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OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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September 11, 2003

The Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Mr. Secretary,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that I intend to set up a free Iraqi television station inside Iraq.

I agree with you that Aljazeera, Al-Arabia and LBC are promoting an anti US agenda. Since I am fluent in Arabic, I can clearly detect the subtle and sometimes outright incitements against the liberation. Furthermore, the only on-air TV station in Iraq as far as I understand is Iranian television, in other words, the mullahs are transmitting to the Iraqis, I am sure you will agree as I believe, that this is not a good situation. On one end we try to keep the Iranians out, yet they control on-air Television transmission into Iraq (I define on-air television as transmission that utilizes conventional ground towers as oppose to satellite transmission).

During your news conference recently in Baghdad, I noticed that when you requested that the Iraqi media get the first question, the first person was from al-Arabya, a station that shows terrorists with hoods threatening decent Iraqis and our forces. This is one more instance how Non-Iraqi TV media is dominant and the absence of a free Iraqi television station that crucially serves the Iraqi people.

I am an Iraqi American that holds the values of our country dearly and nothing in this world would give me more satisfaction than promoting the cause of freedom. As I grew up in Iraq, I always looked towards America as the beacon of freedom and the land of democracy, I was honored to become an American citizen and my love for our nation is genuine and deep, I want the Iraqis to grasp the American values I have always known.

I intend to set up an Iraqi TV station that is free unbiased and does not allow incitement against our troops and against free Iraqis that are helping them. It will subscribe to the western values that our country believes in.

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While I am determined to complete the project of establishing a TV station, I need your help to approve our operation and allow us a safe venue to operate within Iraq. The name of the TV station will be Al-IRAQ and it will not allow Non-Iraqi Arabs to be on staff, the reason for that is my observation that most Non-Iraqi Arab journalist push an agenda contrary to the promotion freedom, it's as if they want to show us as failing.

The benefits our country will see from this TV station are many; some of them are the following:

1. A TV station dedicated to promoting the principles of freedom we all subscribe to. That will help Iraqis better understand what we are doing.
2. Directly informing Iraqis of the positive progress that our forces are accomplishing, this I believe, will help enlist their patience and understanding during the transition phase towards democracy
3. Stimulate free debate and allow pro-Liberation Iraqis to voice their opinions and create direct interaction with coalition forces.
4. Give Iraqis a voice that is not tainted by Non-Iraqi Arabs that have their own agenda. This will allow progressive ideas to float around.
5. Give Iraqis an alternative to the disaster of an Iranian station being the sole on-air TV station.

In addition to the above, I believe that in the long run this will save lives of many of our troops through better understanding of what our coalition is trying to achieve. And we all know failure cannot be an option.

In addition to the station being what I define as "On-Air", I would also like it to be satellite transmitted to allow other Arabs outside Iraq to see how the Iraqis are moving forward; this I believe, will help contribute to our efforts to create a democratic free middle east.

My team is ready to take their responsibilities, we do not want this to take 6 months, or six years, we want it in 6 days, time is running out. The more people we convert to our way of thinking the quicker and more successful we will be in accomplishing our goal of a free Iraq.

I request the following:

1. DOD permission to operate in Iraq.
2. Allowing our team safe passage into Iraq.
3. Allowing our TV station a secure facility to operate from (the facility does not have to be large since the goal is to establish basic studios where news and interviews can be conducted in.
4. Any other assistance you may be able to render will only advance our cause.

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Upon reaching a reasonable degree of stability in the country, the station will relocate to a larger and more appropriate location.

Sincerely,

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