

Archeological sites

Office of the Administrator
Coalition Provisional Authority
Baghdad, Iraq

3

6 July, 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF, COMBINED JOINT TASK FORCE 7
FROM ADMINISTRATOR, COALITION PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY
SUBJECT: Tasking Letter 3185-01 -Archeological Site Security

Reference: Request from the Ministry of Culture and Request for Information email from Lieutenant Colonel [REDACTED] dated 25 June 2003.

(b)(6)

I request that the Commander, Combined Joint Task Force 7, take the appropriate action to provide security for the top 40 archeological sites in country. The following is required:

WHAT: Provide 24/7 security to top 40 archeological sites

WHERE: Archeological sites listed in the Excel spreadsheet attachment to the email from Lieutenant Colonel [REDACTED] above. (u)

WHEN: 10 July 2003.

BACKGROUND: UNESCO has reported to AMB BREMER that video tape taken over the last two days shows looters removing archeological artifacts from the archeological site at ISIN in the vicinity of grid 38RNA26127 27935.

(b)(6)

[REDACTED]

(b)(6)

[REDACTED]

Chief of Staff

col [REDACTED]
CJTF 7
stoppage of looting
Defense Threat Reduction Agency

(b)(6)

(Ministry of Culture)

From:

(b)(6)

Sent:

Tuesday, July 08, 2003 5:50 PM

To:

(b)(6)

(Ministry of Culture): (b)(6)

(Ministry of Culture): (b)(6)

Cc:

(b)(6)

Subject:

Re: Sites and air

Dear (b)(6)

below is all I have been able to find out so far, the second FRAGO is a very short list of sites indeed and consists of sites with confirmed and active looting plus abu salabikh which we don't know about one way or another. It does not include all the known looted sites by any means. As to sites with security apart from Babylon I don't know of any apart from Ur (the Talil airbase). I did have an email from [redacted] about Kish though and she seemed to think that was now a camp but that the soldiers there did not know it was anything archaeological and thought that the ziggurats were hills (Kish has 2 zigs). Kish is not far away and I thought I would try and visit soon.

I was a bit disturbed by the reaction here to my Nejed trip the general feeling was that sites with holes in them did not mean much and nothing could be done and it was only if you actually saw people looting did that count. People's other suggestion was that I should either shoot the looters (which I can not do as I don't have a gun and would not be prepared to do anyway) or set up a security force (as I have never set up a police force from scratch before I regard myself as unqualified to do so).

(b)(6)

Monday 8th July Air report

I had finally made contact with LTC (b)(6) the air officer for the HACC (Humanitarian Assistance communications centre) on 4th July having been told of his existence by Capt (b)(6). I showed him [redacted] site list and a selection of the already known looted sites and those with reported looting and sent him my report about the looted sites SE of Nejed on the 6th which he in turn forwarded to the MEF LNOs (Marine expeditionary force liaison officers) and I went and saw the G2 MEF LNO (ie the officer in charge of intelligence). [redacted] told me he would try to find out about the poss of heli or similar flights over these sites.

We had another meeting on the evening of 8th July when [redacted] told me what he had found out so far. Apparently no special flights are being done just to look at arch sites, instead they are usually combined with another mission, this is due to a shortage of flying machines, I take this to mean there is little chance of getting up in a helicopter. [redacted] had found info about a recent FRAGO (fragmentary order) which added some sites to be watched to an original FRAGO. We don't know what the original FRAGO was but the additions were: Isin, Fara, Umma, Larsa, Umm al Agarib, Bismaya, Nippur, and Abu Salabikh. I could not be given a copy of the FRAGO additions report as I have no security clearance but was able to hear which sites were involved. [redacted] said he would try to find the original FRAGO.

I don't know what relation this is if any to the FRAGO that Col [redacted] and Capt [redacted] were organizing.

[redacted] was also able to give me the contact details of a number of individuals associated with the scheduling of UAVs & other flights and collecting the images taken by all flight varieties. So I can try these various people and see if I can get any further.

That’s it so far.

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On Jul 8 2003, (b)(6) (Ministry of Culture) wrote:

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> region have Military security in addition to Babylon? The impression from
> the military here is confused to say the least. The 1st frago was not a
> success and a 2nd one with more political clout has been issued.

> (b)(6)

> Policy Advisor
> Ministry of Culture
> CPA HQ

> -----Original Message-----

> From: (b)(6)
> Sent: Monday, July 07, 2003 3:52 PM
> To: (b)(6) (Ministry of Culture)
> Cc: (b)(6) (Ministry of Culture)
> Subject: RE: pay again etc

> Dear (b)(6) and (b)(6)

> While I was busy down in Nejef yesterday some of the museum staff went
> to the treasury in Hillah and it seems that money for salaries has
> arrived but that it is insufficient to pay everyone. There is some
> confusion as to the audit committee too, the Marines seem to think the
> audit committee is/should be (b)(6) and (b)(6) but the audit committee
> that went to the treasury was (b)(6) and (b)(6) who
> are presumably the committee chosen by the SBAH. We also heard that the
> payroll list has arrived at the treasury also from Baghdad. CDR (b)(6)
> and I are going to the treasury tomorrow to find out about the problem
> with the money being insufficient to pay everyone. CDR (b)(6) seems to
> still think we need to put in a payroll list to the treasury, but as far
> as I can see if the SBAH has already put a list into the treasury there
> is no need for this.

> (b)(6) I did have the slight feeling that there might be a difference
> of
> opinion as to (b)(6) position between the SBAH and the MEF (Marine
> expeditionary force). (b)(6) has apparently seen the MEF plan for the
> museum which lists (b)(6) as director of the Babylon project and did not at
> the time raise any objection (this is acc to (b)(6)). The MEF document says
> they had agreed (b)(6) appointment with the SBAH, but this may be news to
> the SBAH.

> I am finding all this stuff very confusing. I think the presence of
> the
> Marines here and their involvement in the museum has led to a an extra
> layer of confusion (although obviously that is not their intention).

> On Jul 6 2003, (b)(6) (Ministry of Culture) wrote:

> .
> > I'm trying to get an 'organogram' as (b)(6) calls it for the SBAH &
> > the
> > various museums etc., We want to know who is who and what are their job
> > descriptions. I asked about Babylon and mentioned (b)(6) and will

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
 Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2003 9:17 AM
 To: (b)(6)
 Cc: (b)(6)
 Subject: lungo articolo nell'Independent

Un altro articolo di Robert Fisk (in prima pagina dell'inserto interno del giornale), sempre critico ma almeno da' rilievo ai problemi con i locali. Non ti menziona. Se lo vedi / rivedi, salutamelo! Vedremo cosa fara' il Guardian. Stammi bene (b)(6)

Raiders of the lost Iraq

Under the noses of the Anglo-American occupying forces, the priceless heritage of ancient Sumeria is being pillaged to order for Western collectors. Robert Fisk reports on the desecration of the birthplace of civilisation

03 June 2003

It looks as though a B-52 has carpet-bombed the city called Mother of Scorpions. I clamber around 20ft craters and try to recognise one of the greatest cities of civilisation. But the thieves have done their work. They have broken or stolen everything. For 10 square miles, they have dug and smashed and gouged into the ancient earth, and destroyed the priceless heritage of Mesopotamia. The Sumerian palaces, the temple walls, the great pillars, oil lamps and giant pots and delicately patterned plates and dishes, all have been smashed to bits.

After three hours walking ankle-deep through the shards and fragments of dishes and handmade bricks, I found a tall, slender pot of green clay. One of our ancestors - one of my ancestors, I couldn't help thinking - had worked on this pot more than 4,000 years ago. There was a slight indent on the bottom where his hand might have slipped, a long graceful neck up which his fingers must have passed many times, and then a thin lip at the top, sufficiently narrow that the potter must have brought his two hands so close that they might have been in prayer. It was then that I realised that the top of this beautiful thing was cracked, and only when I lifted it gently in my own hands did I realise the obscenity of the looter's work. This perfect, unbroken work of art, this treasure from the people who invented writing - who gave us the first laws and the calendar and mathematics and the wheel and the great epic of Gilgamesh - had been cast aside by the looters, tossed carelessly down a slope of sand and stone and snapped in two.

There were other plates and vessels lying smashed around me. The thief who had been digging here was looking for early Sumerian antiquities - the collectors of America, Europe, the Middle East and Japan want the pots and statues and jewels of 5,500 years ago, not the heritage of 2000BC - and so everything above the earliest layers of civilisation had to be

6/4/2003

~~UNCLASSIFIED - FOUO~~

Washington Post
June 13, 2003
Pg. 29

Hoaxes, Hype And Humiliation

By Charles Krauthammer

"It took only 48 hours for the museum to be destroyed, with at least 170,000 artifacts carried away by looters."

-- New York Times, April 13

"You'd have to go back centuries, to the Mongol invasion of Baghdad in 1258, to find looting on this scale."

-- British archaeologist Eleanor Robson, New York Times, April 16

Well, not really. Turns out the Iraqi National Museum lost not 170,000 treasures but 33. You'd have to go back centuries, say, to the Mongol invasion of Baghdad in 1258, to find mendacity on this scale.

What happened? The source of the lie, Donny George, director general of research and study of the Iraqi State Board of Antiquities, now says (Washington Post, June 9) that he originally told the media that "there were 170,000 pieces in the entire museum collection. Not 170,000 pieces stolen. No, no, no. That would be every single object we have!"

Of course, George saw the story of the stolen 170,000 museum pieces go around the world and said nothing -- indeed, two weeks later, he was in London calling the looting "the crime of the century." Why? Because George and the other museum officials who wept on camera were Baath Party appointees, and the media, Western and Arab, desperate to highlight the dark side of the liberation of Iraq, bought their deceptions without an ounce of skepticism.

It played on front pages everywhere and allowed for some deeply satisfying antiwar preening. For example, a couple of nonentities on a panel no one had ever heard of (the President's Cultural Property Advisory Committee) received major media play for their ostentatious resignations over the cultural rape of Baghdad.

Frank Rich best captured the spirit of antiwar vindication when he wrote (New York Times, April 27) that "the pillaging of the Baghdad museum has become more of a symbol of Baghdad's fall than the toppling of a less exalted artistic asset, the Saddam statue."

The narcissism, the sheer snobbery of this statement, is staggering. The toppling of Saddam Hussein freed 25 million people from 30 years of torture, murder, war, starvation and impoverishment at the hands of a psychopathic family that matched Stalin for cruelty but took far more pleasure in it. For Upper West Side liberalism, this matters less than the destruction of a museum.

(b)(6)

6/14/2003

Which didn't even happen! What now becomes of Rich's judgment that the destruction of the museum constitutes "the naked revelation of our worst instincts at the very dawn of our grandiose project to bring democratic values to the Middle East"? Does he admit that this judgment was nothing but a naked revelation of the cheapest instincts of the antiwar left -- that, shamed by the jubilation of Iraqis upon their liberation, a liberation the Western left did everything it could to prevent, the left desperately sought to change the subject and taint the victory?

Hardly. The left simply moved on to another change of subject: the "hyping" of the weapons of mass destruction.

The inability to find the weapons is indeed troubling, but only because it means that the weapons remain unaccounted for and might be in the wrong hands. The idea that our inability to thus far find the weapons proves that the threat was phony and hyped is simply false.

If the U.S. intelligence agencies bent their data to damn Saddam Hussein, why is it that the French, German and Russian intelligence services all came to the same conclusion? Why is it that every country on the Security Council, including Syria, in the unanimous Resolution 1441, declared that Hussein had failed to account for the tons of chemical and biological agents he had in 1998? If he had destroyed them all by 2002, why did he not just say so, list where and when it happened, and save his regime?

If Hussein had no chemical weapons, why did coalition forces find thousands of gas masks and atropine syringes in Iraqi army bunkers? And does anybody believe that President Bush, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Gen. Tommy Franks ordered U.S. soldiers outside Baghdad to don heavy, bulky chemical-weapons suits in scorching heat -- an encumbrance that increased their risks in conventional combat and could have jeopardized their lives -- to maintain a charade?

Everyone thought Hussein had weapons because we knew for sure he had them five years ago and there was no evidence that he had disposed of them. The weapons-hyping charge is nothing more than the Iraqi museum story Part II: A way for opponents of the war -- deeply embarrassed by the mass graves, torture chambers and grotesque palaces discovered after the war -- to change the subject and relieve themselves of the shame of having opposed the liberation of 25 million people.

(b)(6)

6/14/2003

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Friday, July 04, 2003 3:49 PM

To: (b)(6)

Cc:

Subject: Baghdad Bulletin 23.6.03

E' il bollettino di cui ti avevo parlato da Amman, dopo averlo visto sull'aereo. Citazioni verso la fine.

Baghdad Bulletin - June 23, 2003

Looting continues at archaeological sites around Iraq

Author: Micah Garen (Special to the Bulletin)

According to the historian Samuel Noah Kramer, history begins at Sumer. Kramer didn't surmise it may well end there - more than two months after the fall of Baghdad, the remnants of recorded history that have survived more than 5000 years continue to be destroyed at an alarming rate.

The well-documented looting of the Iraqi National Museum has received considerable press attention. Yet the continued looting at archaeological sites, particularly the important Sumerian and Old Babylonian sites south of Diwaniya, seems to have drawn only moderate attention and even less concern from coalition forces.

These sites are the birthplace of the written word, etched out in clay bullae and on cuneiform tablets more than 5000 years ago. The invention of writing led to a flourish of literary activity in the Sumerian and Akkadian languages, and great poetic works including the Gilgamesh epic and the Descent of Ishtar.

The history of the Middle East is replete with examples of looting. At Babylon, the Turks took bricks to build the dam at Al-Hindia and the Germans made off with the Ishtar gate. After the first Second Gulf War, many important sites around Iraq were looted. More recently it has been reported that Arshad Yasim, the brother-in-law of former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, had been looting archaeological sites and museums and selling the artifacts on the black market.

After the recent war, the looting reached a fevered pitch. Important sites such as Isin, Umma, Umma Akrab and Larsa were turned into swiss cheese by teams of looters, reportedly up to 200 to 300 strong at times. Returning from a recent patrol to the site of Isin where a number of looters were actively digging what was left of the decimated site, one Marine described it as looking like a rape scene.

7/4/2003

10 May 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Central Bank Vaults

- (b)(6)
1. On this date, at approximately 13:45 hours, I encountered the Joint Interagency Coordinating Unit at the Central Bank on Rasheed Street.
 2. [CPT (b)(6)] and US Customs was performing an operation under the auspices of this unit to pump the water out of the basement of the Central Bank with the intent to enter the vault.
 3. [CPT (b)(6)] stated that National Geographic had paid for the pumps and was being allowed to enter the vault along with them. In essence, this media group would be allowed an exclusive for buying the pumps.
 4. Facts derived from a meeting at 1830 hours on 10 May 03:
 - a) Ambassador Limbert, at a past media event, informed National Geographic that there would be no exclusives regarding artifacts in vaults and would not speak of the topic. Witnessed by [LT (b)(6) USN]
 - b) [Mr (b)(6)] the ORHA Senior Advisor and [redacted] another ORHA representative had no knowledge of the operation.
 - c) [CPT (b)(6)] said the authority to perform this operation was granted by General Franks and Mr. Wolfowitz.
 - d) [CPT (b)(6)] is not aware of the OSDPA policy on exclusive media events.
 - e) [CPT (b)(6)] stated National Geographic was willing to share its product.
 - f) ORHA desired to have the opening of the vaults a pooled media event.
 - g) ORHA does not object to the draining of water from the basement, but ORHA desires to ensure its done correctly and that it will not flood again in a week. No known engineer assets were mentioned or seen.
 - h) At this time, it is not confirmed that the owners of the Central Bank are aware of such operation.
 - i) [CPT (b)(6)] was made aware the Central Bank owners have the keys or combinations to said vault or vaults. [CPT (b)(6)] agreed he would coordinate with the Central Bank to gain access.
 - j) [CPT (b)(6)] said tips from Mr. Chalabi and some of Chalabi's sources provided them information about potential antiques in the vault.
 - k) It is apparent that the Joint Interagency Team know exactly where such artifacts are stored.

l) Apparently there are 646 artifacts from the Nimrub Archeological Dig dating back 1000 years (mainly gold) placed in the vault during the Iraq Iran War. (Apparently Saddam Hussein was unaware of such stash).

m) ORHA does not oppose said operation, but want to be present when vault is opened.

n) CP (b)(6) was unaware that ORHA was involved with establishing ties with the local Iraq bankers and would now begin to coordinate his activities with ORHA.

o) CP (b)(6) works for COL (b)(6) and COL (b)(6) at CENTCOM and would not make any decision regarding anything without first consulting them.

p) Contact number for COL (b)(6)

q) COL (b)(6) met with (b)(6) (ORHA Rep) yesterday, but no agreement had been reached to perform such operation.

4. Point of contact for this memorandum is Captain (b)(6) at the IPIC.

(b)(6)

Senior Ministry Account Rep
for Banking and Finance

DISTRIBUTION:
CPIC DIRECTOR

* From a conversation casually overheard by an ORHA staff member, it appears possible this unit/org. has been opening bank vaults elsewhere in the country.

(b)(6)

11 May 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUJECT: Central Bank Vault

(b)(6)

1. On this date at approximately 0900, writer spoke with [CPT [REDACTED]] from Joint Inter-Agency Coordination Group regarding the media access to the Central Bank vaults.

2. [CPT [REDACTED]] suggested the water could be drained as early as tonight, and that no guidance from CENTCOM had been received regarding media access.

3. At approximately 1100 hours, the Senior Advisor for ORHA to Banking spoke with the owner of the Central Bank. This individual was unaware that JIACG was operating at its vaults.

4. At approximately 1300 hours, National Geographic visited the IPIC to discuss the matter of media access. (b)(6) and her producer agreed not to enter the vault or vault area without first obtaining permission. She stated that they were informed by JIACG that they were not allowed to enter or operate in the area.

5. At or about the same time, [COI [REDACTED]] Ambassador Limbert and the writer engaged in a conversation regarding access to the vaults.

6. It was agreed that the decision of allowing access to the vaults, and who would have access, would be left to the Iraq Interim Banking and Cultural Affairs Officials, and until such time, it would be ORHA Policy that no-one be granted access to the vaults.

7. Ambassador Limbert then requested I arrange a meeting between himself and [Mr. [REDACTED]]

8. Point of contact for this memorandum is [CPT [REDACTED]] at the IPIC.

(b)(6)

Senior Public Relations Account Rep
for Banking and Finance

DISTRIBUTION:
CPIC DIRECTOR

There is a press conference
at the National Museum on Friday.
It is being done by the Joint Inter-
office Coordination Unit, which was
involved with the bank. I realize
you are leaving tomorrow but as they
are discussing the recovery of lost it-
ems and other antiquities issues,
we thought you might want to
know. On a different note, I would
like to talk before you leave, time
permitting, to brief the incoming
Ambassador ~~and~~ on any Public Affairs
issues + best assist him. (b)(6)

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

UNCLASSIFIED

04/14/2003 08:24:10 AM From DB/Inbox

Cable Text:

UNCLAS KUWAIT 01405

CXKUWAIT:

ACTION: POL

INFO: OMC PAS RSO OMCOPS DCM POLMIL ECON CONS
DUTYOFGR

DISSEMINATION: POLX

CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: AMB: RJONES

DRAFTED: ORHA

CLEARED: PAS:

VZCZCKUI439

OO RUEHC RUEKJCS RUEAWJA RUCAACC RUEOEGA

DE RUEHKU #1405 1031649

ZNR UUUUU ZZH ZZK

O 131649Z APR 03 ZPP4

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6634

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

RUEAWJA/DOJ WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

RUCAACC/USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL NIACT IMMEDIATE

RUEOEGA/COMCFLCC KUWAIT DOHA KU NIACT IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS KUWAIT 001405

DEPT FOR NEA LAROCCO PM BLOOMFIELD AND INL SIMONS

IRAQ TASK FORCE FOR PM ACTION TEAM

DOD FOR WOLFOWITZ

DOJ FOR SWARTZ AND ODAG/EONS

DEPARTMENT PASS NSC FOR

FROM ORHA KUWAIT

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, MOPS, IZ

SUBJ: TFI201 -- RESPONDING TO THE LOOTING OF THE IRAQI
MUSEUM

REF: Limbert-Larocco Telecon 4/13/03

1. NIACT immediate precedence required for action outside normal working hours.
2. This is an action message.
2. US academic and military contacts indicate they are hearing rumors that antiquities looted from the Baghdad Iraqi Museum are already appearing on European markets. Press reports that looters also destroyed records of museum holdings suggest that there was an intention to move and sell the most valuable items outside Iraq.
3. Stopping the loss of these priceless objects will take a fast and concerted multi-agency and international effort. We suggest the following immediate steps.

A. Coalition military authorities in Iraq should issue a statement forbidding anyone, Iraqi or non-Iraqi, from dealing in stolen antiquities. In the United States the Attorney General and the US Customs Service should make a similar announcement.

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B. Coalition authorities should offer amnesty or reward to those returning stolen objects, or records of such objects. There should be rewards for those providing information on the whereabouts of stolen material.

C. Coalition authorities should provide security for remaining objects and for other high-value cultural sites. Of special importance are gold items stored in the National Bank building in Baghdad.

D. Coalition authorities should secure records at the Ministry of Finance, where there may be duplicates of the museum records.

E. Make an immediate contacts with Interpol, UNESCO, and governments in art market centers to ensure that any objects of Mesopotamian origin offered for sale on the international art market without proof of provenance will be considered to have been looted and must be turned over to the Iraqi authorities -- with rewards offered for items of special value or significance.

G. Countries where there is an important international art market should make public announcements similar to that in A above.

4. Following is the suggested text of a public statement that could be issued both in Iraq in the U.S.

The people of the United States value the archeological and cultural heritage of Iraq that documents over 10,000 years of the development of civilization. In recent days, the National Museum in Baghdad has been looted as well as the museum in Mosul and possibly archaeological sites and other cultural institutions. Such looting causes irretrievable loss to our understanding of history and the efforts of Iraqi and international scholars to study and gain new insight into our past.

Objects and documents taken from museums and sites are the property of the Iraqi nation under Iraqi law. They are therefore stolen property, whether found in Iraq or the United States or other nations, and anyone knowingly possessing or dealing in such objects is committing a crime both in Iraq and in the United States. Such individuals may be prosecuted under Iraqi law and under the United States' National Stolen Property Act. The Iraqi people, as well as members of the Coalition forces and others, are warned not to handle these artifacts. In particular, Americans are asked not to purchase or otherwise trade in such objects as they belong to the nation of Iraq and are stolen property.

5. POC in Kuwait is [REDACTED] Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance (ORHA), mobile phone no. [REDACTED]. Please slug cable responses for him.

JONES
BT
#1405
NNNN

End Cable Text

UNCLASSIFIED

(b)(6)

(Ministry of Culture)

Archaeological Sites

From:

(b)(6)

Sent:

Tuesday, July 08, 2003 5:50 PM

To:

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Subject:

Re: Sites and air

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> CPA HQ

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> of
> opinion as to (b)(6) position between the SBAH and the MEF (Marine
> expeditionary force). (b)(6) has apparently seen the MEF plan for the
> museum which lists (b)(6) as director of the Babylon project and did not at
> the time raise any objection (this is acc to (b)(6)). The MEF document says
> they had agreed (b)(6) appointment with the SBAH, but this may be news to
> the SBAH.

> I am finding all this stuff very confusing. I think the presence of
> the
> Marines here and their involvement in the museum has led to a an extra
> layer of confusion (although obviously that is not their intention).

> (b)(6)

> On Jul 6 2003, (b)(6) b(u)
(Ministry of Culture) wrote:

>
> I'm trying to get an 'organogram' as (b)(6) calls it for the SBAH &
> the
> various museums etc., We want to know who is who and what are their job
> descriptions. I asked about Babylon and mentioned (b)(6) and will

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 09, 2003 4:04 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Guardian 9.7.03 on killing looters....



Kill looters, urges archaeologist

Maev Kennedy
Wednesday July 9, 2003
The Guardian

An American archaeologist yesterday urged her compatriots to kill the looters who are pillaging archaeological sites in Iraq.

"I would like to see some helicopters flying over these sites, and some bullets fired at the looters," Elizabeth Stone, head of archaeology at Stony Brook University in New York, said in London yesterday. "I think you have got to kill some people to stop this."

Professor Stone, who directed major excavations in Iraq in the 1980s, is a speaker at an international conference on the archaeology of the region, being held this week at the British Museum.

The war and its aftermath dominated the conference, which was planned long in advance of the hostilities.

Prof Stone said the systematic looting of major archaeological sites and the destruction of artefacts such as broken cuneiform clay tablets, discarded by looters as worthless to collectors than intact tablets, but which could hold priceless information for archaeologists, may prove a greater disaster than the well publicised looting and destruction at the national museum in Baghdad, and the museum in Mosul.

"At least to a certain extent we know what was in the museum, but we don't know what has been taken from the sites, and that knowledge has been lost to us forever."

Donny George, head of research at the museum service, said gangs of up to 300 were systematically ransacking archaeological sites, many untouched by archaeologists. The country has more than 10,000 registered sites, ranging from a few square metres to the huge sites of some of the oldest cities in the world. "They are armed, and they will shoot," he said.

Muayad Damerji, senior adviser at the culture ministry, said local sheikhs should be recruited and paid to protect the sites.

Dr George and the Baghdad museum director, Nawala al Mutawwali, emphatically denied that any museum staff were implicated in the thefts from the collections. Both have been the target of repeated accusations that some staff at least colluded with the looting, and then exaggerated the scale of the destruction.

Half the stores have now been searched - the work was hampered until electricity was restored only a few weeks ago - and they said 13,000 objects were definitely missing, around 10% of the entire collection, including all the oldest cylinder seals. Other thefts include small ivory and metal objects, and ceramics.

In the main galleries only 47 objects were stolen, but four important Roman statues were smashed, and their heads stolen. In the stores thousands more objects were smashed, including ceramics which are piled in fragments knee-deep on the floor of one of the stores. Some of the most precious ivories, from Nimrud, which

7/9/2003

(b)(6)

(Ministry of Culture)

Archaeological Site

From:

Sent:

To:

Cc:

Subject:

(b)(6)

Sunday, July 06, 2003 8:29 PM

(b)(6)

looted sites SE of Nejef

Dear all,

Sunday 6th July

Trip with 4 marines (the shooters we had to have) (b)(6) (b)(6) who drove the two vehicles and came as a favour), an interpreter and (b)(6) of the Nejef diraa al athar. This was a somewhat confusing trip. There are two different ways of getting around the landscape. 1. The military way with very detailed map and grid coordinates and planned routes 2. The Iraqi way, by knowing the land. These do not mix at all as the latter does not involve any sort of map, nor need it involve many place names. Under normal archaeological circs the latter way would work just fine, you just go where your guide takes you. However the military do not and WILL NOT do this instead they have to plan a route in advance and therefore need to know EXACTLY where they are going. As a result, although I had put a map in front of (b)(6) the day before and read out lots of place names and he had confidently pointed at a number of places that the sites were near and we had planned a route accordingly. (This route ran SE from Nejef and then south down the west bank of the Euphrates.) The places named by (b)(6) as #8216;near#8217; the sites were in general within 30 km and on the other side of the river. At the first point where the military route diverged from (b)(6) #8217;s route and he said so, the military insisted on going the route that had been planned for security reasons i.e. they had told Ops they were going that way and therefore that was the way they had to go. So we did the route to the furthest point without encountering any looted archaeological sites at all (not surprising as we were on the wrong side of the Euphrates). It was only on the way back having crossed the river at ash Shenafiyah that we finally stumbled over somewhere that (b)(6) recognized and then were able to find the areas he was talking about. None of these were very obvious tell sites, all were very low lying. In fact, for the most part, if it were not for the busy looters and large holes it would be possible to go straight past such sites without noticing them at all. Also although (b)(6) gave all the sites names, I got the impression that these were very general area designations rather than being the name of that exact part of the landscape.

So having crossed the Euphrates from west to east at Shenafiyeh and traveled north east for a time and then taken a left and traveled NW past the left turn to Ghammas, heading generally NE, roughly parallel with the Euphrates, we encountered an area on the left side of the road where numerous people were busy with shovels and there was also a stationary bulldozer. There were also a few people digging on the right side of the road. (b)(6) called this area #8220;al Assaya#8221; (38 RMA 60897 15862). The major in charge of our convoy was not keen to have us get out of the vehicle so we made two slow passes and took photos from inside the vehicle with the windows closed. (I have to say I was using a videocamera that also does stills, but they are very poor quality and what with that and the moving vehicle, I am not sure that they are good enough to persuade people that what they depict is actual looting in progress. Also it was not possible to zoom in close enough and some of the figures in the pictures are rather remote.)

We then continued NE up the east side of the Euphrates and then took a left turn and traveled SW towards the Euphrates and took another left off the

. zifit road and down a track roughly south, parallel with the Euphrates, but not quite in sight of it. This route was quite picturesque with reed huts and trees etc. We passed the area of the excavated site of Umm Kheshem (dug in the 1970s by the late Majid al Haditha) on our left and the looted area was further on at 38RMA 53344 27448, this more open area beyond the reed huts was heavily pitted with broken pottery. Some of the robber holes had come down on rows of jars which had then been broken. We walked around the area a bit, but it was not possible at any of these sites to walk around enough to see the full extent of all the looting. To properly document the extent of the looting, the whole area between Nejef and Ghammas would need to be properly surveyed (it is probably around 40 km from N to G).

After ‘Umm Kheshem’ we made our way back to the zifit and took a left turn onto it and crossed the Euphrates to the west bank and turned NW and traveled through Abu Skrayr towards Nejef. It was on the left of this road at 38RMA 48117 32752 that we stopped at another area of extensive pitting and some clear use of a bulldozer. Again there was broken pottery and even one complete jar. One pit has a row of large stones that could have been the remains of a wall. The general looters approach is to dig a small circular pit about a foot across, then if anything of interest is found this is then expanded into something roughly the size of a grave. So you end up with lots of small circular pits and the occasional larger rectangular one. Some of the latter are quite large. All of these sites were Sasanian cemeteries according to our guide. It may be that some of the areas were not only cemeteries and the time span may be a little wider, but I think post-Hellenistic/pre-Islamic is a pretty good guess, not that there was a much diagnostic material. There was very little bone material around, certainly nothing that was definitely human, but possibly the rather sandy soil in these areas does not preserve bone well.

I know that (b)(6) has already been to see the officer in charge in that area a Col (b)(6) who apparently considers any patrolling the buisness of the local police. (b)(6) (the regional coordinator ie the top bod in CPA heartland) also said when he had discussed looting with Col (b)(6) that (b)(6) had said he was trying to get the police to deal with it. I could not tell you if the gov of Nejef has many, or indeed any, police at the moment.

One last problem, (b)(6) wanted me to visit the diraa/museum in Kufa on the way. The military were equally insistent that we do no such thing. We had been told to stay out of the city of Nejef, including Kufa, as it is regarded as a slightly dicey area since (b)(6) sacked the governor and arrested him for corruption. I am sure it was a faux pas not to visit but there was nothing I could do about it. I was also unable to tell (b)(6) when I would be able to make such a visit as I can not be sure of getting that many vehicles or people together again.

Summary

Looted Sasanian sites, probably cemeteries

Al Assaya NE of Ghammas Looters at work 38 RMA 60897 15862

Umm Kheshem SE of Abu Skreyr Looters pits 38 RMA 53344 27448

Abu Skreyr NE of Abu Skreyr Looters pits inc bulldozer 38 RMA 48117 32752

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Ministry of Culture

(b)(6)

From:

Sent:

To:

Cc:

Monday, July 07, 2003 12:07 AM

(b)(6)

Subject:

Re: looted sites SE of Nejef

Dear

(b)(6)

Thanks for your latest.

It reminds me that as well as Heartland of Cities and Uruk Countryside I should have sent you (b)(6) maps and catalogue for Kish (though I don't imagine it reaches those Nejef area sites). I will try and get a copy to someone going back to Baghdad this week, if there is anyone, and mail a copy too (let me know if the (b)(6) stuff arrives).

I am sorry to see mention of the late Majid al-Hadithi, as I suspect this is Abdul-Mejid al-Hadithi who was our rep at Abs a while ago. He was certainly alive last August, although he had lost a lot of teeth, and he had a lot of interesting archaeological data. I hope he wasn't a casualty of the fighting.

(b)(6) (b)(6)

Notes from Meeting with COL [REDACTED] USMC doing investigation into the looting of the Iraq Museum, 05 May.

COL (b)(6)

I arrived 22 April at the request of General Franks to begin my investigation. Initial reports of 127,000 artifacts missing may be overstated. The point is RECOVERY NOT Prosecution. There is not subpoena power, no warrants, no etc. Recovery only.

The methodology:

- a. Identify what is missing
- b. Where are the items that are not missing.
- c. Establish an Amnesty Program
- d. Develop confidential sources.

All have been successful to varying degrees.

Assumptions:

1. If staff tells us a piece was here before the battle, we assume it is was here. There are the offices, the Galleries, the Restoration room, and magazines (storage vaults), and vaults within the Central Bank. Think of this as a University with many colleges, many of who do not talk to each other.

2. There is no photographic evidence of what was here before the war. We assume we will receive a complete and accurate inventory.

Gallery. As of now, they can confirm 38 significant pieces missing. There is much disagreement among the senior staff. Head of the Golden Harp was a copy that was stolen. The Vase of Warca was not on the floor in the after the BBC visit in November. 22 pieces have been damages, 11 of 22 in shards. 17 display cases damaged out of the hundreds in the building.

Restoration Room. Fake Golden Harp taken to the Restoration Room to restore and hide is on the CLEARED half of the room. Clearing carefully and creating an Amnesty Box for the employees. Clearing the room is intentionally slow to preserve the actual process and permit the employees to return more. (b)(6) the #1 focus in the Restoration Room. 10 Pieces potentially missing.

Bomb Shelter. A bunch of connected boxes. The possessors will not turn over to the Baathi, waiting for a democratic government. They do not trust the museum staff. 39,453 items in the Bomb shelter. Exclusively manuscripts and scrolls. In a public non-religious location (N331739.73/N0441937.49). Includes pre-Islamic texts also (b)(6) the Manuscript guy is a bad dude. Frequently arouses the ire of the local community.

(b)(6)

Central Bank. 15-20 Boxes. Five refrigerator sized boxes and 15 footlocker sized boxes. The vaults themselves are intact. No one in the museum knows what was put in the vaults before 1991. Another assumption: the inventory of the vaults is true. COL

(b)(6)

will not breach the vaults unless directed.

(b)(6) heavy duty Ba'ath person (b)(6) at first claimed he could not find the vaults, then he located them. Cannot find the keys to the vaults and cannot find the receipts for what is in the vaults.

Magazines (storage vaults). Five total, 3 old and 2 new. Two of the old magazines are two levels with an internal stairway. Entry into one magazine is entry into both. Lots of statues and shards, vessels etc. A first floor door is open, no signs of

forced entry, and the keys are gone. On the second floor a slit window is broken, there are RPG pieces, AK-47 rounds, etc. Military detritus. The window is broken from the inside outwards. The only explanation is a dude got the keys, broke out the window, shot from the windows and ran with the keys when Coalition troops fired back. Very little is taken from this magazine and confirms the story that US Forces took fire from both sides of the street.

Two more magazines with two rooms apiece for a total of four rooms. Three of four rooms are pristine and untouched. The one looted room is pristine except for a far right corner wherein several hundred cardboard boxes the size of ski boot boxes are empty and untouched. Additionally there are 90 plastic boxes filled with trays that were filled with amulets, seals, and pendants. Approximately 5,000 pieces, all very small and pilferable. Not very valuable individually, but significant overall.

COL (b)(6) opinion. Impossible to find unless you knew exactly where to look. Must have had intimate knowledge. Also worth noting the museum staff is different from the storage magazine staff. They told Dr. Chalabi about the theft. (Insert discussion about west as geometry and the Islamic world as algebraic.) COL (b)(6) needs the INC people who bought or captured the two plastic shelves of tiny antiquities.

Were these most worth stealing? They were the easiest, most intact, easily pilferable stuff in the museum. Also worth noting is that none of these items are in their correct envelopes. Most envelopes still on the floor. The museum was not pillaged to the degree initially reported. This is not the Elgin Marbles, but close. The final numbers will take months, but COL (b)(6) expects to be home next Monday (12 May). Customs will stay behind. The press overstated the initial report, plus a little (b)(6) hyperbole.

We do not know what the Jordanians have picked up. The National Geographic is here to photo vault opening (b)(6) Customs, COL (b)(6) USMC CENTCOM.

Now what? Smuggling 101....wait for the stuff to move. Create a "black list" of stuff to monitor movement.

Amb Limbert. What are the traps and issues we need to be aware of?

COL (b)(6) is an outsider, good self promoter. (b)(6) genuinely sincere, (b)(6) sincere, definitely in charge (b)(6) the enforcer, professional but complicit.

We have not adopted an adversarial tone. 3 levels of stuff. Stolen before 91. Stolen between 91 and the beginning of looting, and stuff looted.

Specifically mentioned INTERPOL not part of investigation.

How to manage expectations.

A. The goal of the military action was liberate, not occupy. Therefore the goal of this program is recovery not retribution.

B. Once the physical presence is gone from the library, the effort is not over.

Amb Limbert. How can we help the process?

COL (b)(6) We do not need a new investigation, but it should be overseen by DoJ. NOT FBI. If FBI in country, needs adult supervision. It needs to be a USG investigation controlled from outside the FBI. The ultimate prosecution will be the Iraq people in Iraqi Courts. The best analogy of what they doing is a grand jury.

The Oriental Institute
The University of Chicago
1155 E. 58th St.
Chicago, Ill. 60637
(773) 702-9525

25 May
FJ
May 24, 2003

Col. (b)(6)
ORHA, Baghdad

Dear Col. (b)(6)

Let me thank you and your staff for all the help during my visit. The helicopter trip was extremely important in gauging the level of damage that is going on at archaeological sites. I assume that actions are being taken to stop the illegal excavations and trade, and I hope that this will happen fast. Every day of digging means the loss of thousands of artifacts and their original context. By looting archaeological sites, the people of Iraq are destroying not only the past but also the future, since archaeology will be a major source of revenue through tourism for centuries to come. They are also denying themselves the employment that archaeological expeditions would give them, if the sites in their areas are not destroyed. When we stopped at Isin, the people seemed unaware that looting was forbidden in the new situation. Media announcements stating that it is forbidden and a statement that people can be arrested for it would have some effect. But the Antiquities department has to get its people back to work not only in Baghdad, but also in the regional offices, on sites, etc. Guards have to be reestablished and paid. I also hope that something can be done to shut down the market in antiquities in the town of Rifai, north of Nasiriyah. Key to all this is military patrolling of sites, along with the appearance of (b)(6) (b)(6) or other officials in company with Coalition forces. If you could arrange another helicopter tour for (b)(6) it would be very useful.

Yesterday I had a phone call from Washington, from (b)(6) and (b)(6) (b)(6) who are ORHA designates for the Antiquities organization. They say that they still need an invitation from ORHA-Baghdad to come. These two individuals, as former long-term employees of the Department will be instrumental in getting the Museum and the rest of the Department functioning. (b)(6) whose family is a major one in Baghdad, has continued to return to Iraq once or twice a year and she has cooperated with the Department in research on collections, in publication, etc. (b)(6) was one of the premier archaeologists until he left for the U.S. in the 1990s. Both are highly respected and would have the confidence of the present staff. Without their presence, I very much doubt that the inventory of lost items and the cleaning up of the museum part of the building will be done within a year. And I fear that even if they are here, progress will be very slow as long as (b)(6) is in charge of the Museum. She is in a state of collapse and I would advise a medical leave of absence, with pay. I also think that her talents as an administrator are far less than her gifts as a reader of ancient cuneiform texts, so she might better be returned to that section of the department.

Having observed the situation for two weeks, I have revised my earlier judgment that it would be best to keep much of the administration as it is for the interim. I am convinced that not much real progress will be made in the department as a whole as long as (b)(6) (b)(6) remains head of the organization. He is just too indecisive, lacks leadership qualities, and does not have the confidence of his staff. I know that he really wants to return to teaching, which he does well. I would urge that (b)(6) the most effective man in the organization, be made at least Interim President of the State Board of Antiquities. He has the respect and confidence of the foreign archaeologists and can put a reasoned and reasonable face on the department in a difficult transition. There may be

COL
MAY
MAY

(b)(6)

b(6)

*see B6 Kern if you
want electrons*

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Saturday, May 31, 2003 1:53 pm
To: (b)(6)
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: My visit to Iraq
Attachments: RevisedGazetteer.xls

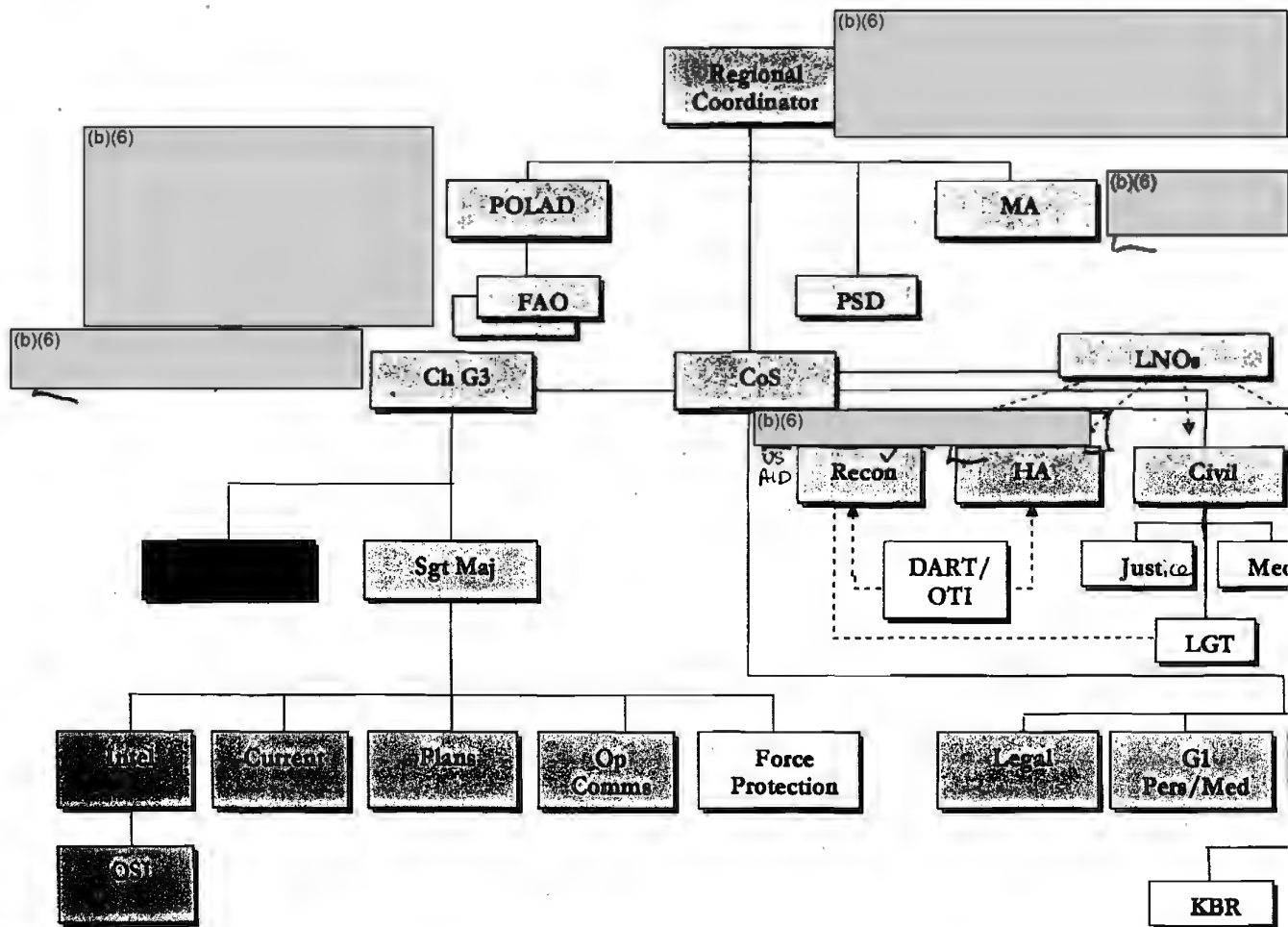
25K

Dear General Kern:

I want to thank you for seeing me on my last day in Iraq. I thought I should put in writing some general appreciation of the situation as I saw it. The conditions in the Iraq National Museum improved each day I was there. The losses of objects were bad, but not as bad as they could have been. It looks as if there will be thousands of objects missing, but not tens of thousands. The official count, as of the 23rd, was just over 1,000 objects definitely missing. That number came from the inventory that is being carried out. Most of the more important items, that had been on public display, came through untouched, since they were in secure storage. The night before I left Baghdad, the US Customs men carried out a sting operation in Baghdad and recovered about 200 items, which were all from museum storage. All had museum numbers on them. I don't know if they were from within the 1000 items already known to be definitely missing.

The situation within the structure of the Department is much as I had outlined in messages to various contacts in and out of the military. It is clear that the most effective person is (b)(6) and he should be running the organization. Everyone else seems to be in shock or is unable to make decisions to get things moving back to normal. The advisors who have been named by the British and US sides, who should have been in there already, are still sitting in London and Washington, waiting for an invitation from ORHA, which seems not to be forthcoming. The new philosophy seems to be that the Iraqis will do everything themselves. The situation in the museums is just so bad that there is an absolute need to have expert advice and assistance, especially from conservators. Any idea that a few weeks training for Iraqis will equip them to do the necessary conservation is ludicrous. A museum anywhere, including the US or Europe, that had suffered what the Iraq museums in Baghdad and Mosul have experienced would be calling in expert assistance. Until the advisors and conservators get there and start getting the laboratories back in operation and begin repairing damaged objects, not much will get done. And the longer there is no conservation, the longer it will be before the Customs and FBI men can declare their job finished. In order to speed up the inventory of objects, I got the National Geographic to donate \$2000 to hire buses to bring from

CPA Health



(b)(6)

(Ministry of Culture)

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) (Ministry of Culture)
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2003 5:10 AM
To: (b)(6)
Cc:
Subject: RE: CPA -South : Establishment of Cultural Pillar

(b)(6)

Just to follow up our conversation.

My colleagues (b)(6) (who works at the Institute of Archaeology in England, and formerly the British School of Archaeology in Iraq) and (b)(6) (also an archaeologist and now a curator at the British Museum) (both are with the Ministry of Culture at CPA) have spoken with (b)(6), Keeper of Ancient and Near East studies at the BM (he is also on the Council of the British School of Archaeology). He is currently in Baghdad with some conservation colleagues and a channel 4 TV crew. They would greatly like to meet you to discuss the situation at the archaeological sites and other cultural areas in the region you have responsibility for. Unfortunately due to the tight schedule the BM/C4 team are on they are unable to stay overnight in Babylon on Wednesday. They are traveling down to arrive at around 11am and will visit the Babylon Museum and the site to carry out an assessment of the looting and the conservation needs. They would be happy to meet you in the late afternoon if this is feasible.

(b)(6) would also be able to stay overnight if this proved necessary. She would though need transport back to Baghdad on Thursday.

(b)(6) Thuraya number is (b)(6)

If you have any problems contacting her please let me know and I will try and get her to get a message to (b)(6)

Due to the need to finalise budgets by the weekend I am unable to join (b)(6) and (b)(6). They will though report back to the Ambassador and myself so that we can see how best we can support you.

(b)(6)

Policy Advisor
Ministry of Culture
CPA HQ

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, June 12, 2003 11:25 AM
To: (b)(6) (Ministry of Culture)
Cc:
Subject: CPA -South : Establishment of Cultural Pillar

(b)(6)

Thank you so much for your message. I think it is an excellent idea that we meet. My preference would be to do so here in Babylon, not for my own convenience, but in order that you could meet (b)(6) who will become Regional Coordinator at the end of the month. You will also find the atmosphere here somewhat more refined than that in the Republican Palace!

I need hardly emphasise the archaeological significance of this area, nor our commitment to preserving it (we have just injected \$10k into the museum at Babylon to help redress the damage done by looters). Our Cultural Affairs head would have the lead in identifying the extent of the problem, proposing solutions and monitoring progress to meeting the requirement. A draft set of ToR is attached, but this is very much a working document and can be amended as needs be.

When can you come? We can be very flexible - I suggest that you might enjoy an overnight stay here and, if you haven't already visited the Babylon ruins, we can arrange it.

We look forward very much to seeing you

Steven

(b)(6)

LT Col RM
Chief of Staff
CPA Heartland

Tel:
DSN:

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

From: Directorate Account
To: (b)(6)
Date: Tue, Jun 3, 2003 7:05 pm
Subject: Re: Coalition Provisional Authority of Iraq

(b)(6)

Dear Lt. Col. (b)(6)

Thank you very much for your message and for informing me of your intention to appoint somebody in charge of cultural affairs for the Nejef-Kerbala-Babylon area. The looting of sites in this area and the destruction of museums is very tragic and I am delighted to learn of your efforts to do something about it. It goes without saying that we shall do all we can to help. The British Museum is, however, already co-ordinating a large British effort (working with the DCMS and the FCO) to help with cultural reconstruction in Iraq, under the overall aegis of CPA. We are in the process of fielding a UK archaeological team in Iraq, and the BM is also serving as the clearing-house for international help in consultation with UNESCO.

I think that the best way forward would be for you to contact and work with the cultural section of CPA, currently headed by the Italian, Ambassador Cordone. He has overall responsibility for all cultural and educational matters which includes the protection of archaeological sites and museums, and he has been very helpful in using his authority to advance our efforts.

We have been in frequent contact with him and I discussed issues of the sort you raised when I saw him in Baghdad a fortnight ago. At present he is supported by a representative from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, (b)(6). (b)(6) They can be contacted by email through (b)(6). We hope they will be joined at the end of this week by (b)(6) a curator in this Museum, and (b)(6) from Cambridge University, representing the British School of Archaeology in Iraq. She has great knowledge of archaeological sites. Both are good Arabists. Then a team of curators and conservators from the British Museum headed by (b)(6) intends to arrive in Baghdad on 13th June and will stay in Iraq for two weeks. I will ask (b)(6) to get in touch with you when he arrives and I know he will want to meet you in Babylon, and discuss matters further. He hopes to be in Babylon on 18th June. In the meantime, I suggest that you make contact with (b)(6) and explain to him what you are proposing to do. If there is anything more that I can do to help before (b)(6) visit, please let me know. This is important work.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,
(b)(6)
Director

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2003 5:54 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: FW: Work in Babylon

-----Original Message-----

From: Ryszard Krystosik [mailto:(b)(6)]
Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2003 5:44 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Work In Babylon

(b)(6)
Project Director
Babylon Archaeological Project
Camp Babylon

Dear Sires,

I came down to Iraq following a kind invitation by (b)(6) of the CPA SC, to carry on an archaeological research in Babylon in closest possible cooperation with Iraqi Archaeologists representing the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage.

During a visit paid to Mrs. (b)(6) of the CPA SC today, I was assured that the Chairmen of the State Board has accepted the idea of joint Polish-Iraqi work in Babylon. Consequently, I plan to come to Baghdad at the beginning of the next week or even earlier, if possible (depending on the transport opportunities here in Babylon) to apply for a necessary permit to start a work. I think, nevertheless, that before my visit to the State Board I should get in touch with person from your office, who has been overseeing this matter, and that the visit in the State Board of Antiquities should be paid by this person and myself together.

It would be mostly welcomed if the person responsible contacts me at (b)(6) or send a message to Amb. Ryszard Krystosik at (b)(6) from whose computer I am sending this letter as soon as possible.

Looking forward to hear from you

(b)(6)

Do you Yahoo!?
The New Yahoo! Shopping - with improved product search

10/15/2003

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2003 12:20 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: FW: Arrival of Polish Archaeologists for Babylon

MOC, For your information.

(b)(6) the individuals that I forwarded your email to are the new senior advisor, Amb Mario Bondioli Osio (Amb Cordone has departed) (b)(6) his new deputy (and archaeologist) as well as our military person who watches out over SBAH, Major (b)(6) (b)(6)

(b)(6) Regards, (b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2003 11:54 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Arrival of Polish Archaeologists for Babylon

Dear Ambassador Cordone et al.,

(b)(6) the Polish project director for the upcoming Babylon excavations, has arrived in al-Hilla. He is currently accompanied by one other archaeologist and 5 more are due to arrive on October 20.

He would like to meet with the SBAH as soon as possible to obtain written permission to conduct the dig, and to discuss the project with Iraqi experts. I believe he'll be in touch with you himself in the next day or two when he gets access to email.

Please let us know when it would be possible for him to come up and meet with you at CPA and with the SBAH.

Thanks very much.

(b)(6)

=====
(b)(6)
Governorate Coordinator
Babil
Thuraya (b)(6)

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(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, September 09, 2003 4:09 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: Polish excavation


(b)(6)

Unfortunately, I have some bad news for you. Ambassador Cordone coordinated with the State Board of Antiquities and they have concluded that based upon the current national situation, it is too soon to begin any archeological excavations. They would like to see this project delayed until January 2004. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us. Best regards.

[Lt Col (b)(6)

(b)(6)

9/10/2003



Babylon

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Monday, November 10, 2003 12:38 PM

To: (b)(6)

Subject: Memo: Babylon Archaeological Project

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Memo: Background and Perspectives of the Babylon Archaeological Project

A proposition to carry out archaeological projects consisting of excavations at three sites located in the SC region of Iraq was launched by Mr. (b)(6) Director of the CPA SC, and addressed to ambassador Bratkiewicz, the secretary of the Task Team for Iraq of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Poland. In subsequent correspondence with (b)(6) Director (b)(6) stated that the CPA will run the project with a budget up to 100,000 US dollars which will be spent on the wages for Iraqi workers, acquisition of tools and technical equipment, accommodations and provisions for the Polish members of the team (letter of September 4). He has also stated that a laboratory space for the needs of the mission will be prepared within the Babylon Museum. In the same letter Director (b)(6) informed me that the expenses of the Polish members of the team (travel costs, wages and insurance) could not be covered by the CPA. The list of the sites under investigation was limited to Babylon only, for security reasons.

The Polish side insisted on some changes in the original offer of Director (b)(6). The most important one was to include into the project a survey of damages which the site of Babylon suffered during and after the war, when a military camp has been created in its central part along with preservation activities, should they turn out to be necessary. The second important issue was including Iraqi archaeologists into the project as an equal partner. To stress these two improvements, the Project has been dubbed "Babylon Archaeological Project", avoiding usage of words like "excavations", as from the start it was intended to include other form of activities at the site, and "Polish", as it was considered an international project to be carried out jointly by Polish and Iraqi scientists. The main idea behind the project was to combine experience of Iraqi archaeologists with up-to-date documentation standards provided by the Polish side of the project to benefit fully from the technical means provided by the CPA. The concern of both CPA and Polish MFA was to start a civilian project which, besides allowing Iraqi colleagues to return to the field work which had stopped abruptly in Spring 2003, will provide local manpower with the much needed employment opportunities for at least 80 people.

The letter of Director (b)(6) quoted afforehand was grounds to apply for a financial support from the Polish MFA, to cover the expenses of Polish members of the mission to Iraq which could not be paid by the CPA. This support was granted and I have been sent to Iraq via Kuwait accompanied by one of the mission members on October 9, and joined by the other members of the mission in Babylon on October 30.

On arrival to Babylon on October 14, I was assured by the local authorities of the SBOAH that the site had survived the war without any damage whatsoever. Therefore, when I outlined the research programme of the BAP in a letter to Late Dr. Rabia al-Qaisi, the Chairman of the SBOAH, on October 18, the documentation and preservation work was not included in it. This programme was approved by Dr. Al-Qaisi. Consequently, five Iraqi archaeologists were appointed to join the project and workers recruited, though the work in the field did not start, because, on one hand, military authorities requested time to perform a security check on Iraqi colleagues and workers and, on the other, CPA SC did not provide promised tools and equipment.

11/16/2003

Tour of the MEF modifications at camp Babylon made 25th July 03 and added to on 29th July

The majority of the areas used by the Marine camp have utilized areas that had already been developed with buildings and roads etc. There are also some very flat areas that have been used for equipment, tents etc. In a few areas earth moving has taken place or heavy machinery and trucks have been driven across areas of the mound unprotected by paved roads nor part of existing tracks.

Trash dumps or birms

There are two of these. Trash dumps are rectangular areas with three bulldozed ridges. This shelters a central area in which rubbish is burnt. When the dump goes out of use the ridges are collapsed on top of the rubbish.

The southern one is south of the southern entry point to the west of the road and close to the east bank of the river and has been closed. It is likely that this dump being very close to the river that the upper few feet of soil are probably river silt and so it is unlikely that this dump will have affected any actual archaeological deposits.

The northern dump is still in use. The latter is out of the North ECP north of the Northern lake attached to the canal and to the east of the track running north along the river. It was in this area that on July 29th we discovered a 40ft x 10ft x 9-10 ft deep pit had been dug for the burning of rubbish (and this pit must have been dug after the 25th July when this area was first visited). The upper 5 ft of this pit had cut only river silt/agricultural soil but the lower 4 ft or so had cut archaeological deposits and much pottery was visible once the fire in the pit had abated. A visit was made to the camp commandant LTC (b)(6) on this matter. He had ordered the digging of this pit to try to keep children away from the burning rubbish as they had been scavenging through it. (b)(6)

(b)(6) was very disturbed by the digging of this pit which was reported to the Babylon museum by a local man who took some of the pieces of archaeological objects from the pit to the museum. (b)(6) feels that such digging will only encourage local people to dig holes as well. It seems rather disappointing after our efforts at co-ordination with the MEF with regard to minimizing the archaeological impact of activities at camp Babylon. Given that in this particular area archaeological deposits seem to be around 4 or 5 feet deep it seems likely that the bulldozed ridges of the birm will not have disturbed these to any great extent.

UAV runway

This is no longer in use but was situated on the west bank of the river opposite the Saddam Palace. To prepare the runway it was skimmed to remove topsoil and then compacted. Like other areas treated in this way it would then have been watered daily to keep down the dust. It seems possible that any archaeological deposits this close to the river probably lie under a few feet or more of river silt deposited by occasional flooding.

Tanker and truck parks, graveled tracks etc.

The riverside area north of the Saddam palace mound has been used as a truck and car park as well as the site of various portakabins. The areas here were very flat already so they were just graveled, they would not have needed skimming apparently. Further north

of this riverside area is the site of building debris that was presumably left over from the building of the Saddam Palace. The track at the base and to the west of the Saddam mound has been 'prepped' (ie. Skimmed, earth dumped, watered, compacted) and graveled. It is regularly watered to keep the dust down.

Gravel has been added to an area west of the tarmacked car park that is immediately west of the Greek amphitheatre. Presumably this area was prepped also. A couple of fuel tankers are parked on this area close to the fence with the car park. An extension of this graveled area was observed in progress on 17th July up to the fence of the Hammurabi museum and was sufficiently alarming with bulldozing, steam rolling to compact the earth etc. that (b)(6) and I intervened and asked the camp commandant LTC

(b)(6) to stop the work and not to use the area as a truck park as originally intended.

An area north of this was starting to be used to store containers from trucks and these have now been moved to the paved car park at the east entrance to the site. In the area west of the amphitheatre where archaeological deposits are right at the surface the trucking of heavy machinery is likely to cause considerable damage. On the 25th July a 'ditch witch' was observed in use in this area, cutting into an area of mound to lay a cable. The driver was asked to desist and agreed, his work does not seem to have authorized by LTC (b)(6)

To the north west of the amphitheatre are two fuel bladders surrounded by earth birms (ridges). It is not entirely clear where the earth for these came from, whether it was trucked in from outside the camp or the result of earth moving within the camp. Also in this area is a possible Iraqi army bunker position the construction of which is different to the Coalition bunkers.

Helicopter landing zones

It is in these areas that some of the most extensive surface bulldozing took place. The northern landing zone or LZ is NW of the amphitheatre, east of the processional way and west of one of the lakes. One part of this LZ is an already tarmacked area, this was then extended by bulldozing areas of the mounds flat and compacting them etc. One of these areas was described as clumpy or lumpy. I do not know if these were the remains of excavated mud brick walls that were eroding or the irregular surface of unexcavated mounds, either way the surface was bulldozed flat. It seems likely that this will have damaged archaeological deposits as they are generally close to the surface in this part of the site.

The southern landing zone near the southern ECP (entry check point) to the west of the road was apparently mostly gardens with ridges and ditches for irrigation like the remaining area immediately north of it. These ridges were bulldozed flat, red earth dumped and compacted and watered. It is then watered each day. A number of bunkers were dug into this area especially on its northern and western sides. The sections in all of these were scrutinized and none had any archaeological deposits in them. All seem to be agricultural soil/river silt. Some of the bunkers utilized the concrete bunker sections which reduce greatly the amount of digging that is done. In other areas of the site, concrete above ground bunkers are the norm.

(b)(6)

I understand from (b)(6) in Bremer's office that the money for the repairs to the Babylon Museum was promised by Ambassador Bremer himself. I assume he has a fund for projects. If you need to find out where exactly the money is coming from you should speak to (b)(6)

It would be useful if you could provide an update on the work of the museum repairs as the ambassadors office has asked for it in advance of the Nimrud Treasures viewing. If you could get something to me by close Monday that would be great.

Hope you enjoy the helicopter flights.

(b)(6)

Policy Advisor
Ministry of Culture
CPA HQ

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Sunday, June 29, 2003 4:17 PM

To: (b)(6) (Ministry of Culture)

Cc: (b)(6) (Ministry of Culture); (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(CIV UK Ministry of Culture)

Subject: RE: report

dear (b)(6)

Thanks for your reply, as I understand it the employee list is the whole of Babil governorate but I have emailed CDR (b)(6) to make sure this is the case.

you say that may and june salaries will be paid soon but nothing about the mechanism for this. The museum staff here have an appointment at the treasury (part of the army) in Hillah on wed to register but I am unclear whether they will collect money at this point too (in fact the people organising this seem to think different things, all I can do is go along and find out what happens I think). The museum staff also seem to think that (b)(6) went to Baghdad today for something related to pay but whether this is back pay for may june or whether he just went to raise concerns about pay no-one seemed to know, and Capt (b)(6) organising the treasury trip on wed did not know he had gone. CDR (b)(6) seems to think the back pay and current pay are separate issues, Cap (b)(6) seems to think it is all the same thing and will be resolved on wed.

I don't think the employees are new exactly just that the Marines decided in the short term to employ only those people who they regarded as necessary for the museum so this was only part of the payroll that existed under Saddam. They have told (b)(6) that it is up to her who she employs in future and she is keen to employ all those people who were employed under Saddam. I am therefore unclear whether these count as new employees or not.

unmailed to (b)(6) so all have this info
(b)(6)
should also email to g-p, jlo, Janet C, SC etc.
bsai

Dear (b)(6) Questions added below prefaced by Q

(b)(6)

I understand that the salaries process is as follows:

- the interim cabinet should compile a list of the workforce and get it approved by Ambassador Cordone and the DG of Administration and Accounts and then submit the information to the Ministry of Finance.

Q I am wondering how the interim cabinet do this, do they ask each parts of the ministry to do it, ie do they ask the SBAH for a list of SBAH employees ?? and in turn how do the SBAH do it ? by asking each branch office in each governorate for a list ?? whose job is it to make up the list in each gov ?

- the cabinet should then liaise with the local branch of the Treasury which has delegated authority to issue an authorization to withdraw funds to pay salaries.

Q OK so this is where the treasury in Hillah comes in, so any payroll list has to come from the interim cultural cabinet in Baghdad to the treasury in Hillah ? is that correct ?? so the treasury in Hillah is unlikely to take any notice of a payroll list that has come from some other source than the cultural cabinet ?? or if they did take any notice of a payroll list from another source than the cultural cabinet then this would not be correct procedure, is that right ?

- In the governates, preparing payroll data will involve the following steps:

a. identify the ministry which each workforce belongs to;

Q This seems to be the easy bit, yes the SBAH employees are part of the min of cult

b. compile a payroll for each workforce including total number of workers and distribution among salary grades.

Q Who compiles the payroll ? The SBAH staff ? difference of opinion here as to who is top bod in Babil governorate, I think in the past it was (b)(6) but the civil affairs people here are treating (b)(6) as if it is her but I do not know if this is the SBAH's view of the situation. Could (b)(6) ask (b)(6) for the SBAH view on this issue re the top bod in Babil governorate ? (b)(6) is top bod.

c. nominate one main audit committee for each ministry in the governorate, including names, ID names and copies of their signatures, which will pick up salaries from the bank for all the workforces of the ministry in the Governorate and distribute them at the pay site to the audit committees for the other workforces.

Q Who nominates this audit committee ?? the cultural cabinet ?? the SBAH ?? the min of cult ?? I think Capt (b)(6) was trying to register (b)(6) and the accountant (b)(6) as the audit committee with the treasury here in Hillah but perhaps it is not up to him ?

Hope this makes sense.

It is not up to (b)(6) whom she employs in the future. If these are Ministry employees it is currently up to the Ministry in Baghdad. [This is part of a much bigger issue which was raised at the daily civil admin meeting by Ambassador Raphael and guidance will be sent out to the governates shortly].

(b)(6)

the Marie has the power to hire + fire
+ made to be the only one saying this so far: acc to them.
Hassan was the man who was up for it. I MEET was concerned
until the appointment of (b)(6)







 Change to: INBOX  
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Reminder: Logout when you have finished.

User currently logged into Hermes: (b)(6)


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From: (b)(6)

To:

Cc:

Date: Sun, 29 Jun 2003 17:50:52 +0400

Subject: RE: report

(b)(6)

I understand that the salaries process is as follows:

- the interim cabinet should compile a list of the workforce and get it approved by Ambassador Cordone and the DG of Administration and Accounts and then submit the information to the Ministry of Finance.
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https://webmail.hermes.cam.ac.uk/session (b)(6)

6/29/2003

made note on update on the museum repairs

forwarded to nancy e
nancy g

31029
JRP10
h. combined
S. center.

(b)(6)
(b)(6)

Treasures viewing. If you could get something to me by close Monday that would be great.

Hope you enjoy the helicopter flights.

(b)(6)

Policy Advisor
Ministry of Culture
CPA HQ

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Sunday, June 29, 2003 4:17 PM
To: (b)(6) (Ministry of Culture)
Cc: (b)(6) (Ministry of Culture); (b)(6)
(CIV UK Ministry of Culture)
Subject: RE: report

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I am assuming that the repairs to the Babylon museum are coming out of some other pot of money that south central/CPA heartland have down here. I will know more when I can speak to (b)(6) who has been dealing with the financial side of the museum stuff but he has been away in Jordan and may be back tomorrow.

(b)(6)

On Jun 29 2003, (b)(6) (Ministry of Culture) wrote:

> (b)(6)
>
> Hope you are settling in and enjoying yourself.
>
> Thank you for this interesting report.
>

> I have a few points of clarification.
>
> a. The issue of the new employees.
>
> Nobody at Babylon has the authority to employ new staff as there is no
> budget provision for taking on new employees in 2003 unless you have
> found funding from elsewhere.
>
> Salaries for may and june for existing employees will be paid shortly.
>
> b. The number of guards
>
> I'm as confused as you. Is the list you sent a complete list of all
> Board of Antiquities staff in Babil province or just the Babylon site.
>
> c. New vehicles.
>
> I'm wondering whether new vehicles could come from the State Department
> funds. (b)(6) do you think we should approach them on this. At present it
> seems as if Baghdad is getting all the support]
>
> d. Capital Investment Projects
>
> I need to make it clear that all previous capital investment projects
> are null and void unless they are included in the 2003 budget. There are
> no approved projects in 2003 for Babylon except relating to the Babylon
> Hotel as none were put forward by the interim cabinet. If funds from
> other CPA pots can be found or from donors that would be another
> possibility. For the 2004 budget I would expect the Board of Antiquities
> to prioritise their investment plans and submit the most important to the
> Ministry as part of the planning round.
>
> Let me know if you need any clarification.
> (b)(6)
>
> Policy Advisor
> Ministry of Culture
> CPA HQ
>
> -----Original Message----- From: (b)(6)
> Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2003 8:39 PM To: (b)(6) Cc:
> (b)(6) (Ministry of Culture); (b)(6) Ministry of
> Culture) Subject: report
>
> dear (b)(6)
>
> was busy typing a longish email earlier only to have it crash. Ugh.
> Interesting day met up with local archaeologists (b)(6) and (b)(6)
> (b)(6) Ive typed up my notes to give you a flavour of the day but this
> is not an official report yet, later I should split it into the (b)(6)
> parts (my understanding of what he told me) and the Dira parts the state
> of the dira buidlings and their needs. the latter would also need to be
> run past the SBAH we dont want to suggest that Babil dira should get
> anything that (b)(6) do not think is necessary for their work I
> think. (Lot of inns and outs to think of here). Feel free to show to
> (b)(6) who can warn me if I ahve said anything politcally inadvisable re
> the SBAH befoe I do a final version.
>
> I may not have followed all of the things CMR (b)(6) said so Ive
> emailed a copy to him to see how much I have misunderstood of what he
> said and may see him again later next week. Otherwise I hope to make

all Babil
pence.

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Hope you are settling in and enjoying yourself.

Thank you for this interesting report.

I have a few points of clarification.

a. The issue of the new employees.

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the most important to the Ministry as part of the planning round.

Let me know if you need any clarification.

(b)(6)

Policy Advisor
Ministry of Culture
CPA HQ

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)

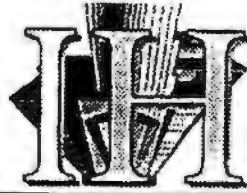
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2003 8:39 PM

To: (b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6) (Ministry of Culture); (b)(6) (Ministry of

(b)(6)

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البيت العراقي
للمقاولات العامة المحدودة

Ref : 53

Date : 6 / 22 / 03

Foreign Language

To / US Marines
Subject / Babylon Administration Building

May I offering for the work of Rehabilitation of Babylon Administration building with total coast of (b)(4) working day.]

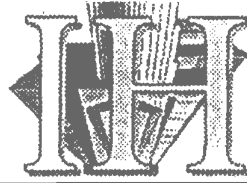
(b)(4)

According to the Tender enclosed.

With best Regards.

(b)(6)

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البيت العراقي
للمقاولات العامة المحدودة

BABYLON ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

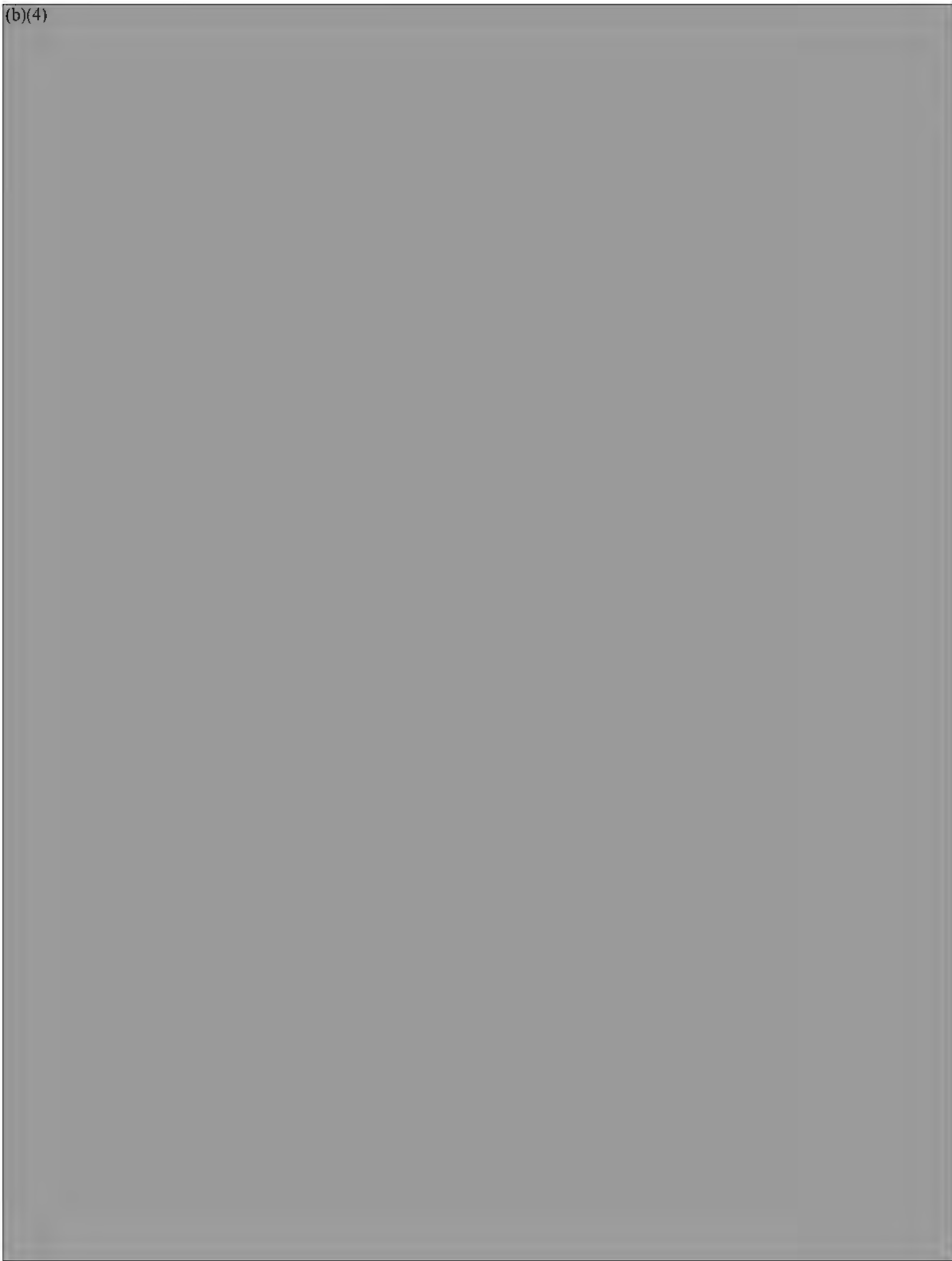
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A	Civil Works				

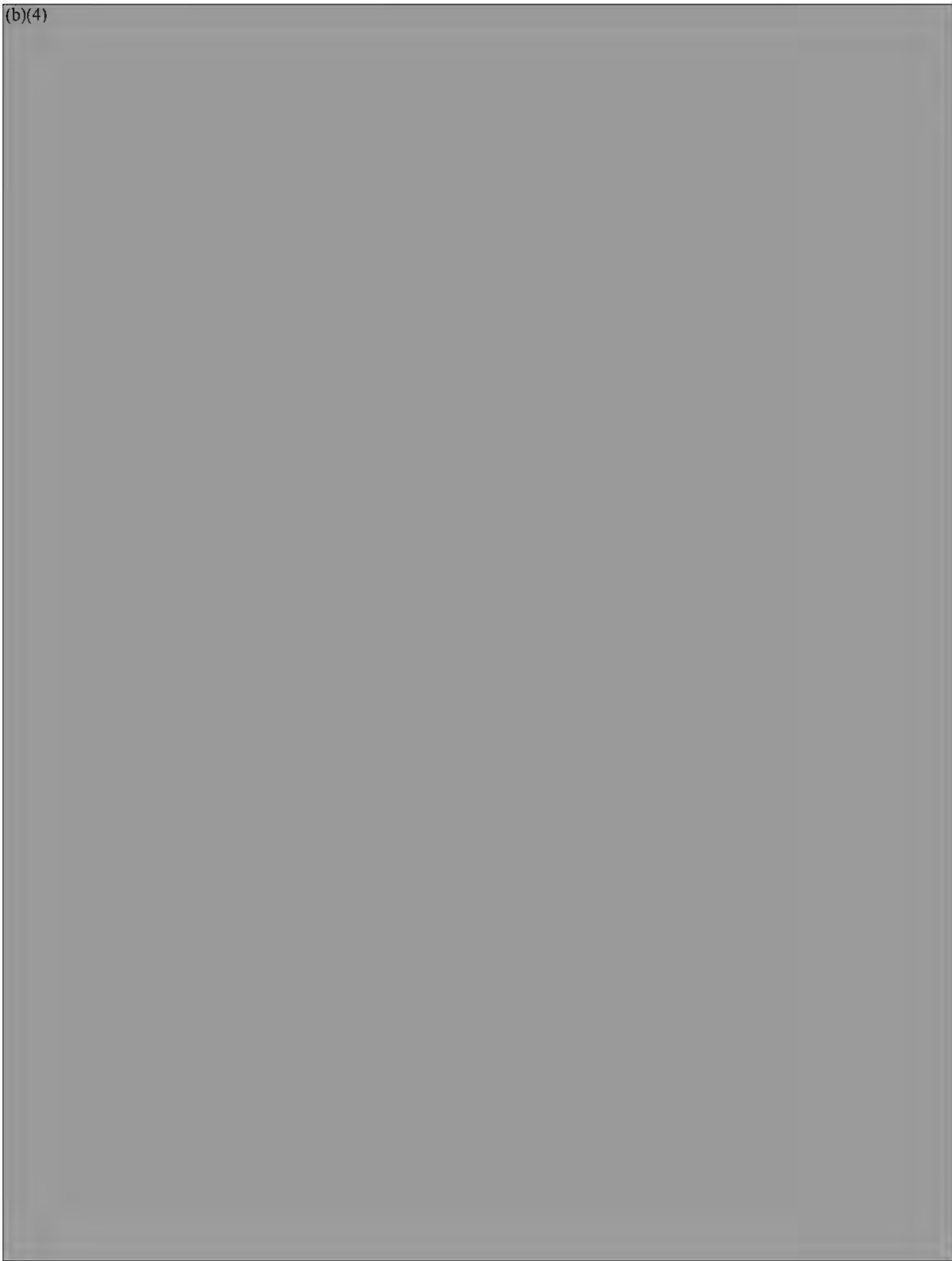
(4/5)

Baghdad Harthia Al Kindy St.
Babylon (40) St.

Tel. 009641-5432415
Tel. 242472 / 254982

Fax 009641-5432406 P.O Box: 6501
P.O Box: 125





Babylon

Thursday 26th June Report -

Went to the Babylon museum with (b)(6) (interpreter) to see museum staff and find (b)(6) (b)(6) Ran into (b)(6) (b)(6) just inside the gate, introduced myself, brief chat about the museum, met one of the employees (b)(6) and went to speak to (b)(6) in her doorless, windowless office behind the museum (spaces for doors/windows but nothing in them). General intro and chat about who I was and what I hoped to be doing. I mentioned cooperation with the SBAH and that I hoped to have a letter from (b)(6) soon, also spoke about the possible needs of the Diraa for equipment and the looting problem.

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) raised the problem of salaries, April paid, but nothing for May or June (b)(6) mentioned that Cap (b)(6) was getting approval for salaries, Cap (b)(6) liaison with Baghdad (I assume the min. of cult. is the min with which he liaises). The May/June payroll includes both existing employees and new ones. There was a discussion of the new salary classifications and that in the past the salaries of Iraqis were made up of basic salary and bonus the latter being as much as x3 the basic salary. (b)(6) raised question of once the marines leave who are the SBAH employees supposed to approach about owed salary, was it ORHA or the SBAH? I said the SBAH as both (b)(6) and (b)(6) had told me that the arrangement for pay was for 2 or 3 people from the branch office of each governorate to go to Baghdad, collect the cash and then pay the staff in each governorate. (b)(6) mentioned the importance of paying site guards well. There was a slight difference of opinion about the new payroll for which (b)(6) was making a list, she said how important it was for employees to continue to be employed, whereas Cmdr (b)(6) suggested that just because people had been employed in the past was not on its own a reason to employ them in the future. As we got ready to go and see (b)(6) at the Diraa offices, Cmdr (b)(6) told me that (b)(6) had a key position as far as they were concerned and that they were hoping to establish her authority to execute things so she could just carry on once they left. Cmdr (b)(6) encouraged me to work through (b)(6) whenever possible. He also mentioned the Babylon project, divided into 2 parts the research group at Babylon headed by (b)(6) and the museum staff perhaps soon to be headed by (b)(6) (check) (replacing (b)(6) a change that has not quite happened yet). The building has 2 phases: 1. rebuilding the shop, museum, public utilities and police post/station in front. Phase 2 is the rebuilding of the offices for the museum and the Babylon research project a possible part of phase 2 is the restaurant (although that seems much less vital) (NB there used to be a dir flat attached or above the museum which is not being rebuilt so the dir will now live elsewhere) (b)(6) is dealing with the bids for phase 2.

So off to the Dira' offices and luckily (b)(6) was there. Introductions (b)(6) had told him I was coming. I asked about the looting problem. (b)(6) mentioned two sites Al-Hashimiyeh which is Neelian (Nile i.e. Abbasid) and in the Nahet al Mat-hatamiyeh in the direction of Kut and

(b)(6)

Al-Jaffara, a Babylonian site in the Nahet al Kifil, close to Nejef, so in the extreme south of the Babylon governorate, neither of these sites at present has guards. We asked about the guards in general, (b)(6) had a large book with the names of sites and their guards. There followed a slightly confusing conversation about guards and sites.

75 guards in the Babil governorate each of whom guards more than one site although there are a total of 140 guards in the province, the extra guards above the 75 site guards are part time or guard the Dira's buildings and equipment (?), so 65 non site guards (?). It was then established that (b)(6) new payroll list was going to include all the site guards as well. (It also seemed that the 75 figures were those guards appointed officially by one order and therefore did not include anyone extra taken on later as the need arose??) There was still some confusion. Cmdr (b)(6) saying that he only knew of 30 guards on the payroll, which left 45 guards unaccounted for to bring us up to 75. Then there was something about the new payroll list having only 20 guards and then it

was said that there were 96 guards for arch sites, by which time I was totally confused [redacted] however had a doorstop size booklet with the details of guards and sites. (I had seen a less detailed version of this kind of thing for the whole of Iraq by governorate and had borrowed it from [redacted] to pc the relevant governorates in the Heartland provinces. (b)(6) version was obviously a lot more detailed with only about 2 sites to a page and by the looks of things the employment history of each guard. The last on the payroll was that there were acc to Cmdr [redacted] around 146 or 147 people on the payroll of whom 40 were for the Babylon museum, 30 archaeologists/clerks/accountants and about 96 guards of various kinds (sites, the SBAH buildings etc) although it was then said that 139 was the grand total of guards of all kinds. Cmdr [redacted] said he would soon have a complete list of employees.

Question of cars and the ability of the antiquities staff to get to sites. The Dira' had lost its new vehicles to looters, but retained two old 1980s pickups with (acc to Cmdr (b)(6) more than 50K km on the clock. It was generally felt by (b)(6) and Cmdr (b)(6) that 3 new pickups was the minimum needed, 1 for HQ and 2 for patrols. (I think this is the most essential item for the Dira' in Babylon, if the staff cant get out to sites they can do little work and would not be able to check up on either the guards or sites.)

We then got onto the Dira's building and equipment. (b)(6) wants to expand the office. Cmdr [redacted] mentioned that the museum rebuilding (2nd phase) might result in more office space over there which should also be taken into account, although it was also pointed out that the Dira' and museum offices were not quite in the same place. Cmdr [redacted] pointed out re office equipment that they had no phones of any kind and suggested 4 sat phones, 1 for each vehicle and 1 for the office. Obviously the office does need some kind of phone but hopefully at some point there will be land lines?

I then had a tour of the building.

On the whole it looked reasonably solid, could definitely do with decorating (some rooms more so than others), signs of leaks down some walls and seems to have a roof problem, it has a chinko roof (corrugated iron). Replacing the roof would be a major repair. I am also unclear if the chinko is all of the roof or just the map room.

Ground floor (or first floor if you are American). Entrance porch with directors office on the left and a large L shaped 'sofa room' ahead, once in the sofa room there were two doors in the right wall, the further one to a small store/archive room the nearer one to a 'personnel office'.

Contents

Directors office: large desk and armchairs, not much else.

Sofa room: sofas and armchairs, all of which have seen better days, acts as waiting room several people sitting, either employees or persons waiting to speak to [redacted]

Small store/archive room: Shelves with archive papers to left and stack of armchairs recovered from, or rejected by, looters, room kept locked. Stack of legs for dumpy levels or theodolites, I asked if they had what went on top of the legs but no (b)(6) says looted.

Personnel office: I seem to remember a desk or two but no chairs. Also locked ?

Stairs to the left in the sofa room lead to first floor(UK)/second floor(US).

A landing with 4 offices leading off it and a small non-operational bathroom, no water to this one, although I think there might be a similar facility downstairs off the sofa room which I did not investigate. Another set of stairs, presumably to the roof ??.

Offices:

Archaeological office: no fan, desk and 2 stands for drawing boards but the board parts missing (looted).

Office for archaeologists and the accountant leads off the previous arch. office. Can't remember what this one had in it. Used by arch staff and sometimes by the accountant, although they also said they wanted another office for him.

Legal advisor office, this person is a recent appointment. Contents: 2 desks, broken sofa, a fan, no chairs, blocked door between this office and the arch office.

Map room. One of the largest rooms, similar in size and shape to the sofa room. 4 windows, so plenty of light. Contents: 1 table with piles of maps/plans, more piles of these on the floor.

wants to make this into two rooms. Signs of roof leaks down walls.

Extra archaeological staff room leading off the map room. Contents: 3 desks (1 has a badly split top), 1 metal cupboard, 3 nice big windows, balcony and a fan.

There was also I think a locked door on the landing of a room we did not go into (assuming it was a room). mentioned a/c and the possibility of a fence around the building to separate it from the houses on either side.

There was also said to be a labourers hall or room somewhere else which was locked and unused that had been used by the teams of workmen engaged in the restoration activities in the 1980s, perhaps accommodation?. It was said to include an archive. We did not visit this.

mentioned the name of a civil engineer, a woman called who also works in the Dira' and could be involved in any repair/re-decoration work, she was not there today. (b)(6)

We then walked down a track to the Dira's garage a sort of fenced yard (maybe 100m x 50m??) with breize block sheds (ie. 3 walls and a roof), none of which quite covered the equipment. More or less in the open there was a tanker, 2 tractors, 2 bulldozers/shovels, 1 scoop earth mover with an arm (is this thing called a back hoe?) it is a haffar in Arabic, all of which were said to work. There were also broken odds and ends and stacks of conveyor belts. 1 tractor said to have been looted and recovered. A large free standing shed on one side was said to contain only scrap items and was locked. (b)(6) would like to roof more of the area to cover the larger pieces of equipment. There is also small fuel store outside the compound and behind one of the sheds.

Back at the Dira' we met up again with Cdr mentioned a problem with some of the governorates standing ruins. (b)(6)

Kifl the suq Daniel and the Khan Said Nor and at Iskandiriyeh the Khan of the same name, all of which are in need of repair or construction.

and the other staff expressed concern about salaries and housing matters. Houses around the Dira belong to the SBAH and house sitting tenants who are either empyees or former employees. (b)(6) has been forced to move out of his, as it was thought he had another house, he says he does not. Cnd (b) promised to look into it. Other housing issues include squatters in the Babylon restaurant.

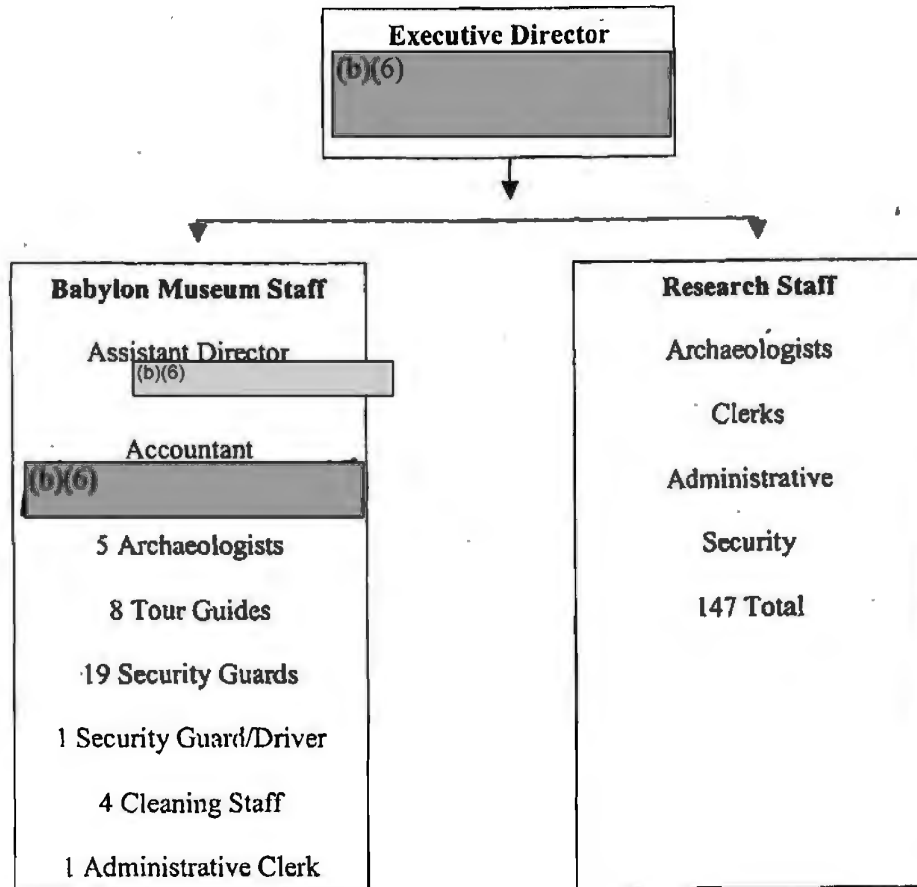
On the way back expressed concern about the damage to the amphitheatre and the state of the small Hammurabi museum and mentioned that the Babylon project had funds for budilign but not equipment.

Made arrangement to try to visit al Jaffarah on Saturday with to see the damage.

**Plan, Objectives and Milestones Outline
For
I MEF Babylon Project**

Date	Action	Action Person
21 Jun	Designate Administrator	OCPA
22 Jun	Announce New Administrator to Public	OCPA/CA Team
22 Jun	Call Meeting with Executive Committee	Administrator
24 Jun	Executive Committee Meeting Outline Table of Organization for Museum Outline Personnel requirements Outline Table of Equipment Establish Tour Procedures for Civilians to Manage Discuss Plans for Reconstruction (Phase I & II) Outline OCPA capabilities and financial support	(b)(6)
25 Jun	Submit Salary requirements	(b)(6)
27 Jun	Hire Staff & Bring Staff together Turn collected funds to Accountant Explain Payment procedures	(b)(6)
01 Jul	Executive Committee Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Reconstruction Progress • Plan to establish office for Administrator & staff • Review and develop Vendor Policy • Establish SOP for Museum business • Finalize Museum layout • Review Communications access – telephone, fax, etc. • Discuss Museum property and use of it (i.e.) offices/houses in Babylon City 	(b)(6)
04 Jul	Invite Museum Staff to I MEF 4 th of July Celebration	(b)(6)
05 Jul	Begin Law Enforcement Training for Museum Security	CA Team
08 Jul	Executive Committee Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Reconstruction Progress • Review refurbishment progress • Establish Security Policy and coordinated efforts w/ I MEF 	

**BABYLON CITY
TABLE OF ORGANIZATION**



(b)(6) (Ministry of Culture)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Saturday, July 05, 2003 3:38 PM
To: (b)(6) (Ministry of Culture) (b)(6) (Ministry of Culture)
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: RE: Babil gov / Babylon museum stuff (b)(6)

Dear (b)(6)

[CDR (b)(6)] currently has a list of 7 or 8 SBAH employees in Babylon under investigation for theft/corruption etc. When this investigation is complete it will then be a question of dismissing people against whom there is evidence or of retaining people if the accusations are without substance.

With regard to pay I had a conversation with a [Major (b)(6)] who works at the treasury in Hillah. The treasury is not a bank but it withdraws money from the bank and pays it out to civil servants etc. This arrangement grew out of the fact that paying out directly from the bank stopped all other business in the bank due to security considerations. (In July some time, this arrangement will change slightly in that it, the treasury, will authorize payment and then send the audit committee to withdraw the money from the bank at leisure) I enquired about the procedure that would be necessary for Maj (b)(6) treasury to release funds to an audit committee (for instance (b)(6) and (b)(6) of SBAH employees so that all the SBAH employees in Babil governorate could be paid. Maj (b)(6) said that the payroll would have to be authorized in Baghdad on paper, ie we would have to take a paper copy of the list to Baghdad for it to be signed and stamped and then bring it back to the treasury in Hillah who could then release the funds. This is the point of view of the treasury. (or Baghdad could just send us an authorized list if it generated one itself, I assume that by 'Baghdad' this might mean the interim cultural cabinet who acc to (b)(6) need to authorize the list (?). I am however still unclear whether it is the SBAH or the cultural cabinet or the min of cult to whom we present this payroll list if we do it that way around or perhaps the SBAH already has such a list? What is quite clear however from speaking with Maj (b)(6) is that we can not just email a list to the min of cult and receive an email back, a fax he said would be permissible but as the fax is not possible anyway, that only leaves paper copies of the payroll to be physically signed and stamped.

Anyway, just in case we will get a complete payroll list ready in the next few days (I will be looking at looted sites near Nejef tomorrow so it will have to be Monday) and then see how it can be authorized.

Unless (b)(6) you can tell me differently then I suppose we try to bring this list to Baghdad for authorization ?? I am still unclear as to the pay rates unless we just go with what we understand the old rates to have been ?? Perhaps (b)(6) could ask (b)(6) (if he is still around and has not gone to the Rencontre) about this if he has any insight.

I have been told by people in the HACC here that the cash is available in Hillah to pay May/June salaries for the Babil governorate. Unless (b)(6) has some certain knowledge that the pay for the SBAH employees is going to arrive by some other route then I think we assume we are going to have some dealings with the treasury in Hillah at some point.

Further clarification of a practical nature is always welcome.

regards

(b)(6)

(Ministry of Culture)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, July 08, 2003 6:07 PM
To: (b)(6) (Ministry of Culture)
Subject: pay saga continues

(b)(6)

Dear (b)(6)

you did say that (b)(6) and (b)(6) had visited the dept but not what was said. I've been sending queries about (b)(6) position as far as the SBAH are concerned for a while. here is todays pay saga, personally I would be quite happy to leave all the pay stuff alone as I am sure that (b)(6) and the SBAH can do it all on their own just fine.

9th July - the pay saga continues

This saga has occupied an inordinate amount of time and I suspect that if left alone the system would work just fine without me. However it is complicated by the specific position of Babylon and its museum inside a marine camp. There is also a complication re the position of (b)(6) whom the Marines/CPA South Central have installed as head of the Babylon project and (as I understand it) they regard her as the senior SBAH employee in the Babil governorate. I am not sure that the SBAH knows or agrees with any of this, I am unclear if the inspector is always the senior person in a governorate in which case the inspector for Babil gov is (b)(6). I don't know if the SBAH would be fine about (b)(6) appointment as long as it was clear that she was not the senior person in Babil gov but subordinate to (b)(6). As I understand it the MEF replaced the original inspector (the wife of (b)(6) whose name I forget) and also the original director of the museum (b)(6) although he is still working as a guide at the site) I think (b)(6) was the previous inspectors no 2, I don't know who appointed him to the inspectorship which he now holds.

(b)(6)

One of the complications is that the MEF see Babylon and its museum but do not really know much or anything about the Diraa al athar and therefore do not see the rest of the structure of which the museum is a part. (One result of this confusion is that the museum staff was led to see themselves as being separated off from the rest of the Diraa and thought that this might mean two salaries, as with expeditions in the past).

Another complication is that the Marines are convinced that the generation of a payroll is in their hands as well as the appointment of an auditing committee and they were busy with both of these when I arrived. I was a bit surprised as I was fairly sure that both (b)(6) and (b)(6) had said the SBAH would be organizing its own payroll and the handing out of salaries. As a result I sent several querying emails to Baghdad in case I was supposed to be doing something at this end.

(b)(6)

This week it is clear that a payroll has arrived from Baghdad and or been generated by (b)(6) and is now with the treasury in Hillah (although at present the treasury does not have enough cash to pay anyone). The treasury only needs the summary of how many employees on each pay grade there are, rather than their exact names. It was also clear that the audit committee that turned up at the treasury consisted of (b)(6) and Suad the accountant (all I assume appointed as such by the SBAH ??). The audit committee that the Marines had decided upon was (b)(6) and (b)(6). Faced with this CDR (b)(6) decided that just replacing (b)(6) with (b)(6) would be sufficient. I am very uneasy about all this and would not have become involved with the pay business at all if it had not been for the insistence of the Marines that it was our job to institute a payroll and the news that the treasury was unable to pay (which made me decide I had to go to the treasury to find out why). I am also uneasy about altering an

audit committee if it had been instituted by the SBAH, although the major in the treasury said I could do so in fact he also said I could change the payroll which I would also be very reluctant to do. I do now have a copy of payroll that was in [redacted] possession. It has a different no of employees than the list in progress with the Marines (but this may just be due to the fact that overseers (sheikhs) and guards without contracts are not included in [redacted] list. Originally the Marines at Babylon also had a different set of pay grades which also added some confusion esp since [Capt] [redacted] claimed to have these from the Hillah treasury (and they are not the same at all to the pay grades the Hillah treasury is using now).

(b)(6)

One other reason for confusion has been that we don't really know what [Capt] [redacted] was doing with regard to some matters and he has now gone to Kuwait. He told me that he had okayed [redacted] appointment with Baghdad but I have no idea which part of Baghdad, I think he may have communicated with military channels only and not perhaps with either the SBAH nor the Min of cult. He does seem to have had a lot of dealings with [redacted] though, so perhaps that is the key.

I would very much like some guidance from the Ministry as to the respective status of the various senior employees of the SBAH in Babil gov. ie the inspector, the dir of research and the museum director. I would also like to know if the SBAH is aware of and in agreement with (b)(6) appointment as dir of research ie head of the Babylon project and (b)(6) appointment as dir of the museum. Thirdly, it would be nice to know whether the audit committee should remain as it has been i.e. (b)(6) and (b)(6) or changed.

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

On Jul 7 2003, [redacted] (Ministry of Culture) wrote:

> Dear [redacted] Just tried to phone you as we've had some emails to say
> that
> you are ill. Is this true ?? Has someone got the wrong end of the stick ?
> I hope so.
>
> I thought I emailed you about the day that (b)(6) came to see
> (b)(6)
> They told her [redacted] etc., were all there too) that
> (b)(6) could not be making such separate decisions and that they would
> have to think about these things in the future. I then spoke to [redacted]
> and (b)(6) and told them about you but at no time as far as I am aware did
> they approve that proposal. For one thing it seemed to be setting up some
> kind of separate initiative.
> I forgot to tell you that your mother has sent an aerogram. Shall I
> keep it? there currently doesn't seem to be a way of getting post down to
> you. I declared officially that you had left as some people have been
> getting into trouble at the al Rashid but so far no one has been moved
> into your bed.
>
> I have been despairing a bit today as I had many people shouting at me
> at the museum. Even [redacted] seemed a bit disheartened. All those who can
> make a decision are at the Rencontre. I had another truck arrive with
> furniture etc., from Jordan & things were going wrong [redacted] was
> prancing about being annoying and yet another film crew turned up. I have
> wrangled some money out of the CPA for painting the offices and have
> arranged a contract for (b)(6) & negotiated a discount for the doors,
> windows etc., but can't seem to get through to him on the phone at all (&
> still haven't actually met him).
>
> I really do hope that you are well.
> Love,
> [redacted]
>
>
> -----Original Message-----

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

> From: (b)(6)
> Sent: Monday, July 07, 2003 3:52 PM
> To: (b)(6) (Ministry of Culture) b(c)
> Cc: (b)(6) (Ministry of Culture)
> Subject: RE: pay again etc

> Dear (b)(6) and (b)(6)

> While I was busy down in Nejef yesterday some of the museum staff went
> to the treasury in Hillah and it seems that money for salaries has
> arrived but that it is insufficient to pay everyone. There is some
> confusion as to the audit committee too, the Marines seem to think the
> audit committee is/should be (b)(6) and (b)(6) but the audit committee
> that went to the treasury was (b)(6) and (b)(6) who
> are presumably the committee chosen by the SBAH. We also heard that the
> payroll list has arrived at the treasury also from Baghdad. CDR (b)(6)
> and I are going to the treasury tomorrow to find out about the problem
> with the money being insufficient to pay everyone. CDR (b)(6) seems to
> still think we need to put in a payroll list to the treasury, but as far
> as I can see if the SBAH has already put a list into the treasury there
> is no need for this.

> (b)(6), I did have the slight feeling that there might be a difference
> of
> opinion as to (b)(6) position between the SBAH and the MEF (Marine
> expeditionary force). (b)(6) has apparently seen the MEF plan for the
> museum which lists (b)(6) as director of the Babylon project and did not at
> the time raise any objection (this is acc to (b)(6)). The MEF document says
> they had agreed (b)(6) appointment with the SBAH, but this may be news to
> the SBAH.

> I am finding all this stuff very confusing. I think the presence of
> the
> Marines here and their involvement in the museum has led to a an extra
> layer of confusion (although obviously that is not their intention).

> On Jul 6 2003, (b)(6) (Ministry of Culture) wrote:

> .
> > I'm trying to get an 'organogram' as (b)(6) calls it for the SBAH &
> > the
> > various museums etc., We want to know who is who and what are their job
> > descriptions. I asked about Babylon and mentioned (b)(6) and will
> > give you more info in another email but according to (b)(6) and (b)(6)
> > (who is currently in the absence of (b)(6) the acting director of
> > the museum) (b)(6) is just a researcher and should not be making
> > decisions down there. I shall find out more.

(b)(6)

(Ministry of Culture)

From:

(b)(6)

Sent:

Monday, July 21, 2003 7:53 PM

To:

(b)(6) (Ministry of Culture)

Cc:

(b)(6) (Ministry of Culture)

Subject:

Meeting at Diraat report

Babylon



Meeting Diraat 20th
July.doc (4...

Dear both,

am attaching short report on meeting at the local antiquities office. Did not quite get everyone's names but perhaps I will run through the personnel list with [redacted] sometime and get a better idea of who does what. Have been photoing the state of the greek theatre buildings and the small temples and the repairs to the museum (its a bit dark inside so it is mostly exterior shots). The decorating contractor has mended the ziguarat model and it looks quite good. I spent today measuring fencing to be repaired in the morning. [CPR] (b)(6) and (b)(6) went off for a meeting about the FPS. We had a workign lunch with ITC (b)(6) re activities at Camp Babylon. I said the min of cult needed a report of all the recent modifications for record purposes, he was fine with that so I will do a tour poss on friday. We established that no more earth movign activities are planned nor heavy vehicle movements over the mounds. Although the no. of people in the camp may increase slightly with the Poles now arriving before the marines start to retrograde the only difference this will make is that one of the helicopter pads will have tents on it.

hope all is well with you, have a good holiday [redacted]

(b)(6)

Meeting at the Diraat al Athar Babylon 20th July

(b)(6) (b)(6)

This meeting was requested by local archaeologists and Babylon museum staff and guards around 40 of whom turned up (b)(6) chaired the meeting (b)(6) the inspector was not present. Many of the archeologists from the Babil governorate have also worked on other expeditions further south and even in the north. One person from the Diwaniye office who lives in Hillah also turned up (b)(6). There were two people from the Assur team, one from the Ur team, ditto (b)(6) and leaders of the teams from Umm al Agarib (b)(6) and other members of his team (b)(6) and (b)(6) accountant of the expedition, (b)(6) and (b)(6). There was even someone who has worked at al Assaya and Abu Skreyr (b)(6) the looted sites that I had visited near Nejef. (I had not known that the Dept. had been excavating these particular sites near Nejef.)

Many of these sites were being excavated in recent years because of the looting problem. the SBAH tried to put archaeologists at looted sites as a way of keeping the looters away. The archaeologists suggested that this might be a way of dealing with the looting again and asked when excavation might resume. I was told that a year's work at a site would cost around 20 to 25 million ID as well as 5 mill ID to prepare machines (maintenance). I was not quite clear what these machines were. I said that the continuation of excavation immediately depended on the budget of the SBAH and I am unsure if they have budgeted for excavation in this financial year.

As well as resuming excavation they had the following suggestions about improving the security of sites.

Extension of farming, extra eyes in the countryside if more areas are farmed. (I am not necessarily convinced that this would work.)

Work with the local sheikhs, pay them if necessary or divide and rule with the different tribes.

Build excavation houses at the site.

Every expedition needs phones to communicate any problems

Co-operation required with the police and the local governor as well as the local antiquities dept.

I mentioned the antiquity police idea which I think everyone already knows about as the Governor of the Babil (b)(6) went over to the Diraat a few days ago about this and today (b)(6) was not there because he and the governor were out looking at sites. The response in general was that that fine as a long term solution but what about right now?.

The security situation was of great concern. And although the archaeologists were keen to get back into the field to deter the looters the fact that this might not be entirely safe was also on their minds. It transpired as discussion continued that several of the expedition dig houses had been burnt and looted for instance those at Tell Shmid, Umm al Aqarib and Jokha. I was not entirely clear if this was very recent i.e. during the war or whether

this was a problem dating back to the pre-recent war period. Either way while the archaeologists wanted to improve the security of the sites by going into the field it also seemed that the security had to improve in general for them to move back into these areas. The dig house at Abel Antiq was said to be all right. I tried to find out exactly where this site was but the directions were vague it seems it is in the north of the Qadisiyeh governorate/south of Babil Governorate. I need to take a very detailed map and go through some of the small village names with someone who knows the area well.

The one person who felt he could go back to work at his site in safety was the person who worked at Ur, as it is now in the Talil airbase, [REDACTED] did not think this was such a good idea.

One person [REDACTED] (accountant to the Jokha and Umm al Aqarib teams) reminded us that many of the sites being looted were not and never had been excavated and it was important not to lose sight of them.

(b)(6)

There were a series of questions about Babylon itself

1.. When would the site once again be open to all visitors

The answer to this seems to be in 3 to 6 months when the Marines leave, I believe the boundaries of the current camp will contract when it is just the Poles there. I will check to make sure I have got that right.

2. Could the museum be enlarged ?

My answer to this was that the rules about CPA funds was that we could repair war and looting damage but could not build new buildings at the present time. (I have been told this is the rule for the various discretionary funds we are presently using to repair the museum). I think we are also allowed to demolish anything that is unsafe. So we were going to repair the museum and its administrative offices but could not build new parts of the museum. Someone joked that this funding rule might be got around if the accountant was given a salary increase.

3. Were there plans to repair the Hammurabi museum (this question from the people who used to work in it [REDACTED])

I replied that at the present time our immediate repair plans were for the museum administration offices and there were no immediate plans to repair the Hammurabi museum. We were aware that both it and the Courtyard south of the Greek theatre had damage as a result of the looting. I was planning to photograph this and send the record to Baghdad.

4. Was there money available for items like vehicle repairs ?

I was able to reply that the Ministry of Culture had indeed sent funds for operating expenses to the treasury in Hillah that should be there and which they could collect part of and pay for vehicle repairs. (However I was also warned in a staff meeting this week that someone in the Ministry of Finance had frozen such operating funds, so we will see if the audit committee is able to access these funds and if they have indeed arrived.)

5. A salaries question. People said they had received 30\$ but not \$50 promised. I tried to explain that the 30\$ they had just received plus the \$20 that everyone had received with/before the April pay made a total of \$50. (b)(6) had told people that they were going to get a \$50 stipend but I think he was adding the \$20 & \$30 to make 50 and perhaps this was not clear to people and they therefore expected the \$30 to be \$50. People then said they had not in fact received the \$20. Well, when I last visited the Diraat I was told that people had received the \$20 and the pay for April. (b)(6) said she had discussed this with the SBAH accountant in Baghdad the day before and that it was only the Babil governorate that had not received the \$20. I am not convinced that they are necessarily owed any extra money here, I think it may be a misunderstanding, but I said I would report it to Baghdad.

There were some personnel issues raised by one of the guards which (b)(6) said they could deal with later. (b)(6) asked about the SBAH houses in Babylon. (b)(6) told him she was reporting on the whole situation to the SBAH in Baghdad.

With that and general thanks to everyone the meeting closed.

On the whole I felt it was a good meeting in which people got things off their chests. I thought it reflected well on their general professionalism that their first questions were all archaeological first the sites they had worked at in the south and the looting problem, then the state of Babylon and its museums and lastly the pay issue. The head of the Umm al Aqarib team (b)(6) seemed particularly on the ball. Also some sorting out and tidying up had taken place since I visited last, the personnel office was now in use for instance.

(b)(6)

(b)(6) (Ministry of Culture)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, July 18, 2003 3:40 PM
To: (b)(6) (Ministry of Culture)
Cc: (b)(6) (Ministry of Culture)
Subject: antiquity police/FPS

dear (b)(6)

RE the antiquity police.

The understanding down here is as you say that such police would go onto the payroll of the ministry of culture next year but that CPA SC would pay for them for the rest of this year once they are set up. (b)(6) has spoken to the governor of Babil (b)(6) about the matter and both are in favour of the idea. (b)(6) had a further conversation with the governor on the more practical details and has suggested that we try to get the governor and (b)(6) to work on the details of a plan which CPA SC will then fund (at least to start with).

I am going to the Diraa in Hillah/babylon on sunday to see (b)(6) so I will ask him about the antiquity police then, the archaeologists of Babil have asked for this meeting. It was going to be on saturday but it now seems that (b)(6) is going to be in Baghdad on saturday, so (b)(6) may see her in the Museum. I am trying to work out how to get the other archaeologists from the Diraa permission to get to the museum if they need to.

Re FPS I am unsure about this idea except for the guards at Babylon itself, CDR (b)(6) thinks it would work for outlying archaeological sites but I am doubtful. However he is finding out more about the details of the whole system with (b)(6). I suppose if it provides even some extra interim guards or training for the existing guards of the museum then that would be useful.

(b)(6)

Thursday 26th June Report - (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Went to the Babylon museum with (b)(6) (interpreter) to see museum staff and find (b)(6). Ran into (b)(6) just inside the gate, introduced myself, brief chat about the museum, met one of the employees (b)(6) and went to speak to (b)(6) in her doorless, windowless office behind the museum (spaces for doors/windows but nothing in them). General intro and chat about who I was and what I hoped to be doing. I mentioned cooperation with the SBAH and that I hoped to have a letter from (b)(6) soon, also spoke about the possible needs of the Diraa for equipment and the looting problem.

They don't have authority to employ more staff.

(b)(6) raised the problem of salaries, April paid, but nothing for May or June. (b)(6) mentioned that Capt (b)(6) was getting approval for salaries, Capt (b)(6) liaison with Baghdad (I assume the min. of cult. is the min with which he liaises). The May/June payroll includes both existing employees and new ones. There was a discussion of the new salary classifications and that in the past the salaries of Iraqis were made up of basic salary and bonus the latter being as much as x3 the basic salary. (b)(6) raised question of once the marines leave who are the SBAH employees supposed to approach about owed salary, was it ORHA or the SBAH? I said the SBAH as both (b)(6) and (b)(6) had told me that the arrangement for pay was for 2 or 3 people from the branch office of each governorate to go to Baghdad, collect the cash and then pay the staff in each governorate. (b)(6) mentioned the importance of paying site guards well. There was a slight difference of opinion about the new payroll for which (b)(6) was making a list, she said how important it was for employees to continue to be employed, whereas (b)(6) suggested that just because people had been employed in the past was not on its own a reason to employ them in the future. As we got ready to go and see (b)(6) at the Diraa offices, (b)(6) told me that (b)(6) had a key position as far as they were concerned and that they were hoping to establish her authority to execute things so she could just carry on once they left. (b)(6) encouraged me to work through (b)(6) whenever possible. He also mentioned the Babylon project, divided into 2 parts the research group at Babylon headed by (b)(6) and the museum staff perhaps soon to be headed by (b)(6) (check) (replacing (b)(6) a change that has not quite happened yet). The building has 2 phases: 1. rebuilding the shop, museum, public utilities and police post/station in front. Phase 2 is the rebuilding of the offices for the museum and the Babylon research project a possible part of phase 2 is the restaurant (although that seems much less vital) (NB there used to be a dir flat attached or above the museum which is not being rebuilt so the dir will now live elsewhere). (b)(6) is dealing with the bids for phase 2.

who is funding this?

So off to the Dira' offices and luckily (b)(6) was there. Introductions (b)(6) had told him I was coming. I asked about the looting problem. (b)(6) mentioned two sites Al-Hashimiyeh which is Neelien (Nile i.e. Abbasid) and in the Nahet al Mat-hatamiyeh in the direction of Kut and

Al-Jaffara, a Babylonian site in the Nahet al Kifil, close to Nejef, so in the extreme south of the Babylon governorate, neither of these sites at present has guards. We asked about the guards in general (b)(6) had a large book with the names of sites and their guards. There followed a slightly confusing conversation about guards and sites.

75 guards in the Babil governorate each of whom guards more than one site although there are a total of 140 guards in the province, the extra guards above the 75 site guards are part time or guard the Dira's buildings and equipment (?), so 65 non site guards (?). It was then established that (b)(6) new payroll list was going to include all the site guards as well. (It also seemed that the 75 figures were those guards appointed officially by one order and therefore did not include anyone extra taken on later as the need arose??) There was still some confusion. (b)(6) saying that he only knew of 30 guards on the payroll, which left 45 guards unaccounted for to bring us up to 75. Then there was something about the new payroll list having only 20 guards and then it

75 full time guards
65 part time guards

?

was said that there were 96 guards for arch sites, by which time I was totally confused. [redacted] however had a doorstop size booklet with the details of guards and sites. (I had seen a less detailed version of this kind of thing for the whole of Iraq by governorate and had borrowed it from (b)(6) to pc the relevant governorates in the Heartland provinces.) (b)(6) version was obviously a lot more detailed with only about 2 sites to a page and by the looks of things the employment history of each guard. The last on the payroll was that there were acc to (b)(6) around 146 or 147 people on the payroll of whom 40 were for the Babylon museum, 30 archaeologists/clerks/accountants and about 96 guards of various kinds (sites, the SBAH buildings etc) although it was then said that 139 was the grand total of guards of all kinds. (b)(6) said he would soon have a complete list of employees.

40
30
96
166 ?

*Could they
come from the
State Dept.*

Question of cars and the ability of the antiquities staff to get to sites. The Dira' had lost its new vehicles to looters, but retained two old 1980s pickups with (acc to (b)(6)) more than 50K km on the clock. It was generally felt (by (b)(6)) that 3 new pickups was the minimum needed, 1 for HQ and 2 for patrols. (I think this is the most essential item for the Dira' in Babylon, if the staff cant get out to sites they can do little work and would not be able to check up on either the guards or sites.)

We then got onto the Dira's building and equipment. (b)(6) wants to expand the office. [redacted] mentioned that the museum rebuilding (2nd phase) might result in more office space over there which should also be taken into account, although it was also pointed out that the Dira' and museum offices were not quite in the same place. (b)(6) pointed out re office equipment that they had no phones of any kind and suggested 4 sat phones, 1 for each vehicle and 1 for the office. Obviously the office does need some kind of phone but hopefully at some point there will be land lines?.

I then had a tour of the building.

On the whole it looked reasonably solid, could definitely do with decorating (some rooms more so than others), signs of leaks down some walls and seems to have a roof problem, it has a chinko roof (corrugated iron). Replacing the roof would be a major repair. I am also unclear if the chinko is all of the roof or just the map room. ?

Ground floor (or first floor if you are American). Entrance porch with directors office on the left and a large L shaped 'sofa room' ahead, once in the sofa room there were two doors in the right wall, the further one to a small store/archive room the nearer one to a 'personnel office'.

Contents

Directors office: large desk and armchairs, not much else.

Sofa room: sofas and armchairs, all of which have seen better days, acts as waiting room several people sitting, either employees or persons waiting to speak to [redacted]

Small store/archive room: Shelves with archive papers to left and stack of armchairs recovered from, or rejected by, looters, room kept locked. Stack of legs for dumpy levels or theodolites, I asked if they had what went on top of the legs but no (b)(6) says looted.

Personnel office: I seem to remember a desk or two but no chairs. Also locked ?

Stairs to the left in the sofa room lead to first floor(UK)/second floor(US).

A landing with 4 offices leading off it and a small non-operational bathroom, no water to this one, although I think there might be a similar facility downstairs off the sofa room which I did not investigate. Another set of stairs, presumably to the roof ??.

Offices:

Archaeological office: no fan, desk and 2 stands for drawing boards but the board parts missing (looted).

Office for archaeologists and the accountant leads off the previous arch. office. Can't remember what this one had in it. Used by arch staff and sometimes by the accountant, although they also said they wanted another office for him.

Legal advisor office, this person is a recent appointment. Contents: 2 desks, broken sofa, a fan, no chairs, blocked door between this office and the arch office.

Map room. One of the largest rooms, similar in size and shape to the sofa room. 4 windows, so plenty of light. Contents: 1 table with piles of maps/plans, more piles of these on the floor.

(b)(6) wants to make this into two rooms. Signs of roof leaks down walls.

Extra archaeological staff room leading off the map room. Contents: 3 desks (1 has a badly split top), 1 metal cupboard, 3 nice big windows, balcony and a fan.

There was also I think a locked door on the landing of a room we did not go into (assuming it was a room) mentioned a/c and the possibility of a fence around the building to separate it from the houses on either side.

There was also said to be a labourers hall or room somewhere else which was locked and unused that had been used by the teams of workmen engaged in the restoration activities in the 1980s, perhaps accommodation?. It was said to include an archive. We did not visit this.

mentioned the name of a civil engineer, a woman called who also works in the Dira' and could be involved in any repair/re-decoration work, she was not there today.

We then walked down a track to the Dira's garage a sort of fenced yard (maybe 100m x 50m??) with breeze block sheds (ie. 3 walls and a roof), none of which quite covered the equipment. More or less in the open there was a tanker, 2 tractors, 2 bulldozers/shovels, 1 scoop earth mover with an arm (is this thing called a back hoe?) it is a haffar in Arabic, all of which were said to work. There were also broken odds and ends and stacks of conveyor belts. 1 tractor said to have been looted and recovered. A large free standing shed on one side was said to contain only scrap items and was locked. (b)(6) would like to roof more of the area to cover the larger pieces of equipment. There is also small fuel store outside the compound and behind one of the sheds.

Back at the Dira' we met up again with Cdr mentioned a problem with some of the governorates standing ruins.

Kifl the suq Daniel and the Khan Said Nor and at Iskandiriyeh the Khan of the same name, all of which are in need of repair or construction.

(b)(6) and the other staff expressed concern about salaries and housing matters. Houses around the Dira belong to the SBAH and house sitting tenants who are either employees or former employees. (b)(6) has been forced to move out of his, as it was thought he had another house, he says he does not. (b)(6) promised to look into it. Other housing issues include squatters in the Babylon restaurant.

On the way back expressed concern about the damage to the amphitheatre and the state of the small Hammurabi museum and mentioned that the Babylon project had funds for building but not equipment.

Made arrangement to try to visit al Jaffarah on Saturday with to see the damage.

There are no Ministry funds available for anyone unless they are in the 2003 Budget.

of this riverside area is the site of building debris that was presumably left over from the building of the Saddam Palace. The track at the base and to the west of the Saddam mound has been 'prepped' (ie. Skimmed, earth dumped, watered, compacted) and graveled. It is regularly watered to keep the dust down.

Gravel has been added to an area west of the tarmacked car park that is immediately west of the Greek amphitheatre. Presumably this area was prepped also. A couple of fuel tankers are parked on this area close to the fence with the car park. An extension of this graveled area was observed in progress on 17th July up to the fence of the Hammurabi museum and was sufficiently alarming with bulldozing, steam rolling to compact the earth etc. that [REDACTED] and I intervened and asked the camp commandant (LTC [REDACTED]) to stop the work and not to use the area as a truck park as originally intended.

(b)(6)

An area north of this was starting to be used to store containers from trucks and these have now been moved to the paved car park at the east entrance to the site. In the area west of the amphitheatre where archaeological deposits are right at the surface the trucking of heavy machinery is likely to cause considerable damage. On the 25th July a 'ditch witch' was observed in use in this area, cutting into an area of mound to lay a cable. The driver was asked to desist and agreed, his work does not seem to have authorized by LTC [REDACTED]

To the north west of the amphitheatre are two fuel bladders surrounded by earth birms (ridges). It is not entirely clear where the earth for these came from, whether it was trucked in from outside the camp or the result of earth moving within the camp. Also in this area is a possible Iraqi army bunker position the construction of which is different to the Coalition bunkers.

Helicopter landing zones

It is in these areas that some of the most extensive surface bulldozing took place. The northern landing zone or LZ is NW of the amphitheatre, east of the processional way and west of one of the lakes. One part of this LZ is an already tarmacked area, this was then extended by bulldozing areas of the mounds flat and compacting them etc. One of these areas was described as clumpy or lumpy. I do not know if these were the remains of excavated mud brick walls that were eroding or the irregular surface of unexcavated mounds, either way the surface was bulldozed flat. It seems likely that this will have damaged archaeological deposits as they are generally close to the surface in this part of the site.

The southern landing zone near the southern ECP (entry check point) to the west of the road was apparently mostly gardens with ridges and ditches for irrigation like the remaining area immediately north of it. These ridges were bulldozed flat, red earth dumped and compacted and watered. It is then watered each day. A number of bunkers were dug into this area especially on its northern and western sides. The sections in all of these were scrutinized and none had any archaeological deposits in them. All seem to be agricultural soil/river silt. Some of the bunkers utilized the concrete bunker sections which reduce greatly the amount of digging that is done. In other areas of the site, concrete above ground bunkers are the norm.

BABYLON Employees2

1979

Page 1

NAME	SPECIALIZATION	DETAIL	CLASSIFICATION	SALARY	US \$
	ARCHAEOLOGIST		PROFESSIONAL	300	300-3500
	ACCOUNTANT		PROFESSIONAL	300	300
	ADMINISTRATOR	TRANSLATOR	PROFESSIONAL		300
	ARCHAEOLOGIST		PROFESSIONAL		300
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	ARCHAEOLOGIST		PROFESSIONAL	100	300
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	ADMINISTRATOR	"	CLERICAL	300K	200
	ACCOUNTANT	CLERK PROJECT	CLERICAL	300K	200
	STORE RESPONSIBLE		CLERICAL		200
	MECHANICAL		CLERICAL		200
	ADMINISTRATOR		CLERICAL		200
	METAL		CLERICAL		200
	LAWYER		PROFESSIONAL		300
	ADMINISTRATOR	CLERK	CLERICAL	200K10	200
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BABYLON Employees

Page 3

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BABYLON Employees

Page 4

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NAME

SPECIALIZATION

CLASSIFICATION

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Executive	400
TRANSLATOR (GUIDE)	Clerical	200
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TRANSLATOR (GUIDE)	Clerical	200
ENGINEERING	Professional	300
ARCHEOLOGIC	Professional	300
ARCHEOLOGIC	Professional	300
ARCHEOLOGIC	Professional	300
ARCHEOLOGIC	Professional	300
ARCHEOLOGIC	Professional	300
ACCOUNTANT	Professional	300
ADMINISTRATOR	Clerical	200
DRIVER/GUARD	Clerical	200
GUARD	Clerical	200
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MUSEUM EMPLOYEES ONLY

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NAME MARIAM



SPECIALIZATION	CLASSIFICATION	
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Executive	400
TRANSLATOR (GUIDE)	Clerical	200
TRANSLATOR (GUIDE)	Clerical	200
TRANSLATOR (GUIDE)	Clerical	200
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TRANSLATOR (GUIDE)	Clerical	200
ENGINEERING CIVIL ENGINEER	Professional	300
ARCHAEOLOGIC ARCHAEOLOGIST	Professional	300
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ARCHAEOLOGIC	Professional	300
ARCHAEOLOGIC	Professional	300
ACCOUNTANT	Professional	300
ADMINISTRATOR	Clerical	200
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MUSEUM EMPLOYEES ONLY

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	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Executive	400
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	ENGINEERING	Professional	300
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	ARCHEOLOGIC	Professional	300
	ARCHEOLOGIC	Professional	300
	ARCHEOLOGIC	Professional	300
	ACCOUNTANT	Professional	300
	ADMINISTRATOR	Clerical	200
	DRIVER/GUARD	Clerical	200
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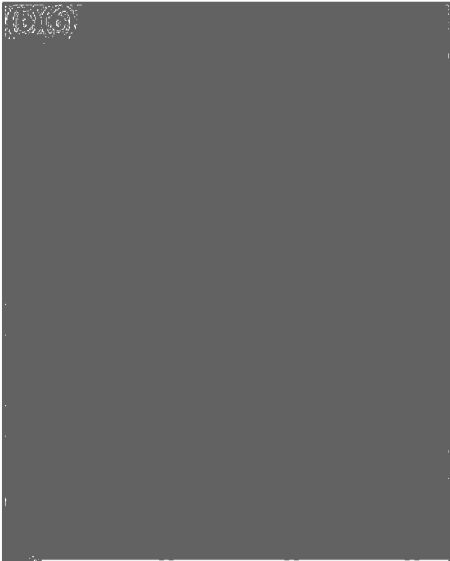
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SPECIALIZED CLASSIFICATION

SALARY

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ARCHAEOLOGIST Professional

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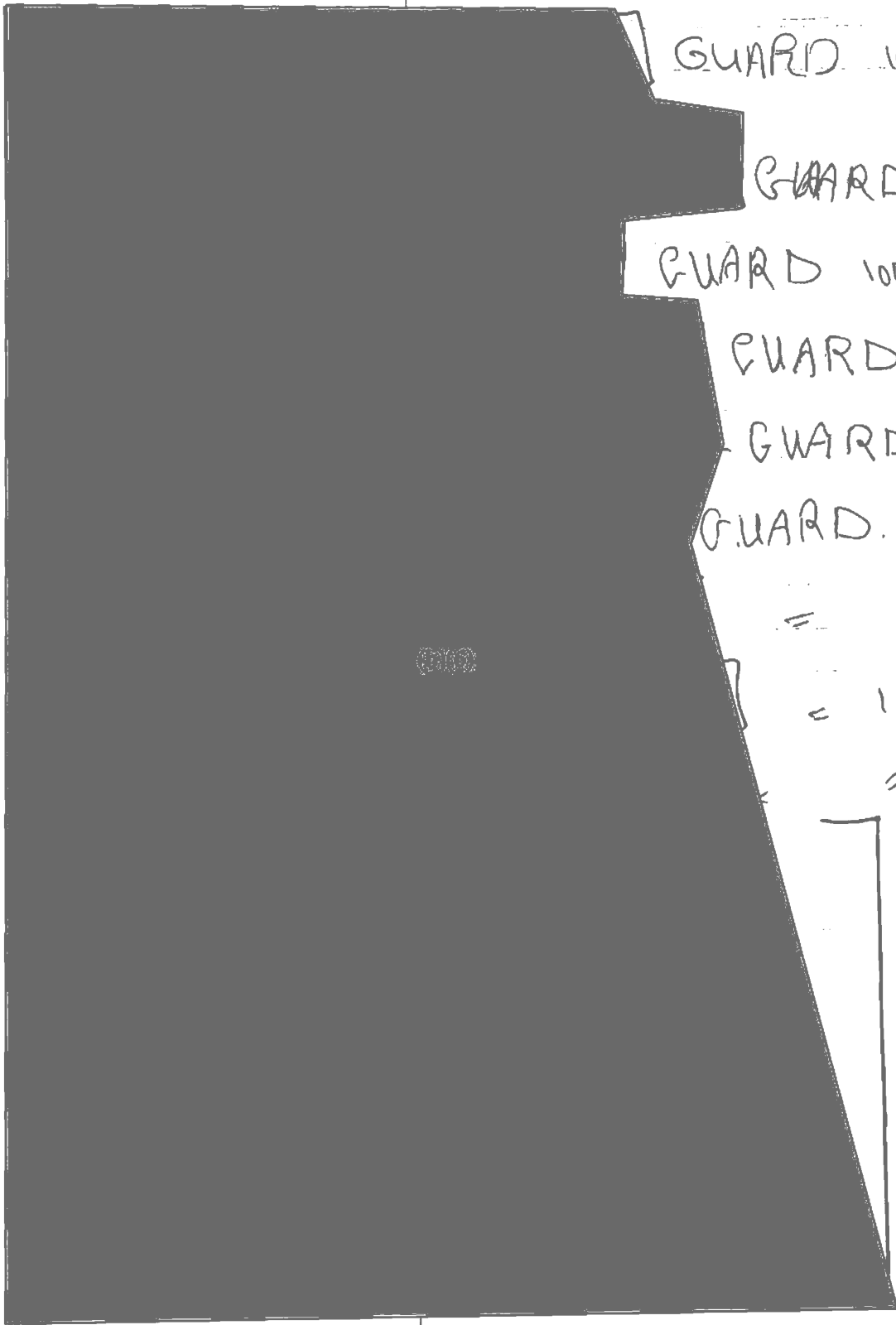
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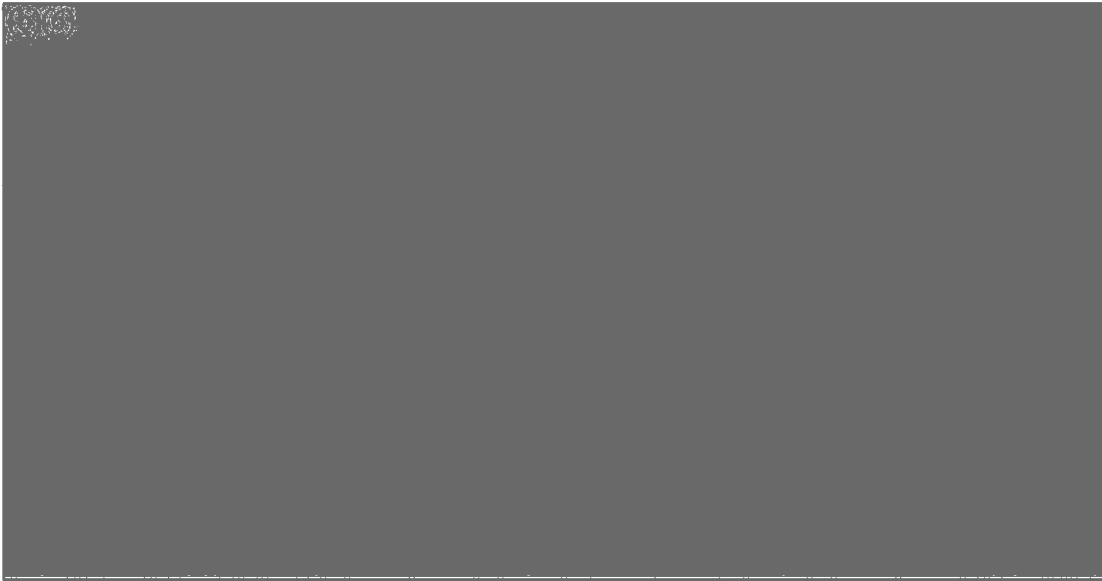
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