

From:
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IRAQ: SECURITY STRATEGY

Desmond Bowen chaired a meeting to discuss the draft Iraqi Security Strategy on 27 July. This records the main points.

2. David Quarrey said the Prime Minister believed the security strategy should be a key document in communicating the IIG's plans on security to the Iraqi people. The current draft was not the document the PM was anticipating: it went much broader, and lacked detail on plans to develop the security forces and Iraqiise security. Other colleagues shared these concerns and doubted that, in its current form, it could be used as a key communications document. Martin Howard and Maj Gen Houghton reminded the group that this type of document might be what the Iraqis wanted – we should be cautious of interfering if there was Iraqi buy-in to the current approach.

3. outlined the process thus far. A US-led team that also comprised some Brits and Iraqis had written the paper. The work on Iraqiisation had been split off and was being done by a separate team under Maj Gen Petraeus

. The current draft had been agreed by the MNSC at deputy level. It was not clear whether more senior officials in Iraq, either Iraqi (with the possible exception of Rubai) or UK/US had focussed on the document. We believed no one close to Allawi had yet seen the document – and could not discount him asking for major changes when he did see it

. We were also not clear what Washington's views were.

4. The meeting agreed that, as a first step, the FCO would send instructions to Baghdad making the following broad points:

- Not clear what the objectives are for the document. It does not seem to fulfil the basic communication objective;
- Is this really what the Iraqis, notably Allawi, want?
- Believe more detail is needed on what will happen on security, including Iraqiisation, and that some of the wider elements (e.g. chapter 6 and elements of other chapters) should be cut;
- Concerned that the plan currently appears to cover "destiny issues";
- Budgetary provision was needed (FCO would cover this in more detail in a separate tel);

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- What scale of changes is it realistic to seek at this stage?
- 5. The telegram would also ask the Embassy to look closely at the draft and to seek US views. It would ask for a response on 28 July.
- 6. Charles Heatly also stressed that, whatever happened on the main document, we should plan to rework the Allawi covering letter/executive summary to make it into a much more effective communication tool (e.g. something that could be reprinted in newspapers).
- 7. OD Secretariat will hold a further meeting when there is a response from Baghdad.
- 8. I am copying this letter to those who attended the meeting and George Fergusson.

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