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December 15, 2003

FOR: THE ADMINISTRATOR

FROM: Darrell Trent, Senior Advisor to the Iraqi Ministry of Transportation

SUBJECT: Ministry of Transportation Issues Update

I. AVIATION

- **Royal Jordanian (RJ): Royal Wings (Royal Jordanian Airlines)** is planning to resume service this week, and they are requesting use of Balad air base as an emergency alternate (instead of using Amman) in order to carry less fuel and more cargo. The exact date of their service resumption is tentative depending on insurance, but is being scheduled this week.
- **Hajj Flights (pending your approval of flight resumption):** The Iraqi Hajj Council (IHC) and CPA met on Mon., December 9 to begin preliminary planning for the Hajj. The IHC, CPA, and CJTF-7 agreed on limiting the Hajj pilgrims to using BIAP only. The number of pilgrims is estimated to be 10-12K. A delegation for Iraq left for Saudi Arabia on December 11 for 5-7 days to begin negotiations with Saudi Arabia on landing slots, basing, costs, and visa and immigration procedures. CPA/MoT is working in concert with CJTF-7 and the IHC to develop the security plan that will be used to process the pilgrims through BIAP.
- **Air Navigation System (ANS):** The process for awarding the ANS contract to improve air navigation in the Baghdad area nears completion. The Source Selection Board has selected a contractor; however, the vendor continues to examine the criteria of the contract to accept or reject it. CPA/Contracting is in the final stages of working with the vendor on repricing.
- **VSAT (Very Small Aperture Terminal) Installation at Ar Rutbah:** CPA is supervising the training of Iraqi technicians and examining their ability to complete a local checkout of the equipment (build-up, operate, teardown) in preparation of VSAT installation at Ar Rutbah. Installation is tentatively scheduled for late January. This installation will provide regional carriers with communications coverage (i.e. radar and radio) in the western Iraq region. The carriers are worried that they will not be able to contact authorities if an in-flight emergency occurs, and they also worry about proper air traffic separation to avoid mid-air collisions. Assisted by the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the VSAT at Ar Rutbah will enable air traffic controllers to deliver voice communications with aircraft in western Iraq, thus enabling procedural control over air traffic in western Iraq.
- **Transfer of Civil Aviation from Military to Iraqi Civil Aviation (CAA):** The Ministry of Transportation (MoT) is developing a master transition plan and financial requirements

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for civil aviation upgrades and operations underway, and establishing long-term milestones to ensure seamless transition of all efforts by or before July 1, 2004. The transition plan is being coordinated through Iraqi and CPA aviation channels. The first steps involve the development of an organizational structure for the Iraqi CAA and a priority assessment for infrastructure upgrades through the ANS contract.

- **Cargo Solicitation:** This week, CPA/MoT formally submitted a request to obtain a risk assessment of cargo transport from CJTF-7. MoT will then submit this risk assessment to the FAA/TSA for review to determine whether future American cargo carriers can fly to Baghdad.

II. RAILROAD

- **Railroad Attacks:** Insurgent attacks against the railway continue to disrupt the normal flow of traffic. The frequency of incidents remains slightly below the level of November, but the extent to which normal operations are disrupted remains unacceptable if the railway is to function as a vital transport element in the movement of cargoes related to troop redeployments, the Oil-for-Food Program, the Supplemental Appropriation, and the resurgence of Iraqi industry. To ensure proper communication between security forces, four hundred portable radios were received this week as part of the VHF radio project.
- **Train Operations:** An operating plan has been developed in response to the security situation on either side of Tikrit, and between Iskanderiyah and Mahmoudia (south of Baghdad), and to the personal safety concerns of the locomotive drivers. Trains will operate through those areas only during daylight, and will be preceded by a pilot locomotive. This will reduce the theoretical throughput capacity of the line, but given the current security conditions, this strategy is required.

III. MARITIME

- **Off-Loading at Umm Qasr:** Three ships off-loaded substantial material this week. The *Disco Volante* discharged 52,195 metric tons of Australian wheat at berth 10, and Nassau-based *Beluga Inspiration* off-loaded electrical products under the Oil-for-Food program at berth 13. In addition, the *Lady Juliet* off-loaded sugar products at berth 14.
- **Wreck Removal:** CPA officials met with-UNDP to expedite the Tuzla Company's wreck removal program in Umm Qasr. Currently, CPA identifies 4 wrecked ships in the port that require removal.
- **Dredging in Khawr Az Zubayr:** This week, the Iraqi Port Authority (IPA) and the Maersk Co. agreed to a contract extension to dredge berths 9 and 10, which comprise the port's emergency oil transfer channels. Currently, the IPA and Maersk Co. are jointly operating the ship *Ramallah* to dredge berths 7 and 8.
- **Dredging in Umm Qasr:** A second IPA dredge ship, the *Safe Said*, is currently 50% repaired, and pumping water. Continuing to be repaired by Bechtel, the ship is expected to be operational for dredging operations in Umm Qasr in 2 weeks.

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IV. SECURITY

- **Baghdad International Airport Check Point Enhancements:** Under the guidance of General Temple of CJTF-7 (Maneuver Operations), the check point improvement committee for the Baghdad International Airport has agreed on stop-gap security measures. The December 12, 2003 meeting with General Temple (CJTF-7) focused on checkpoint enhancements leading up to transition to civilian control of BIAP on or around May 15, 2004. Given the continued military drawdown, MoT expects a dramatic change in the traffic flow through Check Point #1. As a temporary measure, MoT and CJTF-7 will lay down 2.2 miles of additional Jersey barriers to better control truck traffic. These Jersey emplacements will prevent commercial truck traffic in lanes 1 and 2 to spill over to military traffic in lane 4 and commercial airport worker traffic in lane 3.
- **Improved Vetting System Needed:** The MoT is involved in a multi-ministry effort to build a new national security vetting system. In coordination with CPA officials and military intelligence, the system will be created by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). As part of this effort, MoT is supervising a project to explore alternatives to develop a central database system to conduct background checks of Iraqi nationals being considered for initial employment and re-employment in MoT.
- **Port of Umm Qasr and Railroad Weapons Purchase:** The MoT submitted a major weapons request to equip the Iraqi Port Authority's force protection service at the Port of Umm Qasr. The request included 150 weapons, 200 rounds of Authorized Basic Load (ABL), and 120,000 rounds to support unit training and replenishment of Unit Basic Loading. Also, MoT requested 1 million rounds of ammunition to equip the force protection service of the Iraq Republic Railway.
- **Airport Vetting/Security Screening:** MoT helped complete a security database to screen approximately 1525 airport workers. Using the database, MoT and SkyLink Co. completed interviews of 10 Iraqi Airway Baggage Handlers and 3 Aerospace Ground Support Equipment (GSE) technicians. The technicians are scheduled for training in Amman, Jordan in the next four weeks and will be used on the civilian side of the airport to support Royal Jordanian Airlines at BIAP.

V. TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

- **Danish Component of Italian Master Plan:** Representing the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), Danish Minister Counsellor Torben Gettermann reports this week that a funding pledge totaling \$350,000 has been confirmed to fund the creation of a road pavement management system, long-term analysis of Iraq's marine ports, and a feasibility study on the resumption of river navigation. Minister Counsellor Gettermann also reports that DANIDA is seeking an additional amount of \$200,000 to complete a Bathymetric study evaluating the depth of Iraq's navigable waters. This Danish initiative is on schedule to commence on April 1, 2004, and will be completed on December 15, 2004.

ATTACHMENTS: NONE

COORDINATION: Department Heads

Drafted: 

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