

AMBASSADOR KENNEDY: You're welcome.

OPERATOR: Next question comes from Sue Fleming.

QUESTION: Yes, hi, Sue Fleming with Reuters. You mentioned that there are not enough Diplomatic Security agents in Iraq to do the job. How many more do you think are needed? And I'm sorry if you've already answered this question.

AMBASSADOR KENNEDY: I'm not going -- what we said was there are not enough agents in Iraq to have -- there were not enough of our agents in Iraq to have one accompany every movement. So we -- the agents are already flowing into Iraq to do that. We don't discuss -- I'm not going to discuss the specific numbers of agents that we have deployed there. It's not something that we do.

QUESTION: And have you already called in Blackwater and the other two key security contractors to give them these new guidelines?

AMBASSADOR KENNEDY: We are in the process of -- we are in the process -- the Secretary has made her decision today. We briefed her yesterday. She's made her decision today and the Diplomatic Security Service will be calling in the contractors and working with the State Department's contracting arm to amend the contracts and provide the additional requirements and guidance.

QUESTION: Okay. Thank you.

MR. MCCORMACK: All right, everybody. We have time for two more questions.

OPERATOR: Next question comes from Viola Gienger.

QUESTION: Ambassador -- Ambassador Kennedy, this is Viola Gienger from Bloomberg News. I wanted to see what your thoughts were about the coordination with Department of Defense forces on the ground, a little bit more about -- just overall, how you see the coordination as it has gone so far overall and, you know, how much does that need to be improved.

AMBASSADOR KENNEDY: The fact that information that the State Department was providing was not getting to all levels of DOD, that needs to be fixed. We also need to get State -- its obligation to the State Department and the radios have been ordered and delivery is expected momentarily. We need to put military radios that will operate on the military frequencies in all of our vehicles. That will achieve coordination.

There has not been a standing group composed of the appropriate operating officials from DOD and the State Department's Regional Security Office. There have been lots of ad hoc discussions continually. That is important, but a standing body is good. There have been Department of Defense representatives in the Diplomatic Security Service's tactical operation center. That -- the military is going to be augmenting that presence. So there has been -- there has been coordination. It just has not risen to the levels that the panel felt was appropriate given the circumstances. So what you have in the recommendations are: here are the things that need to be augmented and added to.