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[Name and address of Iraqi Opposition Group]

Dear [name]:

The United States Government seeks your advice regarding the names of Iraqi and international experts who can participate in a series of working groups that will focus on planning now for a better and more democratic future for the Iraqi people. A planning meeting of Iraqis in April, held under the auspices of the Middle East Institute, developed a list of working groups, four of which - Transitional Justice, Democratic Principles, Public Finance, and Public Outreach Development - have already had initial meetings. Two other working groups will be holding their first meetings this summer - Water, Agriculture and the Environment and Public Health and Humanitarian Need. Funding permitting, we expect the remaining working groups will hold their first meetings this fall.

The Department has already received more than 400 names of Iraqi experts from dozens of Iraqi groups and individuals. [Depending on group: We have not yet received any/very many nominees from your group.] We will endeavor to keep confidential the names of those participants who desire their attendance to be kept out of the media. The attached lists shows the groups for which we are seeking additional names. We are interested in your recommendations on Iraqis who are experts in the subject field of each working group, and would be grateful for any assistance you can provide. Obviously, there will be far more qualified Iraqi experts than we can accommodate in the working groups, and we and the working groups will be interested in finding ways that more Iraqi experts can become involved.

If you are able to recommend experts in these fields, please send their names, professional backgrounds, and contact information to Tom Warrick, fax (202) 736-4464 or email [name].

Sincerely,

Ryan C. Crocker
Deputy Assistant Secretary of State
for Near Eastern Affairs

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