

Resolution Title: Resolution on U.S. Policy in Iraq
Submitted by: Professional Staff Congress, Local 2334

Whereas, the publicly stated rationale of the Bush administration for launching an invasion of Iraq – the existence of weapons of mass destruction, an Al Qaeda connection to the Saddam Hussein regime, and an imminent threat to the safety of the U.S. – has been shown to be fraudulent; and

Whereas, the invasion and the subsequent occupation has led to the deaths of 11,000 Iraqi civilians, thousands of Iraqi conscripts and over 800 U.S. soldiers, and to severe injuries to thousands of Iraqis and U.S. soldiers; and the death toll keeps rising; and

Whereas, a disproportionate number of the US soldiers, including those wounded and killed, are people of color and the poor, some of them our students who felt they had few options outside the military; and

Whereas, the war and the occupation have undermined the economic and social rights of the Iraqi people, producing grinding poverty for many, and an unemployment rate that had reached 70% in June 2004; and

Whereas, the Coalition Provisional Authority has acted against labor rights, enforcing a 1987 Hussein-era law declaring that workers in state-owned enterprises (the majority of Iraqi workers) have no right to organize or bargain collectively; and

Whereas, human rights in Iraq, consistently violated in the Saddam Hussein regime, have now been violated again in the abuse of Iraqi prisoners at the hands of US military and private military contractors; and

Whereas, the Coalition Provisional Authority has announced plans for a privatization program of formerly nationalized industries and has issued a decree allowing 100% foreign ownership of all Iraq businesses except oil; and

Whereas, the beneficiaries of the privatization are primarily multinational corporations, many of them with ties to the Bush Administration; and

Whereas, the Bush Administration has stated its intention to maintain tight control over economic, political and military decision-making in Iraq, even after the transfer of sovereignty planned for June 30; and

Whereas, the Bush Administration’s policy in Iraq is a failure of intention, implementation and integrity: it can no longer be called a war of “liberation” or an effort to “bring democracy” to the Iraqi people; and

Whereas, the invasion and occupation of Iraq is in fact a war for empire, driven by the strategy of achieving “full-spectrum dominance” by the US (Joint Vision 2020, United States Department of Defense) securing economic and political control over Middle East oil and building permanent military bases in the region; therefore be it

Resolved, that the American Federation of Teachers—as an organization that stands for education and knowledge, professionalism and public service, and the rights of working people—oppose the Bush Administration’s policy of empire in Iraq; and

Be it further resolved, that the American Federation of Teachers call for the withdrawal of U.S. military forces from Iraq.