

Office of the Secretary of Defense

Chief, RDD, ESD, WHIS

Date: 08 APR 2014 Authority: EO 13526

Declassify: X Deny in Full: \_\_\_\_\_

Declassify in Part: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason: \_\_\_\_\_

MDR: 14 -M- 2118

*XI 43603-22*

June 3, 2003

MEMO FOR: Secretary Rumsfeld

FROM: Paul Bremet *613*

SUBJECT: Iraqi Police Force

**DECLASSIFIED IN FULL**  
Authority: EO 13526  
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS  
Date: APR 08 2014

Bernie Kerik and his team have just completed their preliminary assessment of the Iraqi Police Service. The highlights will give you an idea of the direction we plan to take. We are coordinating this closely with CJTF-7 and Walt Slocombe.

- Iraqi police are not prepared for the task of providing law enforcement without a major training program which we must provide.
- Under Saddam, the police force was a quasi-military institution. As a result, its modus operandi and approach to human rights are totally unsuited for modern policing. New legislation will be needed.
- The police infrastructure was badly damaged or destroyed by the looting. More police return to work each week but their ability to operate effectively is hampered by a substantial lack of equipment.
- The recruitment and training of new recruits, untainted by the association with the former regime, will infuse the Police Service with new ideas challenging existing personnel to rethink now unacceptable behavior.
- Aggressive professional standards will hold officers to a set of internationally accepted policies that will guide the police force long after international advice and assistance have ended.
- Acceptable criminal intelligence gathering legislation will be addressed quickly. Many disenfranchised former governmental officials are poised to begin a new career in organized crime. Saddam's emptying of prisons adds to this threat to Iraq's future.
- We will encourage the separation of regulatory from enforcement duties to minimize opportunities for corruption.

~~Confidential~~

*14-M-2118*  
*14-M-2193*

~~Confidential~~

- Administrative and regulatory tasks not requiring the skills of a police officer will be "civilianized."
- Reform of the police is a long-term program requiring considerable international assistance including financial, in-kind contributions and qualified police personnel to train.
- Standing up a new police force in Iraq will take time, but the Iraqi people need a vision of their future police. Ownership of this process by civil leaders, religious leaders, politicians, the public and especially the police will be crucial to the success of this undertaking.

Comment: Overhanging all else is the major decision to be made concerning the overall structure of the police force - will it be national, regional or bifurcated. The ultimate decision will be made by the eventual Iraqi government and will reflect decisions they reach on the degree of federalism in the constitution. However, as long as we are here my guidance is to do all we can to influence the direction toward a federal "one Iraq" police force to reduce the chances of regional power centers coming into being.

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL  
Authority: EO 13526  
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS  
Date: APR 08 2014

~~Confidential~~