

“Never a Typical Day”

Participant: L. Paul Bremer III

Interview Date: August 28-29, 2012

Project: George W. Bush Oral History Project

President George W. Bush appointed L. Paul Bremer III as the presidential envoy to Iraq after the U.S. invasion and overthrow of Iraq’s president, Saddam Hussein, in 2003. After arriving in Iraq, Bremer became the director of the Coalition Provisional Authority. He was the highest-ranking U.S. civilian in the country and oversaw efforts to rebuild. He describes life in the “green zone,” an area in the center of Baghdad that the coalition forces controlled.

Interviewer: You mentioned the green zone. Is there a typical day for you in those 14 months, or are things just changing so quickly that there is never a typical day?

L. Paul Bremer III: Never a typical day. Pretty much it started at 4:30 because that’s when the rockets and mortars came in. For whatever reason that’s the time these guys liked to set them off. So you’d hear an oomph and I’d say, “Well, time to get up.”

End of excerpt.

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URL: <https://millercenter.org/the-presidency/presidential-oral-histories/l-paul-bremer-iii-oral-history>