

is in New York this week to press alternatives to the Bush administration's occupation policy in postwar Iraq, he and his aides say. In the process, he may complete a personal transformation from protégé of Pentagon conservatives to Iraqi nationalist with a loud, independent voice.

In an interview today in New York, Mr. Chalabi professed gratitude to the Bush administration for toppling Saddam Hussein's government, but his specific proposals were directly at odds with the policies Washington is pursuing in Baghdad and at the United Nations. He demanded that the Iraqi Governing Council be given at least partial control of the powerful finance and security ministries, and rejected the idea of more foreign troops coming to Iraq.

Mr. Chalabi's strategy, he says, is to get from the United Nations General Assembly sovereign status for the unelected 25-member Governing Council. This move to lobby other nations for a swift transfer of some sovereignty is going down poorly in Washington, according to the Iraqi leader's aides.

Mr. Chalabi has sent representatives to France and Germany to discuss putting Iraq back in charge under a new United Nations mandate that would end American control of the occupation, even if American troops remain in Iraq. His aides say he also plans to tell the Senate that the United Nations could save billions of dollars on Iraq reconstruction by allowing an Iraqi administration to handle it.

"People in D.C. are accusing us of 'conspiring with America's enemies,'" one aide said, describing the reports of his advance men on the mood in Washington.

Mr. Chalabi insists that he is not changing diplomatic sides. "The last thing we are going to do is fall into the trap of France," he said this weekend. He said that he was looking forward to seeing the president at a reception Mr. Bush is giving for visiting government leaders on Tuesday evening, and that his strategy was intended to make it easier to maintain the American presence in Iraq.

"I am fighting to keep Americans in Iraq," Mr. Chalabi said before leaving Baghdad. "We are afraid that they will lose their resolve and go home if the current situation continues."

Yet Mr. Chalabi's arrival in New York with a delegation determined to advance the clock on sovereignty puts him and the interim government he heads in direct confrontation with Mr. Bush.

"We want to claim Iraq's seat at the United Nations," Mr. Chalabi said today.

He also declared that "we are not at cross purposes" with the Americans, but his words seemed so.

The United States is seeking a new United Nations resolution that would help bring foreign troops into Iraq in a newly constituted multinational force. At least one major potential troop donor, Pakistan, says it wants an invitation from the Governing Council first.

"We cannot be expected to solicit foreign troops in Iraq," Mr. Chalabi said. "We cannot be expected to do that."

He said some aspects of governance should be handed over immediately.

"They can start by putting Iraqis to be in joint control, with the coalition, of Iraqi finances," he said. "All of these are measures that would demonstrate increasing sovereignty in Iraq." Asked when, he replied, "Right away."

He also sought an immediate role in commanding security forces, saying, "We think that internal security in Iraq cannot be maintained unless Iraqis are far more involved than they are now."

A senior Bush administration official reiterated over the weekend that "we'll stay on

the same schedule" of keeping Iraq under a strong American-British occupation while proceeding with drafting a new Iraqi constitution, to be followed by national elections sometime next year.

That extended debate over sovereignty and the end of the occupation is part of a political struggle that neither side feels it can afford to lose.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. OSBORNE (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for September 23 and today on account of his mother-in-law's funeral.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HINCHEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KIND, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. BALDWIN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BERRY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. JONES of North Carolina) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. SOUDER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PENCE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BLACKBURN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan, for 5 minutes, today and October 1.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A Bill of the Senate of the following title were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1404. An act to amend the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, September 25, 2003, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

4396. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, APHIS, Department of Ag-

riculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Importation of Pork-Filled Pasta [Docket No. 02-003-2] received September 16, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4397. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, APHIS, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Asian Longhorned Beetle; Quarantined Areas and Regulated Articles [Docket No. 03-018-2] received September 16, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4398. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting report concerning His decision regarding the Singapore Technologies Telemedia in Global Crossing Ltd; to the Committee on Financial Services.

4399. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Food Additives Permitted in Feed and Drinking Water of Animals; Selenium Yeast [Docket No. 1998F-0196] received September 16, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4400. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Orthopedic Devices; Classification for the Resorbable Calcium Salt Bone Void Filler Device [Docket No. 01N-0411] received September 17, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4401. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Procurement, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Format and Numbering of Award Documents (RIN: 2700-AC61) received September 16, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Science.

4402. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting notification concerning the Department of Navy's Proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States for defense articles and services (Transmittal No. 03-23), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

4403. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting notification concerning the Department of the Air Force's Proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to Pakistan for defense articles and services (Transmittal No. 03-22), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

4404. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting notification concerning the Department of Army's Proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to Egypt for defense articles and services (Transmittal No. 03-24), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

4405. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting notification concerning the Department of the Army's Proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to Pakistan for defense articles and services (Transmittal No. 03-25), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

4406. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting notification concerning the Department of Army's Proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to Greece for defense articles and services (Transmittal No. 03-33), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on International Relations.