

UNCLASSIFIED

RELEASED IN PART
B6

NIT

December 24, 2002

The Honorable Christine Todd Whitman
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20460-1101A

Dear Ms. Whitman:

As part of the Administration's support for a better government for the Iraqi people, the Administration has established in the Department of State's Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs the Future of Iraq Project (FoI). The purpose of this project is to prepare for a transition to a post-Saddam Hussein government in Iraq, and this project is coordinated with other U.S. Government efforts being led by the NSC. To this end, an interagency steering group that I chair has approved setting up 16 working groups to address issues important to a future Iraq such as Democratic Principles; Water, Agriculture and Environment; Education, Public Health and Humanitarian Issues; Economy and Infrastructure; and Education. (A list is attached.) Each working group consists of 5-30 Iraqi-Americans, Iraqi-Europeans, and Iraqis from the region, along with U.S. government and international experts.

[REDACTED]
A number of important contributors to these working groups have been Iraqi-Americans who now work for U.S. Government agencies.

Due to importance of this work, the Department of State is asking your agency's assistance in providing us advice and assistance from relevant experts in your agency, especially Iraqi-American experts in the fields of the working groups. We would be asking for a small number of people to participate in occasional meetings of the working groups, most of which are held in Washington. We would also ask that Iraqi-American employees of your agency who are willing to participate in this project be allowed to devote a significant portion of their professional time to this project over the next three to six months. Their professional expertise, combined with their knowledge of Iraq, its culture and the problems caused by the misrule of the present regime, put them in a unique position to contribute in their professional fields to what is an important foreign policy priority of the United States, which is to try to help Iraq move towards a more democratic, prosperous and stable society.

In the case of the Environmental Protection Agency, we would appreciate the cooperation of your International Services Division in providing assistance and expertise to the Water, Agriculture and Environment working group, on a non-reimbursable basis, for the next three to six months. Attached is a list of the projects that the working group hopes to undertake. We are currently reviewing this list to see how our priorities match

UNCLASSIFIED

up with the Iraqi participants, and we would welcome your advice on what is most appropriate and what would be the best way to proceed. The points of contact on the Future of Iraq project are Andrea Morel Farsakh, program officer, (202) 312-9833, and the coordinator of the Future of Iraq project, Thomas S. Warrick, (202) 647-8125.

Sincerely,

Ryan Crocker
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs

UNCLASSIFIED