

for the good of the people.

Bridget Kendall: But there have been opinion polls recently, haven't there, that have shown that a significant number of Iraqis say, when asked, that they might feel safer if the American forces left Iraq.

General Kimmitt: Well there really is sort of a paradoxical situation here in Iraq. The vast majority of people in Iraq don't want to be occupied, they see us as occupiers, they would like to have life returned back to normal.

But they also tell us one other message, at the same time, which is we don't want you to leave because we recognise that if you were to depart there would be a very high chance of secular violence here - sectarian violence here. And so it is somewhat of a paradox and we work with that everyday.

Bridget Kendall: Thank you General Kimmitt.

Well we've also been out and about on the streets of Baghdad to see if there are Iraqis who have questions for General Kimmitt and here's one of them.

Omal al-Samauri: My name is Omal al-Samauri I live in Baghdad. My question for General Kimmitt is: What is the coalition forces going to do about the situation of security in Iraq? Most of the major roads in Baghdad are closed and the situation of the traffic is getting very hectic.

Bridget Kendall: Quite a specific question General Kimmitt, what's your answer?

General Kimmitt: First of all there are two reasons why the traffic is very, very hectic in Baghdad. First of all, the obvious reason is that there are probably three times the number of cars there were than during Saddam's regime, that's one of the healthy economic indicators and it shows that Baghdad is returning to be a vibrant economy.

But the reality is that many of the terrorists who would like to push this process off track, who want to stop us from moving towards passing sovereignty on the 30th June, continue to attack targets inside of Iraq. They attack innocent civilians, they attack coalition forces and we have had to make some security adjustments inside the city of Iraq - inside the city of Baghdad, to ensure the safety and security of not only the coalition provisional authority, the coalition forces, but in many cases for the safety of the average Iraqi on the streets as well.

We understand it's an inconvenience but we've got to balance the need for security inside Baghdad with certainly the desire of every citizen in Baghdad to try to live a normal life.

Bridget Kendall: Indeed so many Iraqis have said that what they want above all is a normal life and yet we're seeing with the security situation being so problematic the reconstruction has been hindered, some firms have pulled out, there are worries about kidnappings - there's a report today that