

## Remarks by Senator Barack Obama at The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) Policy Forum (Chicago, Illinois) 2mar2007

“**My plan also allows for a limited number of U.S. troops to remain** and prevent Iraq from becoming a haven for international terrorism and reduce the risk of all-out chaos. In addition, **we will redeploy our troops to other locations in the region**, reassuring our allies that we will stay engaged in the Middle East. And my plan includes a robust regional diplomatic strategy that includes talking to Syria and Iran; something that this administration has finally embraced. The U.S. military has performed valiantly and brilliantly in Iraq. Our troops have done all that we could have asked them to do and more. But one of the most profound consequences of the administration's failed strategy in Iraq has been to strengthen Iran's strategic position; reduced U.S. credibility and influence in the region; and place Israel and other nations friendly to the United States in greater peril. These are not signs of a well-paved road. It is time for a profound change.

As the U.S. redeploys from Iraq, we can recapture lost influence in the Middle East. We can refocus our efforts to critical yet neglected priorities, such as combating national terrorism and winning the war in Afghanistan. And we can, then, more effectively deal with **what I consider to be one of the greatest threats to the United States, to Israel, and world peace, and that is Iran.**”

Complete text at:  
[www.mindfully.org/Reform/2007/Obama-At-AIPAC2mar07.htm](http://www.mindfully.org/Reform/2007/Obama-At-AIPAC2mar07.htm)

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