

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR
POLICY

FROM: Bill Luti

SUBJECT: Status of Iraqi Political Process

6/28/03
→ SD/DSD
FYI
Doug Feith

- Following meetings Tuesday with SCIRI political chief Abd al Aziz Hakim and Wednesday with the INC's Ahmed Chalabi, Ambassador Bremer is in the final stages of naming the Political Council (PC) of the Interim Administration (IA).
 - The PC will be formally announced between July 9 and July 15.
 - Bremer and his team will travel this week, meeting prospective PC members and other candidates.
 - Bremer will soon show candidate lists to Chalabi, other G-7 principals, and other prominent Iraqis.
 - Bremer rejected Chalabi's suggestion of regional assemblies to select the PC, noting the lack of time. However, Bremer is open to a regional assembly process to select delegates to the Constitutional Convention. The target for naming these delegates is July 31.
 - A "dress rehearsal" meeting between Bremer and the draft final PC list will occur between July 6 and July 9.
 - The Secretary may want to ask Bremer to send him the PC final list prior to any announcement.
- Chalabi is gratified that Bremer envisions a PC with real authority and has stated his willingness to participate in the process.
- SCIRI is leaning against participation.
 - Unless SCIRI perceives their support among Shi'a to be weak, they will probably not play a constructive role in any part of the IA process.

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- The Kurds will probably want to place deputies on the PC. Their main focus is on the Constitutional Conference, especially a guarantee of federalism. .
- Bogus lists of the putative PC do not show a Shi'a majority and show Adnan Pachachi as interim Prime Minister.
 - Pachachi's appearance at the World Economic Forum in Jordan was not helpful. CPA had not invited him.

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