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US Representative Martin T. Meehan
11 Kearney Square, 3rd floor
Lowell MA 01852

Reference: The draft version of January 2005 of your document advocating withdrawal of US military forces from Iraq.

Dear Mr. Meehan:

At the last meeting of the Sudbury Democratic Town Committee on 23 June, we reviewed your Withdrawal-from-Iraq document and wish to thank you for your valuable contribution to this important question. You present the logic and need for military withdrawal with great clarity and force. But reason alone may not be enough.

We are concerned that the document offers no coherent plan of action that might force an obviously reluctant administration to disengage and withdraw our armies. There is much evidence that President Bush has no intention of ever quitting Iraq. Indeed, the problem is made particularly acute given the broad support that the invasion and occupation of Iraq have received from Congress since late 2002, including the support of many Democratic congressmen. It seems reasonable that withdrawal must hinge on an overwhelming rejection of the Iraq adventure by the electorate.

What are your views on 1) how, as a practical matter, withdrawal from Iraq can be forced on the Bush administration, and 2) what is the most effective role of Democratic town committees to this end?

Finally, do you intend to release an updated or final version of your Withdrawal-from-Iraq document?

Sincerely,

Thomas C. Hollocher, Secretary, SDTC, acting on instruction of the Committee.