

David McDonald

From: David McDonald
Sent: Friday, September 28, 2007 4:10 PM
To: Ken Topolinsky
Subject: notes from meetings with US Embassy officials in Erbil

Ken,

On 12 June I met with these employees at their offices in the US AID, Reconstruction Team secure zone in the Ainkawa section of Erbil.

██████████ described as a Lawyer, business card reads First Secretary, Regional Reconstruction Team, Embassy of the United States of America, Bagdad
 ██████████ Political and Economic officer, Regional Reconstruction Team, Kurdistan Region, Embassy...
 ██████████ US Department of Commerce, Commercial Service
 ██████████ described as an Economist (no card)

I described our visit as a security and business opportunity assessment, we discussed their views about security, power supply, on petroleum matters they suggested I return on Friday when the expert concerned with the petroleum industry would be present. I described our interest in the petroleum potential of the Kurdistan region, but the group indicated they really were not very informed about the developments, deferring to ██████████. They also provided the name of a local expert advising the Ministry of Electricity about power projects, ██████████ with whom I met the next day.

On 15 June I returned to meet with ██████████ and the second person named below joined us:
 ██████████, Second Secretary, Political and Economic Officer, Regional Reconstruction Team (US Embassy)
 ██████████ Senior Economic Advisor, Regional Reconstruction Team, USAID Northern Region

After some description of the purpose of our visit, I noted that the model production sharing agreement of the KRG was on the KRG website, which ██████████ had not known, she asked about PSCs and I answered with a demonstration on a whiteboard of the terms of the agreement how royalties, cost oil, and profit oil are calculated and noted that the KRG contract is consistent with agreements in use around the world and in fact is a sophisticated agreement. I specifically asked if the USG had a policy toward companies entering contracts with the KRG and ██████████ replied that there was no policy, neither for nor against.

Prior to returning to Erbil in late August, I exchanged a few emails with ██████████ who was cited in a press article as being the top US Embassy representative in the Kurdistan region. I explain below that I know him, so I asked his wife, ██████████ is this the same ██████████ as your husband, she said yes, none of these emails had any substance about our activities, but rather they were see you when get there, etc.

On 5 September Mark Aertker, Tom Highsmith and I met with ██████████, Regional Coordinator, Kurdistan Region, Deputy Team Leader, Regional Reconstruction Team Leader. I know ██████████ from prior residence in ██████████ where he was stationed with the US Embassy. Our children were friends and I served on the Board of Directors of the American School of the ██████████. Our families had gone on a school ski trip together and socialized together. I briefed ██████████ on our continued security and business opportunity assessment. We asked about the role of the reconstruction team, their activities, etc. We were looking at a political map in their conference room and indicated the area of our ongoing geological field work west of Erbil toward Dohuk and ██████████ noted that we were in the Ninewah governorate, correcting my statement that we looking at the Dohuk area. We asked his opinion about the likelihood of the Article 140 referendum occurring this year and he offered a length assessment, citing the lack of necessary preparations, census, registration, framing the questions, etc., that must occur first. ██████████ introduced us to ██████████ and left to handle some issues requiring his attention.

██████████ Provincial Action Officer, Dohuk, Regional Reconstruction Team (US Embassy). While ██████████ was out we spoke with ██████████ noting our area of geological interest, discussing his familiarity with the Dohuk area. He stated that we should inform Ambassador Crocker of our activity. We discussed the process for obtaining a

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US visa for a Kurdish employee and he asked that we return with [REDACTED] for an interview and he would write a referral letter to speed the process.

On 6 September I returned to the US AID / Reconstruction Team offices to meet with [REDACTED], accompanying [REDACTED] for a request to issue a referral letter to facilitate her application for a US Visa for a potential visit to Hunt's Dallas office.

I have exchanged a couple more emails with [REDACTED], saying we were coming back, he noted we have received a lot of press and looks forward to getting together again.

There was no communication to me or in my presence made by the 9 state department officials with whom I met prior to 8 September that Hunt should not pursue our course of action leading to a contract. In fact there was ample opportunity to do so, but it did not happen.

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