

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
REGARDING THE
AUTHORITY OF THE INTERIM IRAQI MINISTERS**

QUESTION: To whom do the Interim Ministers report ? What are their responsibilities?

ANSWER; Interim Ministers will run their ministries on a day-to-day basis. They will do so under the authority, direction and control of the Governing Council. They will also be closely involved in the preparation of the national (2004) budget.

QUESTION: What is the role of the CPA's ministry advisors now that the GC has appointed ministers?

ANSWER: The CPA's ministry advisors act under the authority, direction and control of the CPA Administrator. They will advise the Interim Ministers on matters for which the Interim Ministers are responsible.

QUESTION Who decides policy? Budgets?

ANSWER: Either the CPA or the Governing Council may propose policy and budgetary initiatives. The Interim Ministers and CPA ministry advisors will coordinate closely on these initiatives before they are approved

QUESTION: What types of decisions are the Interim Ministers empowered to make?

ANSWER: The Interim Ministers will be entrusted with operating their ministries and administering ministry personnel on a daily basis, in a manner that consistently and efficiently serves the Iraqi people. Ministers will be in regular contact with both the GC, to whom they report, and to the CPA through the CPA advisors. Matters that require the attention of the GC and the Administrator will get it.

QUESTION: How will the appointment of Ministers affect the GC/CPA relationship?

ANSWER: Appointing Ministers will greatly help the GC monitor and direct the work of the Ministries. The CPA has always recognized that the GC, as the principal body of the Iraqi Interim Administration, is an indispensable element of policy-making and implementation.

QUESTION: Who's the executive – the GC or the Ministers?

ANSWER: Both the GC and the Ministers perform executive functions. Under the GC's supervision, the Ministers direct the operations of their ministries. Both the GC and the Ministers play key roles in proposing, developing and carrying out policy and budgetary decisions. This is a temporary arrangement designed to ensure effective governance until

an internationally recognized, representative Iraqi government is established. The temporary political structures do not fit neatly into traditional models. The model which Iraq chooses will be decided by the Iraqi people as they draft their new constitution.

QUESTION: Who has the final word?

ANSWER: *The CPA Administrator retains overall responsibility for ensuring that the CPA's temporary governance authority is exercised in accordance with international law and for the benefit of the Iraqi people.*

QUESTION: You've clearly carved up the jobs and the Ministries along ethnic and religious lines. Won't this entrench division in Iraq, rather than foster unity?

ANSWER: For the first time ever, citizens from across the country - geographically, ethnically and religiously - are being appointed as Ministers. There are Shi'a from Basra, Kurds from Irbil and Turkomen from Kirkuk. That's a huge step forward for Iraq.

QUESTION: Aren't the Ministers party loyalists rather than technocrats as promised?

ANSWER: As their biographies make clear, these Ministers are very well-qualified to carry out the jobs they've been entrusted with. They will serve the Iraqi people, and be accountable to the GC as a whole, not to any individual or grouping within it.