

RECONSTRUCTING IRAQ

In 1990, prior to the first Gulf War and the years of economic sanctions, Iraq had one of the best health care and educational systems in the region.

In the fall of 2003, the World Bank and United Nations issued a Joint Needs Assessment of Iraq to prepare for the reconstruction of Iraq. This assessment found that between 2004 and 2007, approximately \$36 billion—over and above what Iraq might be able to afford—would be needed to bring Iraq back to 1990 levels. This includes:

Education -- \$4.8 billion

Electricity -- \$12.1 billion

Health Care-- \$1.6 billion

Water, Sanitation and Waste -- \$6.8 billion

Congress allocated \$18.6 billion in funds in October 2003 for reconstruction. Over time, the funds used for reconstruction were whittled down and shifted to security. The Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction compared funds allocated in October 2003 to the actual allocation in October 2005 and found the following:

Water Resources and Sanitation funding was cut by \$2.185 billion—or a 50.4% cut. Sixty percent of the planned water resource and sanitation projects were not completed.

Electric Sector funding was cut by \$1.25 billion—or a 22.5% cut. Twenty-nine percent of the planned electrical sector improvements were not completed.

Security & Law Enforcement Sector was increased by \$1.774 billion—or an increase of 54.7%. An additional \$5 billion was approved through separate legislation—meaning this sector accounted for over \$10 billion of the funding provided by the U.S.

Health Care Sector was allocated \$786 million and **Education, Refugees & Human Rights Sector** was allocated \$363 million.

Clearly, the U.S. is not providing sufficient funds for the reconstruction of Iraq. Our country deliberately targeted, damaged and destroyed Iraq's electrical system and water treatment system during the 1990-91 Gulf War. Our country was instrumental in the creation and enforcement of the harshest economic sanctions program ever imposed in history—preventing Iraq from repairing or rebuilding its health care, educational, electrical and water treatment systems.

It is incumbent upon the United States to fulfill its responsibility to provide full funding for the reconstruction of Iraq. We did it in Germany. We did in Japan. Why not do it in Iraq? If our country can spend \$60 billion or more each year to fight the war in Iraq, why can it not spend \$9 billion a year to reconstruct Iraq?

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