

smuggling) and whose concept of governance was antithetical to tribal authorities.

U.S. forces worked hard to extend what happened in al Anbar to other provinces, notably to Diyala province.<sup>40</sup> As one report concluded in July 2007, U.S. forces used

Iraqi partners to pick out the insurgents and uncover the bombs they had seeded along the cratered roads [and] apprehended more than 100 militants, including several low-level emirs. . . . [L]ocal Sunni residents, including a number of former insurgents from the [1920 Revolution Brigades] . . . emerged as a linchpin of the American strategy [in Diyala].<sup>41</sup>

Further negotiations took place with sheikhs in Diyala.<sup>42</sup> In June, U.S. forces picked up pledges from support from ten tribes in Baghdad.<sup>43</sup> They even met with some broad success through the Sunni region as a whole.<sup>44</sup>

But the United States did not play a direct role. Some argued that the U.S. "surge" was pivotal.<sup>45</sup> But was it? The al Anbar revolt

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<sup>40</sup> Gordon (2007).

<sup>41</sup> Gordon (2007).

<sup>42</sup> Trudy Rubin, "New Iraq Tribal Alliances Fighting al-Qaeda," *Philadelphia Inquirer*, June 22, 2007, p. A19. Shiite members of the tribe known as the Bani Tamim mobilized in Diyala province east of Baghdad in cooperation with Sunni tribes. This is an area where U.S. troops conducted an offensive. Leaders of the Bani Tamim had 5,000 names of tribespeople willing to fight and to protect vital oil pipelines. They wanted help from the United States to do the job.

<sup>43</sup> Jim Michaels, "Tribes Help U.S. Against al-Qaeda: Baghdad-Area Deals Build on Successes in Anbar Province," *USA Today*, June 20, 2007b, p. A1. More than ten Iraqi tribes in the Baghdad area have reached agreements with U.S. and Iraqi forces for the first time to oppose al Qa'ida, raising the U.S. military's hopes that a trend started in western Iraq is spreading there.

<sup>44</sup> John F. Burns and Alissa J. Rubin, "U.S. Arming Sunnis in Iraq to Battle Old Qaeda Allies," *New York Times*, June 11, 2007, p. A1. In an agreement announced by the U.S. command, 130 tribal sheikhs in Salahuddin met in the provincial capital, Tikrit, to form police units that would defend against al Qa'ida.

<sup>45</sup> Rowan Scarborough, "Petraeus Adviser: Al Qaeda Weakened by Troop Surge," *Washington Examiner*, August 15, 2007, p. 15.