



COALITION PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY
BAGHDAD

MAR 01 2004

Your Eminence

Please accept my best wishes for a safe and holy Ashura. In my religion, too, this is a time of prayer and reflection and I want you to know that I am thinking and praying for you. The martyrdom of Imam Hussein reminds all believers of the power men can have when they believe in principles.

Thank you for receiving our friend last week. I find our consultations extremely valuable and appreciate the time and effort you have put into them. You may be sure that I will continue to welcome and respect your views on matters of Iraq's future. I have asked our friend to speak to you about how we might assist with your security.

As you know, the Governing Council reached agreement earlier today on the text of the Transitional Administrative Law, a copy of which I hope to get to you as soon as the English and Arabic texts are conformed. This historic document recognizes the important role of Islam for the majority of Iraqi people, while guaranteeing the freedom of each individual to practice their own religion. And after thirty four years of ruthless dictatorship, the law sets Iraq on the path to a full democracy by means of direct popular elections, perhaps by the end of this year but in any case no later than January 31, 2005. I am grateful for your support to this process.

I welcome continued contact with you in the days and months ahead.

Respectfully,

L. Paul Bremer III
Administrator