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Yvette M Wong 08/19/2004 05:00:58 PM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

Cable Text:

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	TEDE-00	L-00	VCE-00	NEA-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-00
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SOURCE: CBLEXCLS.007873

DRAFTED BY: IO/SHA:SMEHRA -- 06/10/2004 647-2506

APPROVED BY: IO:MLAGON

IO/SHA:TJOHNSON - OK

DRL: MKOZAK - OK

L/HRR:GBRANCATO - OK

NEA: AJOST - OK

PRM:MPOLLACK - OK

NSC: SHODGKINSON -OK

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INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

CPA BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE 2873

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 129201

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/10/2014

TAGS: PHUM, UNHRC-1, IZ

SUBJECT: IRAQ: INTERIM RESPONSE TO ACTING HIGH

COMMISSIONER'S HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT

Classified By: A/S Kim R. Holmes, reasons 1.4 (b/d)

1. This is an action request. Reftel requested that Department provide a response to the A/HCHR report on human rights in Iraq. Reftel requested that response indicate U.S. intent to investigate and respond to the alleged violations of human rights mentioned in the report, stressing that the U.S. takes seriously its obligations under applicable international law. Mission is requested to deliver a letter, using the text in paragraph 2, to A/HCHR Ramcharan, signed by Ambassador Moley.

2. Begin text of letter:

Complimentary opening,

The United States has carefully reviewed your report, "The Present Situation of Human Rights in Iraq," dated June 4, 2004. I wish to assure you that it is the intent of my government to investigate and respond to the alleged violations of human rights mentioned in the report. The U.S. takes seriously its obligations under applicable international law, including the Third and Fourth Geneva Conventions and relevant resolutions of the Security Council.

To this end we are in a better position to investigate and respond if we have more information about allegations that are currently vague and unsubstantiated.

Allegations raised by Iraqis interviewed in Jordan do not include information as to the time, place, people involved, and other details of the alleged events. For example, page 13 of the report includes reference to "an Iraqi driver" killed by coalition forces; "a father and son driving on a national road" and fired upon; and coalition forces firing on "some burglars" and bystanders, with no further information provided about the incidents. There are several other vague allegations that do not provide sufficient information such as date and location in order to allow full investigation.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: FRANK E SCHMELZER
DATE/CASE ID: 10 DEC 2004 200303827

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We anticipate that we will shortly be requesting your office to provide additional details of several incidents in the report, so that these alleged violations can be properly investigated.

In addition, while noting that many of the report's recommendations are addressed to the Iraqi Interim Government, we wish to inform you that U.S. will review the recommendations and respond as appropriate as soon as possible.

We take note of your office's unyielding commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights and remain open to the scrutiny of appropriate organizations and authorities, including that of the ICRC and the Iraqi Ministry of Human Rights.

Complimentary close,

End letter text.
POWELL

NNNN

End Cable Text

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