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EXTRACT FROM WASHINGTON TELNO 655 OF 14 MAY 2003

DE-BAATHIFICATION

9. a draft guidance cable to the coalition Authority, including ORHA, about de-Ba'athification. The objectives would include the disestablishment of the Ba'ath party, elimination of its structures, and removal of its leadership from positions of authority and responsibility.

10. The Authority would be instructed to gather as much information as possible on the Ba'ath leadership cadres. Public rewards could be offered for information leading to the capture of senior Ba'ath party members and individuals complicit in the crimes of the former regime. The surrender or detention of senior Ba'ath party members should be publicized.

11. Full members (sub-divided into the three levels of group, section, and branch membership), would be banned from holding employment in the public sector, including teaching positions. They would also be interviewed and evaluated for criminal conduct and risk to the security of the coalition. Those presenting a threat might be interned, placed under house arrest, or subjected to other means of control.

12. Senior individuals in the top three layers of management in every national government ministry (down to the equivalent of Assistant Secretary in the US system) would also be interviewed and evaluated. Those proven to be full members of the Ba'ath party (even the lesser ranks of "member" and "active member") would be removed. Those suspected of criminal conduct should be investigated and detained if deemed a threat to security and/or a flight risk. Senior ministry personnel who were not (not) found to be Ba'ath members should also be removed, though the senior coalition representative (presumably Bremer) would have discretion to make exceptions on a case-by-case basis, subject to character references, and checks being completed on the possibility of criminal conduct.

13. The discovery of adverse information about junior ministry employees would lead to similar investigative proceedings being taken against them, and their possible removal. Other junior employees not implicated and who cooperated with the coalition could retain their positions.

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