

Iraqi Opposition

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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

To: Condoleezza Rice
 Steve Hadley
 Richard Armitage
 Paul Wolfowitz
 John McLaughlin
 General Peter Pace

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL
 Authority: EO 13526
 Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
 Date: JUN 10 2019

SUBJECT: Khalilzad Conversation with Masoud Barzani,
 Jalal Talabani, Ahmad Chalabi (S)

DATE: March 5, 2003

Khalilzad spoke with Masoud Barzani, Jalal Talabani, and Ahmad Chalabi on March 5, 2003.

Chalabi was on his way back to Northern Iraq from Turkey where he met with the Turkish Deputy Foreign Minister and Undersecretary Ziyal. Chalabi said he was positive about relations with Turkey after his meetings and that the Turks had no objection to the form of government in Iraq, including federalism, as long as it was decided on by all Iraqis. Chalabi noted that he would like to see the trilaterals with the United States and Turkey take place next week. He also voiced his concern about the recent demonstrations in Irbil.

Talabani was also positive about developments in Kurdish-Turkish relations. He noted that the head of Turkish General Staff had said that the Kurdish people in northern Iraq are the Turks brothers, that the two should help one another and should not provoke the other. He was also upset by the demonstrations in Irbil and had agreed with Barzani to discourage such provocations in the future. He has issued a statement denouncing the demonstrations. He told Khalilzad that he is sending Barham Saleh to talk with the TGS and Turkish Foreign Minister to improve relations. Talabani noted that he and Barzani had agreed to a joint leadership between the PUK and KDP, including joint high command of the pesh merga. Barzani, Talabani noted, has resisted the idea of completely collapsing their governments, including having only one prime minister.

Barzani expressed regret over the burning of the Turkish flag during recent demonstrations and said he would issue a statement tomorrow against the leftists who did it. He committed himself

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to working hard against future demonstrations. On the Turkomen issue, Barzani said he would like the Turkomen representative on the leadership council to be chosen by the Turkomen in the 65-person advisory committee. He said that was the only fair way of making the decision, rather than leaving it up to the ITF.

All three leaders agreed that the members of the various committees developed at the recent conference would be finalized on Sunday and would be sent to U.S. officials. They also agreed that they, the United States and the leadership council should meet before or after the upcoming trilaterals in Ankara (or later in Europe if the trilaterals do not take place).

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