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Note From Iraqi Alamal Association to the Iraq Commission

Notwithstanding the legality or otherwise of the invasion of Iraq, Britain, the USA and other members of the coalition forces have duty in stabilising the country and creating an environment conducive to the building of a truly democratic society.

Certainly the war in 2003 brought about an end to one of the most ruthless regimes in modern times. This fact was welcomed by the Iraqi people and most of the political parties which struggled for decades against Saddam. A democratic, prosperous Iraq, free of wars and repression was on the horizon.

Post Saddam situation in Iraq is extremely complex, a collection of contradiction of interests involving internal as well as external forces, all using Iraq as their battlefield.

Iraq inherited a heavy burden which was the result of Saddam's policies of unequal repression, deformed social consciousness and corruption, a culture of violence and wars and of sectarianism and narrow political base.

Saddam also created a network of highly trained military and paramilitary formations as well as a large security police. These formations are still fully armed, split into small groups and, in many instances, infiltrated the apparatus of the new Iraqi state.

But the war and the policies of the occupying forces did not tackle this inheritance. On the contrary they deepened the sectarian division and worsened the economical conditions for a large sector of society.

Instead of isolating the criminal elements of Saddam's regime, the occupying forces destroyed the state and its institutions. They were insensitive to the Iraqi tradition, history or heritage.

Furthermore the occupying forces left the borders wide opened for infiltration of terrorist organisations, money and weapons. We all know that countries neighbouring Iraq have an interest in keeping Iraq unstable.

The process of building democracy in Iraq has not been without difficulties.

Despite important milestones in the process of building democracy such as the election of the National Assembly and the writing of the Constitution, the Iraqi political parties have exhibited greater self-interest rather than an "Iraqi national interest".

The Constitution has a sectarian overtone. Women's rights have been eroded. Human rights have been violated. Sectarianism has intensified. So has corruption. A weak and fragile state emerged. Most political parties have their own militias

These conditions were seized upon by the Saddam elements and terrorist groups, pushing Iraq towards civil war.

The way forward must be in creating an atmosphere of trust through the elimination of all sectarian policies, the dismantling of the militias and through the separation of religion from the state's affairs, leading to "national reconciliation" capable of defeating terrorism. This process must be coupled with the elimination of corruption, the protection of human rights and the pursuit of a policy of job creation and the creation of national economic cycle.

These conditions are essential for the proper and timely withdrawal of foreign forces and the completion of national sovereignty.

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