



Views of US Plans in Iraq

ASIA BACKGROUNDER

Australia

The public of Australia—whose troops are part of the US-led coalition that toppled Saddam Hussein—favors withdrawing the multinational forces from Iraq within a year. They do not believe, unlike most others surveyed, that the United States intends to keep permanent military bases in Iraq once it has stabilized. Sixty-three percent of Australians favor US-led troops pulling out of Iraq either gradually over 12 months (41%) or immediately (22%). Three in 10 (30%) think the troops should remain there until Iraq is stable. Although half of Australians (50%) say they believe the United States plans to remove its forces from Iraq once it stabilizes, more than a third (35%) say the United States plans to keep permanent military bases there.

China

Most Chinese respondents—along with most of the rest of the world—favor a timetable of no more than a year for the withdrawal of US-led forces from Iraq. But unlike most of the other countries polled, a majority believes the United States will remove all of its forces from Iraq once it is stabilized. More than three-quarters (76%) say the multinational forces should either leave Iraq immediately (46%) or according to a one-year timeline (30%). Just 15 percent believe that foreign troops should remain there indefinitely. China is one of only three countries where a majority of respondents say the United States does intend to pull its forces out of Iraq once it is stable (57%) rather than keep permanent bases there (31%).

India

Indians are one of only three countries without a majority in favor of a US withdrawal from Iraq within the next year. They are also less likely than other countries to believe that the United States plans to keep permanent military bases in Iraq. Forty-seven percent of Indians say that the US-led forces should withdraw either immediately (26%) or according to a one-year timeline (21%), while just 17 percent say they should remain until Iraq is stable. But large numbers (36%) decline to answer. Asked whether they believe the United States plans to keep permanent military bases in Iraq or to remove all of its forces once the country is stable, Indians lean toward the former, but only by a small margin (33% to 26%). Again, many Indian respondents (41%) decline to answer.

Indonesia

Most Indonesians want US-led troops out of Iraq within a year. They also believe, however, that the United States does not intend to leave. More than four out of five (81%)

say that the US-led forces should leave Iraq and most say it should do so immediately (65%) rather than gradually over the next 12 months (16%). Just 12 percent say multinational troops should remain until Iraq stabilizes. Indonesians also lean toward the belief that the United States intends to have permanent bases in Iraq rather than remove all of its forces by a margin of 47 percent to 40 percent.

Philippines

Filipinos are among the few countries polled without a majority in favor of US withdrawal from Iraq within a year. They are divided over whether the United States intends to keep military forces there permanently. About half of those polled (47%) say US-led forces should set a timetable to withdraw either immediately (25%) or gradually over the next 12 months (22%); almost half (44%) believe the troops should instead remain until Iraq is stable. Asked about what they think the United States plans to do, Filipinos are similarly divided: 41 percent say it intends to remove all of its troops after Iraq is secure and 39 percent say it plans to keep permanent bases in Iraq.

South Korea

Like other members of the US-led coalition in Iraq, a majority of South Koreans feel that these multinational forces should leave Iraq in the near future. Nonetheless, a small majority says they doubt the United States intends to withdraw. Sixty-three percent of South Koreans say that US-led forces set a timetable to withdraw either within one year (39%) or immediately (24%). One-third (33%) feels that the forces should stay until the country is stable. Although a slight majority (53%) feels that the United States intends to keep permanent military bases in Iraq, large numbers (42%) think instead that it plans to remove all of its forces once Iraq is secure.

For more information on this poll, please see the Questionnaire/Methodology:
http://www.worldpublicopinion.org/pipa/pdf/sep07/BBCIraq_Sep07_quaire.pdf