

ACTION IO-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	A-00	CIAE-00	INL-00
	DODE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EUR-00	OIGO-00	UTED-00	VC-00
	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-00	VCE-00	M-00	AC-01	NEA-00
	DCP-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	DHS-00	PA-00
	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	SS-00	TEST-00
	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	R-00	EPAE-00	IIP-00	PMB-00
	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-01	G-00	SAS-00	SWCI-00	/006W

-----506342 041215Z /38

R 041212Z APR 03  
 FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9928  
 AMEMBASSY BRATISLAVA  
 AMEMBASSY LJUBLJANA  
 AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
 AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
 AMEMBASSY WARSAW

RELEASED IN FULL

UNCLAS BUDAPEST 000949

FOR ACTING U/S HARRISON, IPP JBULLOCK AND IRAQI TASK  
 FORCE/PDPA  
 INFO FOR PAOS

E.O. 12958: N/A  
 TAGS: KPAO PREL OIIP OPRC IZ

SUBJECT: FREE IRAQI FORCES IN POSITIVE IMAGES

REF STATE 85201

1. EMBASSY BUDAPEST WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE NOTIFICATION SHOULD ANY OF THE REQUESTED POSITIVE IMAGE AND VIDEO PLACEMENT INCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE FREE IRAQI FORCES (FIF). THOSE FIF SOLDIERS RECEIVED CIVIL AFFAIRS TRAINING AT HUNGARY'S TASZAR AIR BASE AND ARE CURRENTLY SERVING WITH DIFFERENT COALITION UNITS IN IRAQ.
2. CONSIDERABLE HUNGARIAN PUBLIC CONTROVERSY AND UNEASE SURROUNDED THE INTRODUCTION OF THE TASZAR TRAINING PROGRAM FOR EXPATRIATE IRAQI VOLUNTEERS SEVERAL MONTHS AGO. OUR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY EFFORTS TO DISPELL THAT CONTROVERSY AND QUELL THE UNEASE RESULTED IN GROWING ACCEPTANCE OF THE FIF TRAINING AS A HIGHLY POSITIVE HUNGARIAN CONTRIBUTION TO THE INTERNATIONAL WAR ON TERRORISM.
3. SO FAR, WE HAVE RECEIVED ONLY SCATTERED AND

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ANECDOTAL EVIDENCE ATTESTING TO THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE FIF VOLUNTEERS IN THE IRAQ CONFLICT. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SEVERAL OF THOSE INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN SINGLED OUT BY THE MEDIA FOR THE INVALUABLE ROLES THEY HAVE PLAYED. (WE UNDERSTAND, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT TWO SELF-PROCLAIMED IRAQI SUICIDE BOMBERS POINTEDLY SOUGHT OUT AND SURRENDED TO A FIF VOLUNTEER IN FRONT OF CNN'S CHRISTIANE AMANPOUR.)

4. POST WILL USE ANY FUTURE MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE FIF TO REMIND THE HUNGARIAN PUBLIC-AND THE WORLD-ABOUT THE SUCCESS OF THE FIF VOLUNTEERS AND THE SINGULAR CONTRIBUTION THEY ARE MAKING IN THIS CONFLICT.

GARVEY

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