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## News Transcript

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### EXERPTED

**Presenter:** Brigadier General Mark Kimmitt, Deputy Director  
for Coalition Operation, Dan Senior, Senior Advisor, CPA

Friday, April 16,  
2004 9:02 a.m. EDT

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### Coalition Provisional Authority Briefing

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MR. SENOR: With that, we'll be happy to take your questions.

Sewell.

Q Sewell Chan with The Washington Post. Representatives of Muqtada al-Sadr have been saying that the Iranian delegation has been playing an active role in the negotiations in Najaf, and also said specifically today that the Iranians have reached out to the United States through the Swiss embassy as an intermediary. I was wondering if you could comment on these reports and discuss the U.S. perspective on the Iranian involvement.

Thank you.

MR. SENOR: Sewell, the Iranian delegation, to my knowledge, was self-invited by the Iranian delegation. This delegation contacted U.K. representatives on the ground here. They sought a meeting with the United States. We provided a U.S. representative to the meeting that the Iranians were holding. We had a firm message for them across the board, that -- (background construction noise) --

GEN. KIMMITT: Apparently that 18 billion (dollars) is being put to work immediately.

MR. SENOR: Right. Okay.

We -- Sewell, we had a firm message for the Iranians across the board with regard to their role in Iraq, which is to be constructive, not destructive.

The purpose of the meeting was not to address the Sadr situation. And we believe -- it is our position that there is no role for the Iranians to play middleman here in discussions between us and Sadr. There is no role for the Iranians, from our perspective, in Sadr situation. And in fact, we believe that the issue with Sadr and his militia should be resolved by Iraqis, not Iranians.

Q A quick follow-up. Could you just tell us when the meeting occurred and who the U.S. representative was?

MR. SENOR: Sure. The U.S. representative was U.S. Ambassador Ron Newman, who is a member of the CPA staff. And the meeting occurred a couple of days ago, two or three days ago. I can get you the exact date.

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