interests of the United States? Is it very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				SPEECH WATCHERS
	Total	*** Party ID ***			
	Rep	Dem	Ind		
	%	%	%	%	
Very important	31	47	24	25	34
Somewhat important	42	43	44	40	46
Not very important	13	1	15	20	11
Not at all important	11	8	14	10	6
DK/NA	3	1	3	5	3

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	458	
Total Republicans	139	132
Total Democrats	157	159
Total Independents	162	168
Speech Watchers	179	143