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FOR: Secretary of Defense  
 FROM: Ambassador Bremer *5/12*  
 SUBJECT: Detainee Operations in Iraq

This responds to your memorandum of April 30, regarding Detainee Operations in Iraq. I support the creation of an organization under CJTF-7/MNF-I that will be the single point of contact responsible for detainee operations. This will enhance our ability to deal with this extremely sensitive issue in a consistent manner. Recently MG Miller briefed me on his current assessment of detainee operations and his plan for the future. His experience will be useful for this difficult mission.

I would like to clarify two matters raised in your memorandum. First, you refer to the new organization coordinating detainee matters with the Iraqi Governing Council. As you know, CPA's relationship with the Iraqi Governing Council (IGC) is greatly impacted by detainee issues. It is extremely important that the new organization coordinate closely with CPA regarding matters that it proposes to raise with the IGC. This will ensure a consistent, mutually supportive approach. I anticipate that coordination with the U.S. Embassy regarding matters that will be raised with the Iraqi Interim Government will be equally important.

Second, with regard to cases in the Central Criminal Court of Iraq involving crimes against Coalition/MNF-I forces, we will certainly make every effort to ensure expeditious and fair processing of such cases, which of-course requires that the military support the collection and preservation of evidence. At the same time we must take care to not give the impression that we are in any way interfering with the independent judiciary we all have worked so hard to achieve. We also must ensure that communications with the Ministry of Justice are properly coordinated through the CPA until June 30, and afterward through the U.S. Embassy.

Lastly, I assume that the proposed new organization will not have control of the Iraqi Corrections Service or the prisons and detention centers which it operates. As you know, the Prisons Department of the CPA Office in the Ministry of Justice provides advice and support to the Iraqi Corrections Service. I assume this advice and support will not be affected by the new organization, which I understand is intended to deal with the present military organizations and facilities involved with detainees

We will work with CJTF-7 and CENTCOM as they develop a detailed plan to implement this initiative.

