



SECRET// REL MCFI



CONCERNS OF IRAQIS REGARDING U.S. PLANS IN PHASE IV OPS

- Justice and Law and Order in a post-Saddam Government
- The US / Coalition presence
- The Iranian Dimension

***POC CWO-3 BINNI
CIHOC 1ST INTEL BN***



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Background

Multiple reporting indicates the willingness of the southern Iraqis in establishing a democratic government in Iraq. However, Southern Iraqi leaders are generally suspicious of United States intentions toward Iraq

Iraqi Shia, harboring memories of the unsuccessful 1991 uprising, are unlikely to support the establishment of “outsiders” formed government

Iraqis are nationalistic and generally distrust long-term U.S. motives

U.S. and its allies intended to replace the regime with a “puppet” government, mainly in order to secure for themselves Iraq’s oil wealth

While the Shia of Iraq have largely welcomed their liberation from Saddam, the US/Coalition are likely to face turbulence if signs of manipulation are perceived by the Shia or an increase of missteps occur

For example: detention of two Shia prominent clerics on their way to Karbala IOT participate in ‘Ashura

Entering a Mosque Armed and offering an Imam money in public

Refusal to render assistance to a local Shia elderly woman

Garnering Iraqi Shia Support

IOT counteract perceptions of occupation, US / Coalition Forces must approach Phase IV Operations from a Muslim's perspective

- Islamic lands are to be controlled by Muslims
- Arab and Shia political-theological considerations:
 - ❑ Justice: A major theological principle of Shia Islam; Shias would welcome the implementation of social, political, and economic justice
 - Iraqi Shia have been disaffected, disadvantaged, and have been subject to unfair practices
 - ❑ Law&Order: A vital topic in Islam; a basic law and order message will resonate well with Muslims
- ❖ Course of Action:
 - ❑ Ensure Shia representation in post-Saddam Iraq
 - ❑ Include a range of Shia oppositionist groups and marginalize “outsiders.”
 - Avoid working too closely with any opposition elements as it will likely undermine the opposition's legitimacy
 - Avoid election of local leadership; let the people elect the local authority
 - ❑ Develop local leaders through local/municipal elections

Measure of Action

- Restore basic law and order, public utilities and services
- Influence is dependant upon results and the real power will not be determined at the conference table, but in the slum areas of southern Iraq
 - Promises of food, water and security must be followed through; Iraqi expect instantaneous delivery from a super power
 - Discontent could cause the Shia to seek support from others such as the Da'wah Party and or Hizballah (Lebanese, Iraqi,or Iranian)
- Coalition should quickly establish local Shia Iraqi security
 - For key Facilities (Water, electric, and Financial Institutions)
 - For Key religious sites (Primarily Najaf, Karbala, then other sites)

Re-affirm the US departure

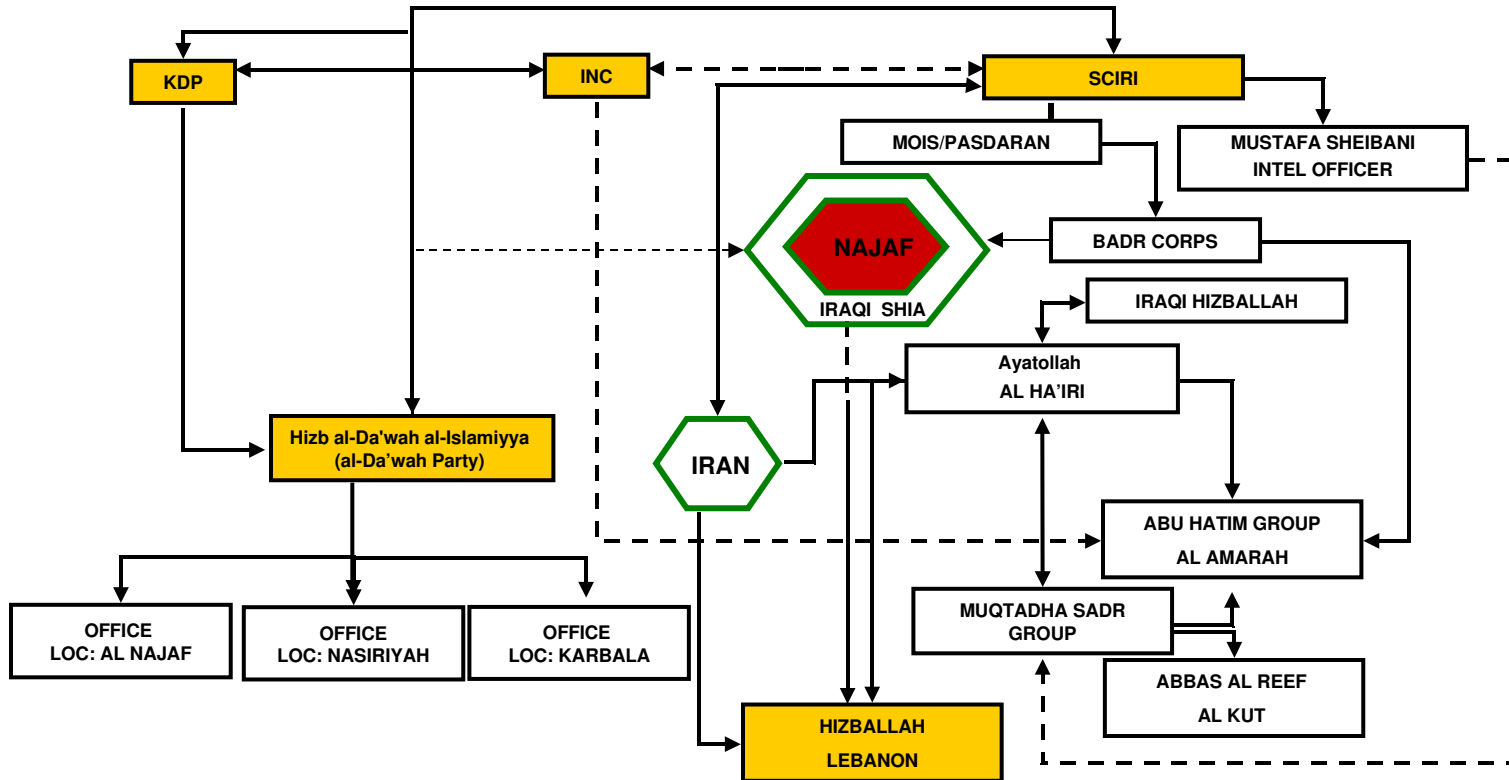
- Re-affirm the US departure once Iraq has been stabilized
 - Representative government is in place
 - Human dignity has been established

- re-affirm our commitment to the Shia and Iraqis in general that we will not permit another regime to come to power that will suppress any sectarian or ethnic group

- ❖ The longer we stay in controlling position, the more dangerous it gets for US forces in Iraq

Iranian Dimension

- The majority of Iraqis will reject Iranian interferences in Iraq if exposed by Iraqis
- The Shia are not Persians, nor do they want “Persian Shia’ism.” Iraqi Shia have mixed feelings about Iranian intentions. They acknowledge their shared religious heritage, but are largely opposed to Iranian assimilation.
- Facilitate Iraqi nationals exposing Iranian elements. This includes IRGC, Quds Forces, Hizballah, Badr Corps and MOIS elements in Iraq working at odds with Coalition goals and long term Iraqi stability.



Outlook

Iraq will likely be characterized by a period of serious instability. The diversity of Iraqis is unlikely to coalesce in a successor regime because of philosophical, religious, ethnic, and agenda differences

Although the detainment of the clerics cannot be confirmed, it is possible the two clerics were detained by coalition members who were unaware of their identity. Iraqi Shia would likely view the reported detentions as an effort by the U.S. to prevent the rise of prominent Shia clerics in a new Iraqi government. Rumors that U.S. forces are mistreating the clerics will further intensify the growing anti-American sentiment among the Iraqi people

BOTTOM LINE

Iraqi Shia want national leadership positions in any new regime in Iraq