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Report from Iraq – Douglas Brand -16 July 2003

This is the first formal report following my insertion into the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) Ministry of Interior in Iraq, via the visit of the Security Sector Review Team led by Captain Tim Lowe RN from 5th to 8th July 2003.

General

- I am based in the Ministry of Interior which is situated in the former Republican Guards palace alongside the CPA organization. Accommodation is basic (my personal living space is a bed in a 16 bed temporary dormitory) though more substantial accommodation in the form of 4 person air conditioned trailers is being constructed towards the end of this month. There are frequent power failures and air conditioning is patchy.

Personal Activity

- My role as chief police advisor has been acknowledged by the CPA Director, Bernard Kerik (BK) and I have been tasked by him to set up the Senior Command Team of the Police of Baghdad.
- Terms of reference have been agreed for this and other areas of work (attached at appendix A)
- I chaired a selection panel for the new Chief of Baghdad on the 13th July based on nominations provided by the Ministry of Interior and the 18th US Military Police Brigade. None of the candidates has command skills or experience commensurate with the demands of running a large city police service. BK has made it clear that the running of the Force will be my responsibility until the top team is competent.
- I have visited a number of the 34 police stations that have been reopened since the looting and destruction in the immediate post war catharsis. Whilst they are still in poor repair (no windows, power etc) Iraqi Police officers and USMPs are operating a policing service from them. The remainder of the total of 60 are still unfit for operational use and are awaiting decision on financing for refurbishment.

Police Training Activity

- There is an established police training and development programme in place based on the US Department of Justice/UN Democratic Policing model which is in turn based on the Kosova basic model. It runs for three weeks and every officer is required to attend. I am attending the graduation of the first course in Baghdad at 3pm 16th July.

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- Following a meeting with BK and Ambassador Bremmer on the 15th, BK is presenting a bid for a quarter of a billion \$ budget to the new Iraqi Governing Council today. This is to complete the training and equipping of the Iraqi Police Service over the next 2 years based on 20,500 students per year. The proposal is to conduct the majority of the training at the Taszar military base in Hungary. It will require 384 international trainers plus interpreters.

Staffing

- Additionally BK is seeking to establish an international team of police advisors numbering some 5700 to act as trainers, advisors and field training officers to work in Iraq. This is probably the most ambitious international policing support project ever as it will be larger than Kosovo and will be drawn from a smaller pool of nations. To achieve this he is exploring the setting up of an international donors conference possibly through the OSCE or the EU within the next 2 months.
- Once it is authorized by BK I shall be requesting an immediate augmentation of 3 staff working directly to me. These will be for organizational/development management for the senior command team of Baghdad; for the establishment of administrative systems; and for the establishment of the management of intelligence. I have already alerted the FCO (IPU) and ACPO informally of 2 of these posts.

Security

- Since the 4th May there have been 32 attacks on police stations and 51 attacks on police patrols. The rate of attacks has increased over the past few weeks.
- The appointment of the new chief of police will be announced on Monday 21st and my association with him as his coach/director will also be announced. In the style preferred by BK this will be on global television at a press conference. The focus of attention on the new chief will flush out both enemies from within and also those who have been dismissed under the deBa'athification order. Externally he will also attract the attention of the former regime supporters as well as the common or garden criminal gangs that proliferate since the emptying of the prisons by Saddam last year.
- I shall ask for a further security assessment of my situation from the FCO contractors once they are in theatre. The ad hoc arrangements I have had to make for my security is not sustainable and I hope that this situation will be resolved as soon as possible.

Douglas Brand
Chief Police Advisor – Ministry of Interior - Baghdad

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Douglas Brand – Terms of Reference – Ministry of Interior

- On a date to be agreed, to take full responsibility for the policing of Baghdad under the policy direction of the CPA Director for the Ministry of the Interior, and the head of CPA.
- To support the above, to have executive authority to co-ordinate and direct the current policing activity being conducted by the CPA in Baghdad.
- To develop an implementation strategy for policing in Baghdad aimed at achieving transition from a military primacy to a civil police primacy.
- On the appointment of an Iraqi Chief of Police for Baghdad, to mentor, coach and train the individual to a level of competence acceptable to me and to the CPA Director for the Ministry of the Interior whereby full authority can be formally handed over to the individual to direct the affairs and the operational priorities of the Baghdad Police.
- To advise the CPA Director for the Ministry of the Interior on International support for the Policing of Iraq.
- To advise the CPA Director for the Ministry of the Interior on the implementation of a strategy for Policing in Iraq.

.....CPA Director for the Ministry of the Interior

.....Chief Police Advisor

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