

How the conference will work:

Barack Obama has said that he wants to “get out of Iraq as carefully as the United States was careless in getting in.” How would a strategy be developed for getting out carefully; one that removed American troops (over a to-be-determined time period), that maximized the political and military security of Iraq upon an American withdrawal; that protected as much as possible a political and military balance in the Middle East.

The President and Vice-President would state their goals, first in terms of how they want to bring about change in the United States and in the world. Second they would state how they want a new American strategy in Iraq to be consistent with their overall global and domestic goals.



For the purposes of this conference, they would call upon the advice of domestic leaders and foreign representatives to develop a strategy to extricate the United States from Iraq (it is conceivable that they would arrive at the conclusion that the current or a more militant policy is preferable.). Various advisors would give their recommendations, focusing on their particular area of “expertise,” although they would be free to also speak in more general terms. The group would solicit advice from representatives of foreign government and factions.

The president and vice-president would develop a series of approximately five policy options. Concluding discussions would evaluate each of these options, weighing the advantages and the risks. Ultimately, the president (with final advice from the vice-president) would determine the direction which he / she would take. One of the fundamental questions to be addressed in fashioning the final policy would be whether “what I say is what I would do,” or whether the president would say one thing and actually plan on doing something else. For this reason, the final stage of the conference would be for the president to meet with a panel of intelligent journalists to have his/her decisions questioned and evaluated.

Here are the proposed roles:

1. Domestic:
 - a. President Obama
 - b. Vice-President Joe Biden
 - c. Secretary of State
 - d. U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations
 - e. Secretary of Defense
 - f. Chairperson of Joint Chiefs of Staff
 - g. Director of Central Intelligence Agency
 - h. Secretary of Energy
 - i. Secretary of Treasury

- j. Democratic Chairperson of Senate Foreign Relations Committee
 - k. Ranking Republican Member of Senate Foreign Relations Committee
 - l. Former Secretary of State and Chairman of Joint Chiefs: Colin Powell
 - m. Game Theoretician
 - n. Conflict Resolution Theoretician
 - o. Jon Stewart (so proposals pass the “giggle test”)
2. Representatives from outside the United States (for consultation):
- a. Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki of Iraq
 - b. Representative of Iraqi Sunnis
 - c. Representative of Iraqi Shiites
 - d. Representative of Iraqi Kurds
 - e. Representative of Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert
 - f. Representative of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad
 - g. Representative of Prime Minister Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan
 - h. Representative of Russia
 - i. Representative of China
 - j. Representative of OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries)
 - k. Representative of U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon
 - l. Representative of Taliban
 - m. Representative of Al Qaeda
 - n. Representative of Saudi Arabia
 - o. Representative of EU
 - p. Representative of Turkey

Register: http://www.civitas-stl.com/OLD/Forms/Iraq_Regis.html