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United Press International

December 2, 2003

State Dept: Iraq Situation Looks Positive

The perception that Iraq is in a state of chaos is a myth, the director of the State Department's Office of Iraq Reconstruction said Tuesday.

"The glass is more than half-full," Robin Raphel told the annual benefit luncheon of the Women's Foreign Policy Group in Washington. Raphel presented a detailed list of basic services in Iraq from the medical to the transport sectors that have been restored by the U.S.-led coalition.

However, following Raphel's speech, Julia Taft, assistant administrator and director of the U.N. Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, gave a darker image of Iraq's progress.

"Sergio's (Vieira de Mello) loss seared the organization," she said in remembrance of the Aug. 19 attack in Baghdad that killed the U.N. envoy for Iraq. "We are still concerned about the security situation ... there are currently no U.N. flights into Baghdad."