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Iraq's Al-Maliki: US Will Stay in Insecure Areas

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BAGHDAD (AP) -- Iraq's prime minister says U.S. troops will not be withdrawn from areas of the country that are not completely secure.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki tells The Associated Press in an interview that he has informed President Barack Obama and other top U.S. officials that the Iraqi government must agree to any withdrawals "and must be linked to the security situation."

Al-Maliki says that he does not want U.S. troops taken out of any area unless it is "considered 100 percent secure and under control." Otherwise, withdrawals will be postponed.

The prime minister spoke aboard his plane traveling from Australia to Baghdad.

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