

RELEASE IN PART B6

Thank You and an Update

From: dstone

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CC: dstone

Subject: Thank You and an Update

B6

Hi Hillary , I just received some great news . I was elected as a life member in the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) !

Many thanks for your supportive CFR letter. Your endorsement meant a lot to me on both the personal and professional level.

I remain very grateful and look forward to the opportunity to thank you in person.

Fyi, late last month, I visited India for 10 days and am working several issues related to the Mumbai terror attacks. I am in Manama, Bahrain next week chairing a panel on Border Security and Control issues and will be meeting with the former head of Indian intelligence (Kumar Davol) to further discuss the implications of the Mumbai attacks and the current Pakistan / India border security concerns.

I am presently in Vienna , Austria enroute DC having just completed an intensive eight day visit to Kurdistan , Iraq along with half a dozen other retired senior Officers and former US Government officials. Gen Jay Garner (US Army retired) and former Army Undersecretary Joe Reeder also participated.

The schedule included visits with senior Iraqi and Kurdish leadership figures (Dinner with Mrs Talabani , Breakfast with Prime Minister Barzani , Meetings with the Governors of Erbil , Sulaimaniya and Dahuk etc).

Tours of the Koya University facilities ,as well as various Regional Police and Military training schools were conducted .

The discussions held with students , clergy , and an inspiring group of "women against violence" were informative and educational. .

Our visit up to the Turkey-Kurdistan border area enabled us to observe first hand the growing oil export trade being conducted by Kurdistan via trucks. Seeing the various Turkish Army encampments actually inside Kurdistan was also revealing and reflective of the tensions caused by PKK attacks.

Of note, we shopped openly in the souks in Kurdistan and were received warmly. I felt very comfortable and secure out in the towns and villages of Kurdistan . Life is never risk free but the feel was very good.

My overall impression is that Kurdistan is prosperous with lots of development projects ongoing and the Kurdish people are tremendously pro US. They have newly formed democratic institutions and a true eagerness to support US policies for a unified Iraq. They know their future security depends on it.

That said, the Kurds also have a growing concern that without significantly increased US attention to the resolution of the City of Kirkuk and the other disputed areas , that their prosperity could unravel very quickly as a result of a civil war over these disputed areas - particularly Kirkuk.

Assignment of a special US envoy to help resolve the Kurdistan issues was encouraged by many Kurds as well as the idea of opening a US consulate office in the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) capital of Erbil to facilitate better communications.

Hillary, our outbrief regarding the Kurdistan trip would admittedly be very " pro Kurd " but that voice probably needs to be heard so it can be fully factored into our overall US foreign policy for Iraq and the region.

As you well know, a clear "US policy regarding the Kurds" has been sorely needed for quite some time. The Kurds have found themselves sandwiched between Syria, Turkey, Iran and Iraq - leading to horrific incidents of abuse.

On the US front , they have also been unfortunately caught between the segmented desks at DOD (Eucom vs Centcom) as well as various desks at the State Department which divide coverage in such a way that it has hindered efforts to formulate a more coherent Kurd policy. .

If your schedule permits , I would like to suggest our group provide you a 30 minute update/pulse point regarding Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) relationship. It may be useful for you to receive it , along with other key members of your team, as you deal with Kirkuk and article 140 of the Iraqi Constitution (dealing with the resolution of the remaining disputed territories).

Our brief may also allow for the opening of another channel of information for the State Department about the situation on the ground in Kurdistan-particularly as US forces prepare to leave Iraq . Jay Garner from our group is wired into the highest levels of the Kurdistan Government (KRG) and is treated as a local hero by all the Kurds that we visited with because of his role in saving Kurdish lives during Operation Provide Comfort in the early 90's .

On a personal level , I am happy to help you and your State Department team in any way I can. I know Jay Garner already has a personal relationship with Jim Jones based on their previous time together in this region and that Jay does not hesitate to give Jim a call in his new job at NSC.

It would probably be very positive for State to have a pipeline for this same information so it can be considered in your overall planning and execution.

All the best and again my Congrats on your new role as our Secretary of State and thanks for your support of my CFR endeavor.

Our country is very fortunate to have you in such a key leadership position .

Happy to have our team that visited Kurdistan , Iraq brief you and/or your representatives as you deem appropriate.

All the best and God Bless.

Sincerely, Dave

Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T