

## **Iraq STEP Resolution: Sensible Transition to an Enduring Peace**

**Whereas** President George W. Bush stated on April 13, 2004 that "as a proud and independent people, Iraqis do not support an indefinite occupation and neither does America" and that the U.S. will remain in Iraq "as long as necessary and not one day more";

**Whereas** Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld assured the Senate Armed Services Committee on February 17, 2005, that "we have no intention, at the present time, of putting permanent bases in Iraq";

**Whereas** the Wall Street Journal reported in February 2005 that 60% of the people in the United States think that the Bush administration should set a public or private timetable for withdrawing U.S. troops from Iraq;

**Whereas** former Secretary of State James Baker, former Pentagon official Anthony Cordesman, the International Crisis Group, and other respected leaders and analysts have said that it is critical that the U.S. government declare now its intention to fully withdraw from Iraq;

**Whereas** political parties opposed to the ongoing U.S. military presence won the overwhelming majority of votes in Iraq's January 2005 election and a clear majority of voters interviewed in exit polls cited their desire to see an end to the military occupation as a major impetus for voting;

**Whereas** the perception that the U.S. intends to permanently occupy Iraq aids insurgent groups in recruiting supporters and fuels violent activity;

**Whereas** many insurgent groups have expressed a willingness to engage in political dialogue if the U.S. clearly states its intention to withdraw from Iraq;

**Whereas** we can best honor the lives and memories of all who have died in Iraq by expediting the end of the war, bringing U.S. troops home as quickly as possible, and supporting the Iraqi people in rebuilding their country;

**Whereas** a clear statement of intent to fully withdraw U.S. troops and bases does not imply the setting of a particular deadline, time frame, or exit strategy;

**Whereas** such a statement would send a strong signal to the people of Iraq and the international community that the United States does not have imperial intentions in Iraq and affirms that the Iraqi people will regain through their elected representatives the full exercise of national sovereignty, including control over security and public safety;

**Therefore, be it resolved** that this Meeting holds in our prayers the people of Iraq, the U.S. troops and international troops and humanitarian workers in Iraq, the leaders of Iraq and the United States, and all others affected by this war;

**Be it also resolved** that this Meeting calls on the United States Congress to adopt a sense

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of the Congress resolution declaring: "**It is the policy of the United States to withdraw all U.S. military troops and bases from Iraq**";

**Be it also resolved** that this Meeting will present a copy of this resolution to the members of Congress who represent the district in which the congregation is based;

**And be it also resolved** that this Meeting will send a copy of this resolution to the local media.

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Karen Putney, Clerk

11 ninth month  
Date

**Tampa Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends**  
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Tampa, FL 33604