

## Report: White House OK with Iraq progress

by UPI

WASHINGTON -- An advance review of a White House report on Iraq said the Bush administration sees some satisfactory progress, The Washington Post said Thursday. The roughly 25-page report to be released Thursday was described to the Post by an administration official as saying there was progress in eight of the 18 benchmarks set by the U.S. Congress in authorizing U.S. President George Bush's troop increase of 30,000 six months ago. The official, who asked not to be identified, said the report doesn't claim any of the military and political benchmarks have been fully met; only that in some cases there has been forward movement. "It divides about 50-50," the official told the newspaper. The report is considered a midterm evaluation, with the annual summary due in September from U.S. Army Gen. David Petraeus, the multi-national military force commander in Iraq. The bill for funding the war is being wrestled with in Congress, where Democrats and a growing number of Republicans are demanding a withdrawal timeline, which Bush has already vetoed once. Bush has asked senators to avoid timelines until the September report is issued.

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