

DECLASSIFIED

63

To: MADRX - eTelegrams
From: COMCEN Gateway 1a
Subject: I:OO:REST:IRAQ: DE-BA'ATHIFICATION :IRAQR/FCOLN
3:Id=0556473
Sent: 12 May 2003 18:00:48 GMT

ZCZC

LNMC DN 2151 WSLNAN 5318

RESTRICTED

OO AMMAN ANKAR ATHEN BEBER BEIJI BEIRU BREC BREMB BRNAT BUCHA
OO CAIRO CANBE COPEN DAMAS DUBLI GEDIS GEMIS HELSI HOSEE ISLAM
OO LISBO LUXEM MADRI MEXIC MOSCO NEDEL NYMIS OTTAW PARIS PRAGU
OO ROMEE SANAA STOCK TEHRA TOKYO VIDEL VIENN VIMIS WASHI

FM IRAQR TO FCOLN

121630Z MAY

GRS 438

RESTRICTED

FM IRAQREP

TO DESKBY 121700Z FCO

TELNO 3

OF 121630Z MAY 03

INFO IMMEDIATE EU POSTS, EU ENLARGEMENT POSTS, MIDDLE EAST POSTS
INFO IMMEDIATE SECURITY COUNCIL POSTS, CANBERRA, OTTAWA, NEW DELHI
INFO IMMEDIATE PRETORIA CAPETOWN, , CABINET OFFICE, DFID, DTI
INFO IMMEDIATE HMT, MODUK, PJHQUK, TPUK,

SIC

SUBJECT: IRAQ: "DE-BA'ATHIFICATION"

SUMMARY

1. Bremer, rightly, plans to move quickly to set out a policy on "De-Ba'athification" or "De-Saddam-isation" as it may now be called. Need for urgent views, if you have them, on how far we think this should go.

DETAIL

2. Bremer set out in our first meeting his intention to issue a new binding policy on the role of former members of the regime, in particular the Ba'ath Party, in public service or political roles. This is good: the issue needs addressing quickly. The question is how to define the scope of those excluded.

3. All agree that the top three levels of the Ba'ath - the Regional (Qutriyah), Branch (Fira') and Popular (Shu'ba) levels - should be banned. Our rough estimate suggests that should cover up to 5,000 people. Added to that will have to be the top levels of the instruments of repression - the security, intelligence organisations etc.

4. Some politicians (Chalabi, Pachachi, Talabani) are arguing that the fourth level of the party - Team (firqa) - should also be included. This would extend the numbers to some 30,000 possibly more. The argument in favour is that this is the level where party officials began to receive privileges such as free housing and thus were identified popularly as beneficiaries of the regime. Against that is the danger that too wide a list will be hard to administer;

DECLASSIFIED

124

DECLASSIFIED

that we should not exclude too large a group from the new system; and it would increase the risk of false accusations against innocent people.

5. The second concern is the need to include those in the other part of the Ba'ath structure, the bureaus, especially those dealing with the army, security, international affairs and professional bodies. There would be provision to exempt those covered by the new policy in exceptional circumstances, but that would be determined case by case. The most likely category this would cover would be technocrats.

6. Grateful for early views on this issue. My own instinct is we should not throw the net wider than necessary, and that for now we could settle on the top three tiers. That, I think, is the Washington view (but, interestingly) is emphatically not Chalabi's. But I frankly don't have sufficient feel for the Iraqi Ba'ath Party to know the level at which real evil began.

Contact:

SAWERS

WSLNAN 5318

NNNN

DECLASSIFIED