

Q: How much -- this is Will Dunham again with Reuters, sir. How much effect did the capture of Saddam have in undermining the resistance?

Odierno: Well, I think first, there's a lot of people now coming forward with much more information. A lot of people have said that. But what you're seeing is they clearly now understand that the Ba'ath Party is gone and people are now ready to move forward. And you see that in the majority -- the large majority of Iraqis; they are now ready to move forward. And I think now you're starting to see some posturing by some of these insurgents on where they will fit in the future of Iraq, and I think that's what we're seeing now as we still fight a bit of an insurgency.

Q: General, this is Bob Burns with Associated Press. Could you give us the latest you have on the incident today; the mortar attack, I believe, that killed at least two American soldiers? I think it was in your area.

Odierno: It was. What I would tell you is -- it actually happened last evening. And actually there was one mortar round, 120- millimeter mortar round, that landed in one of our forward operating bases. And it landed close to several individuals who were having a discussion, and unfortunately two soldiers were killed.

Q: That's it?

Odierno: In fact, over an -- about an hour ago, we conducted a raid to -- we believe to potentially capture the individuals that conducted that attack, but I don't have the results of that raid yet.

Q: Thank you.

Q: General, Jim Miklaszewski with NBC. There's increasing concern within the administration that some of those long-standing rivalries and bitter land disputes between Kurds and Arabs in the north could eventually explode into what would amount to a civil war. You've spent a lot of time there working with these people. How concerned are you? How serious is that potential threat? And what can be done about that?

Odierno: Well, I think first we always have to be aware of that potential because there has been disputes for years and years and years, and that doesn't go away overnight. So we have to keep an eye on it. Just this week I was up in Kirkuk, which is also my area of operation. And we just refreshed the new government in Kirkuk, the province of Al Tamin, which also includes Kirkuk. And it was extremely successful in the fact that we have a good mix of Arabs, Turkomen and Kurdish people on that council. I think that is, in fact, a very good step forward. And we have been having a lot of dialogue with the leaders of the political parties that represent each one of them in the Kirkuk area and we've made some great progress over the last few weeks. So I think we just have to watch it very closely.

In addition, Ambassador Bremer here in the last few days signed a memorandum, which was also done by the Iraqi Governing Council, that lays out the policy for dealing with land disputes within Iraq. I think that is a help. And we're going to put the commissions together in each one of the provinces that will now be able to deal with these issues. We've been given some initial guidelines. I don't have the specifics in front of me. But it is a good step, and that's what we needed. So now we'll be able to -- they are registering for land disputes. There is a process that is now clearly defined that we can go through. That, along with the people now working together in the government positions that we've set up, I think, will help to stabilize the area. But again, we must continually watch it.

And one of the key things we must do is ensure that they do not use force to implement one side against the other. We must use it through political means, through discussion. And we have to set those up. And the Coalition Provisional Authority has been working very hard in doing that over the last several weeks.