

Cheney in Baghdad, discourages vacations

by UPI

BAGHDAD - U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney made an unannounced visit to Baghdad Wednesday and spoke against Iraqi politicians taking a two-month summer holiday.

Cheney met with the top U.S. military commander in Iraq, Gen. David Petraeus, and also the U.S. envoy to Iraq, Ryan Crocker, CNN reported.

Crocker told reporters traveling with Cheney the vice president was unhappy with parliamentary plans to recess as sectarian violence wracks the country.

"For the Iraqi parliament to take a two-month vacation in summer is impossible to understand," Crocker said.

Cheney, one of the chief architects of the Iraq war also met with Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, before a meeting with the Presidency Council and President Jalal Talabani.

After talking with Maliki, Cheney told reporters it had been a "good meeting" that focused "on things like the Baghdad security plan, ongoing operations against terrorists, as well as the political and economic issues that are before the Iraqi government."

The surprise visit preceded Cheney's scheduled visits with leaders in the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Jordan, CNN reported.

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