



AMBASSADOR CHARLES RIES

Minister for Economic Affairs and Coordinator for the Economic Transition in Iraq

Charles P. Ries arrived in Baghdad on July 8, 2007 to serve as Minister for Economic Affairs and Coordinator for Economic Transition in Iraq. He is responsible for oversight and coordination of assistance and economic policy initiatives.

Between December 2004 and June 2007, Ries served as U.S. Ambassador to Greece, succeeding in attenuating anti-Americanism. Ambassador Ries was Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs between April 2000 and June 2004. In this capacity, he was responsible for the U.S.-European Union relationship; economics, public diplomacy and management operations for the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs.

In earlier assignments, Mr. Ries served as Minister Counselor for Economic Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in London (1996-2000) and Minister Counselor for Economic Affairs at the U.S. Mission to the European Union (1992-1996). From 1990 to 1992 he was detailed to the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative as Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for North American Affairs and served as a member of the NAFTA negotiating team. Since joining the Foreign Service in 1977, he also served as a special assistant and executive assistant to the Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs, in the Energy Policy Office, in the Office of the Counselor of the Department, and at U.S. Embassies in Ankara and Santo Domingo.

Mr. Ries is married to Marcie Berman Ries and the couple has two children. Mr. Ries holds BA and MA degrees from the Johns Hopkins University.





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Coordinator for the Economic Transition in Iraq FE/MC

Introduction

Charles P. Ries arrived in Baghdad on July 8, 2007 to serve as Minister for Economic Affairs and Coordinator for Economic Transition in Iraq. He is Ambassador Crocker's chief advisor on economic issues. Ambassador Ries has oversight of civilian assistance throughout Iraq. He guides economic and stabilization initiatives focused on providing increased decentralized assistance and strengthening Iraq's economic and political development.

Duties

- Bears primary responsibility for overseeing the development and implementation of US Embassy Baghdad supported efforts to enable civilian teams operating throughout Iraq's provinces to implement an economic strategy to bolster development.
- Works closely with Iraqi officials to ensure that country's considerable resources are brought to bear in rebuilding Iraq.
- Coordinates all relevant elements of the Embassy, USAID Mission, and other civilian assistance offices to bring about a smooth transition to full Iraqi self-reliance.
- Oversees civilian-led programs to bolster moderates and strengthen Iraqi self-governance capacity.
- Appeals to Congress for the resources needed to expand civilian-led programs to bolster the Iraqi's economic development.
- Provides liaison with all USG agencies, contractors, and non-governmental organizations engaged in increasing economic development efforts to build Iraqi capacity in the provinces.
- Works closely with MNF-I to ensure Iraq's economic transition plans complement the joint security strategy.