

## Global Strategy Group meeting

20-21 May 2004, Washington, D.C.

### Agenda

<b>THURSDAY, 20 MAY</b>	
15.00-15:30	Welcome
15.30-17:30	<p>Session one <b><i>What transition for Iraq?</i></b></p> <p>The US will not seemingly postpone the June 30 date it has fixed for the transfer of sovereignty in Iraq. Yet the fighting now underway in Iraq demonstrates clearly how the country has not been pacified.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What is the most plausible scenario for developments in Iraq – taking into account the struggle for power between groups in Iraq, and also the likelihood that US and allied forces will remain after June 30?</li> </ul>
17:45-19:30	<p>Session two <b><i>The geopolitical implications of Iraq</i></b></p> <p>Iraq was supposed to be a test case in the Middle East for regime change, which would not only force liberalizing moves on the governments of countries such as Egypt and Saudi Arabia, but also make terrorism a less attractive option for radicals in the region and beyond.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What are the likely effects of current developments in Iraq on the situation in the Middle East – including Iran, Saudi Arabia and Egypt and, especially, Israel/Palestine?</li> <li>▪ Will we see Europe continue to be a more highly-rated target for terrorists taking the Iraqi situation as a new rallying cry? And how will European governments respond to this situation?</li> <li>▪ What will be the effects on US/European relations?</li> </ul>
20:00-22.30	<p>Dinner and session three</p> <p><b><i>The implications of Iraq for the US in an election year</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Bush administration has staked the US's credibility and positioning in the world on Iraq. What could be the impact of Iraq (under different scenarios) on the US Presidential elections? What could be the effects of Iraq on US foreign policy after the elections – and depending upon who wins?</li> </ul>

<b>FRIDAY, 21 MAY</b>	
08:00-8:30	<b>Breakfast</b>
08.30-10:00	<p>Session four  <b><i>China: Managing the dilemmas?</i></b></p> <p>China has always in the last two decades accelerated reforms when the economy was doing well. Now, though, China has to accelerate reforms while slowing down the overheating Chinese economy in order to achieve a soft landing. China also needs a stable environment in order to focus on the economy. Yet developments in Taiwan and Hong Kong could well wreck this stability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Can China manage its dilemmas in the period ahead? If so, what are the major options and the major obstacles?</li> </ul>
10:00-10:15	<b>Break</b>
10:15-11:45	<p>Session five  <b><i>Russia: Looking beyond the elections to the coming years</i></b></p> <p>President Putin's crushing victory in the Russian Presidential elections has given him a hold on power reminiscent of the Soviet era – beyond Putin's personal mandate, control over two-thirds of parliament, a state-controlled media, former secret service colleagues in top posts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In this situation, what is Russia's likely political trajectory in coming years? What will be its economic trajectory?</li> <li>▪ What will be the mix between Russia's political economy and its foreign policy? Will we see an increasingly assertive foreign policy, accompanied by a tightening political group and increasing economic liberalization?</li> </ul>
11:45-13:15	<p>Session six  <b><i>What other big surprises to expect?</i></b></p> <p>Besides what we have discussed so far, what other big surprises – which are not such surprises after all – appear to be on the horizon? What is their time frame, and what are their major implications?</p>
13:15-14:15	<b>Concluding points over lunch</b>