

JUN 23 2003

NOTE FOR STEVE HADLEY  
MARC GROSSMAN

FROM: Douglas J. Feith, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy <sup>DJF</sup> <sub>by LA 6/23/03</sub>

FYI – See attached memo from AMB Bremer to Secretary Rumsfeld. You may want to send to other Iraqi DC participants.

cc: Frank Miller

June 20, 2003

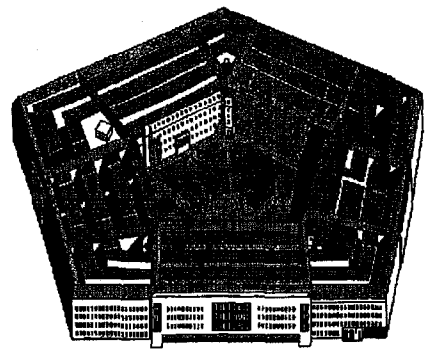
TO: Secretary Rumsfeld  
FROM: L. Paul Bremer  
SUBJECT: June 19 Political Consultation with Iraqis

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UK Ambassador John Sawers and I met yesterday with 21 Iraqis, ranging from political leaders, to independents, to government bureaucrats and professionals. UN SRSG De Mello's chief of staff sat in as an observer at the meeting. Three issues were discussed: the overall political process, the currency and what to do about payments to the dissolved military.

During the discussion regarding the political process, Iraqi participants stressed that immediate needs – such as security, and regular electricity - must take priority in order to create the conditions necessary to successfully form stable national bodies. Some of the participants, including several political party representatives, argued that because the Constitutional Conference is so critical, and will “shape Iraq's destiny”, there should be direct elections for the delegates even if this meant delay. Conversely, many participants argued that the political process must move forward as soon as possible, and that the lack of a formal Iraqi entity to date was causing confusion and insecurity on the street. Both the KDP and SCIRI representatives asked that a specific timeframe and date be announced for the formation of the Political Council (to which I replied that both the Council and the Constitutional Conference would be set up by the end of July).

A brief discussion on currency issues indicated a consensus among all but one of the Iraqi participants that the CPA should use Swiss Dinars as the official Iraqi currency prior to the creation of a new currency, designed and issued by a future Iraqi government. Walt Slocombe gave a short briefing on the future of the Iraqi military and the formation of the new Iraqi army. While there were few questions about Slocombe's comments, the participants were unanimous in their reaction to my presentation of three possible options for dealing with the ex-military: do nothing, pay one lump sum, or pay a stipend to those eligible for retirement pending a decision by an Iraqi government. All argued that we should continue to pay “the salaries” of former military members; many made the point that the regular army was as much of a force for Saddam to manage as it was a source of support for him. Participants felt that such payments made sense on security, humanitarian, legal, and other grounds. Interestingly, participants did not distinguish between “pensions” and “salaries,” with most maintaining that payments should be made to all ex-military, not only those of retirement age.



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TO Steve Nadkey

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FROM Doug Tubb

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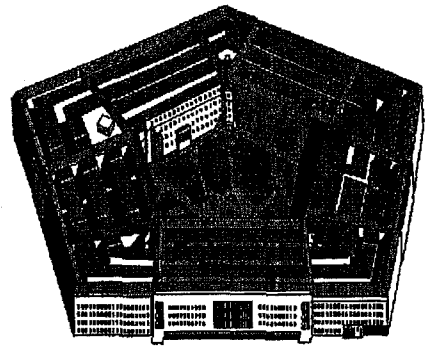
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MEMO to Sec Rumsfeld from Bremer  
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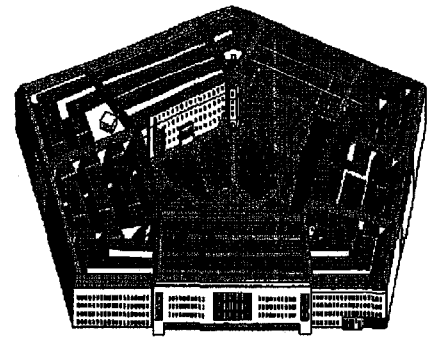
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TO Frank Miller

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