

For Six Month Period Ending 11/30
Dec 31, 2007
(Insert date)

I - REGISTRANT

1. (a) Name of Registrant (b) Registration No.

American Business Development Group

5810

- (c) Business Address(es) of Registrant

2800 S. Shirlington Road, Arlington, VA 22206

2. Has there been a change in the information previously furnished in connection with the following:

- (a) If an individual:
- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| (1) Residence address | Yes ☐ | No ☒ |
| (2) Citizenship | Yes ☐ | No ☒ |
| (3) Occupation | Yes ☐ | No ☒ |
- (b) If an organization:
- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| (1) Name | Yes ☐ | No ☒ |
| (2) Ownership or control | Yes ☐ | No ☒ |
| (3) Branch offices | Yes ☒ | No ☐ |

- (c) Explain fully all changes, if any, indicated in items (a) and (b) above.

Opening of a branch office for International Business Development located at:

1201 Main Street
Capital City Center, Suite 910
Columbia, SC 29201

IF THE REGISTRANT IS AN INDIVIDUAL, OMIT RESPONSE TO ITEMS 3, 4 AND 5(a).

3. If you have previously filed Exhibit C¹, state whether any changes therein have occurred during this 6 month reporting period.

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, have you filed an amendment to the Exhibit C? Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, please attach the required amendment.

¹ The Exhibit C, for which no printed form is provided, consists of a true copy of the charter, articles of incorporation, association, and by laws of a registrant that is an organization. (A waiver of the requirement to file an Exhibit C may be obtained for good cause upon written application to the Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20530.)

4. (a) Have any persons ceased acting as partners, officers, directors or similar officials of the registrant during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Position	Date connection ended
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- (b) Have any persons become partners, officers, directors or similar officials during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Residence address	Citizenship	Position	Date assumed
Edward O'Donnell	36 Running Fox Road Columbia, SC 29223	USA	Director, Int'l Business Development	Oct 1, 2007

5. (a) Has any person named in item 4(b) rendered services directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, identify each such person and describe his service.

- (b) Have any employees or individuals, who have filed a short form registration statement, terminated their employment or connection with the registrant during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Position or connection	Date terminated
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- (c) During this 6 month reporting period, has the registrant hired as employees or in any other capacity, any persons who rendered or will render services to the registrant directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal(s) in other than a clerical or secretarial, or in a related or similar capacity? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Residence address	Citizenship	Position	Date assumed
Edward O'Donnell	36 Running Fox Road Columbia, SC 29223	USA	Director, Int'l Business Development	Oct 1, 2007

6. Have short form registration statements been filed by all of the persons named in Items 5(a) and 5(c) of the supplemental statement? Yes ☐ No ☒

If no, list names of persons who have not filed the required statement.

Edward O'Donnell. Mr. O'Donnell is in the process of completing the form and, in preparation for 2008, will be submitting the form within the next two weeks. To date, he has not performed any services related to this foreign principal.

II - FOREIGN PRINCIPAL

7. Has your connection with any foreign principal ended during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name of foreign principal

Date of termination

8. Have you acquired any new foreign principal² during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name and address of foreign principal

Date acquired

9. In addition to those named in Items 7 and 8, if any, list foreign principals² whom you continued to represent during the 6 month reporting period.

Kurdistan Regional Government

10. **EXHIBITS A AND B**

(a) Have you filed for each of the newly acquired foreign principals in Item 8 the following:

Exhibit A ³	Yes ☐	No ☐
Exhibit B ⁴	Yes ☐	No ☐

If no, please attach the required exhibit.

(b) Have there been any changes in the Exhibits A and B previously filed for any foreign principal whom you represented during the 6 month period? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, have you filed an amendment to these exhibits? Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, please attach the required amendment.

² The term "foreign principal" includes, in addition to those defined in Section 1(b) of the Act, an individual organization any of whose activities are directly or indirectly supervised, directed, controlled, financed, or subsidized in whole or in major part by a foreign government, foreign political party, foreign organization or foreign individual. (Sec Rule 100(a) (9).) A registrant who represents more than one foreign principal is required to list in the statements he files under the Act only those principals for whom he is not entitled to claim exemption under Section 3 of the Act. (See Rule 208.)

³ The Exhibit A, which is filed on Form CRM-157 (Formerly OBD-67), sets forth the information required to be disclosed concerning each foreign principal.

⁴ The Exhibit B, which is filed on Form CRM-155 (Formerly OBD-65), sets forth the information concerning the agreement or understanding between the registrant and the foreign principal.

III - ACTIVITIES

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11. During this 6 month reporting period, have you engaged in any activities for or rendered any services to any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, identify each such foreign principal and describe in full detail your activities and services:

Kurdistan Regional Government: Communicated and facilitated meetings for foreign principal with Members of Congress and Congressional staff as well as Executive Branch agencies; specifically the Departments of Defense and Commerce.

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12. During this 6 month reporting period, have you on behalf of any foreign principal engaged in political activity⁵ as defined below? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, identify each such foreign principal and describe in full detail all such political activity, indicating, among other things, the relations, interests and policies sought to be influenced and the means employed to achieve this purpose. If the registrant arranged, sponsored or delivered speeches, lectures or radio and TV broadcasts, give details as to dates and places of delivery, names of speakers and subject matter.

Kurdistan Regional Government:

1. Organized a fundraising breakfast for Congressman Steve Rothman on 6/27/07.
2. Organized a dinner honoring the Deputy Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government attended by US business leaders and officials of the Departments of Defense and Commerce.

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13. In addition to the above described activities, if any, have you engaged in activity on your own behalf which benefits any or all of your foreign principals? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, describe fully.

⁵ The term "political activities" means any activity that the person engaging in believes will, or that the person intends to, in any way influence any agency or official of the Government of the United States or any section of the public within the United States with reference to formulating, adopting or changing the domestic or foreign policies of the United States or with reference to the political or public interests, policies, or relations of a government of a foreign country or a foreign political party.

IV - FINANCIAL INFORMATION

14. (a) RECEIPTS-MONIES

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal, any contributions, income or money either as compensation or otherwise? Yes ☒ No ☐

If no, explain why.

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies⁶

Date	From whom	Purpose	Amount
June - Dec 2007	Kurdistan Regional Government	Monthly retainer of \$10,000 / month	\$70,000
Oct 31, 2007	"	Consulting services one-time bonus	\$10,000
July and August 2007	"	Study of Kurdish American business alliance	\$30,000
			<u>\$110,000</u>
			Total

(b) RECEIPTS - FUND RAISING CAMPAIGN

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received, as part of a fund raising campaign⁷, any money on behalf of any foreign principal named in items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, have you filed an Exhibit D⁸ to your registration? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, indicate the date the Exhibit D was filed. Date _____

(c) RECEIPTS - THINGS OF VALUE

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received any thing of value⁹ other than money from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name of foreign principal	Date received	Description of thing of value	Purpose
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^{6, 7} A registrant is required to file an Exhibit D if he collects or receives contributions, loans, money, or other things of value for a foreign principal, as part of a fund raising campaign. (See Rule 201(e).)

⁸ An Exhibit D, for which no printed form is provided, sets forth an account of money collected or received as a result of a fund raising campaign and transmitted for a foreign principal.

⁹ Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks," and the like.

15. (a) DISBURSEMENTS – MONIES

During this 6 month reporting period, have you

(1) disbursed or expended monies in connection with activity on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement? Yes ☒ No ☐

(2) transmitted monies to any such foreign principal? Yes ☐ No ☒

If no, explain in full detail why there were no disbursements made on behalf of any foreign principal.

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies, including monies transmitted, if any, to each foreign principal.

Date	To whom	Purpose	Amount
6/29/07	Ayal Frank	Consulting Services	\$10,000
7/31/07	Ayal Frank	Consulting Services	\$10,000
8/31/07	Ayal Frank	Consulting Services	\$17,000
9/28/07	Ayal Frank	Consulting Services	\$10,000
10/31/07	Ayal Frank	Consulting Services	\$10,000
11/30/07	Ayal Frank	Consulting Services	\$15,000
12/31/07	Ayal Frank	Consulting Services	\$10,000

\$82,000

Total

(b) DISBURSEMENTS – THINGS OF VALUE

During this 6 month reporting period, have you disposed of anything of value¹⁰ other than money in furtherance of or in connection with activities on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Date disposed	Name of person to whom given	On behalf of what foreign principal	Description of thing of value	Purpose
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(c) DISBURSEMENTS – POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

During this 6 month reporting period, have you from your own funds and on your own behalf either directly or through any other person, made any contributions of money or other things of value¹¹ in connection with an election to any political office, or in connection with any primary election, convention, or caucus held to select candidates for political office?

Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, furnish the following information:

Date	Amount or thing of value	Name of political organization	Name of candidate
Mr. Skipper:			
7/17/07	\$500	Mel Martinez for Senate	Mel Martinez
10/16/07	\$1000	Pete Sessions for Congress	Pete Sessions
10/25/07	\$5000	National Defense PAC	N/A
11/06/07	\$1000	Lexington SC Republican Party	N/A
Mr. Demetriades:			
7/17/07	\$500	Mel Martinez for Senate	Mel Martinez
10/25/07	\$3800	Lindsay Graham for Senate	Lindsay Graham
10/25/07	\$5000	National Defense PAC	N/A
Ms. Groover:			
8/06/07	\$500	Mel Martinez for Senate	Mel Martinez

^{10, 11} Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks" and the like.

V - INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

16. During this 6 month reporting period, did you prepare, disseminate or cause to be disseminated any informational materials ¹²?
 Yes ☒ No ☐

IF YES, RESPOND TO THE REMAINING ITEMS IN SECTION V.

17. Identify each such foreign principal.

Kurdistan Regional Government

18. During this 6 month reporting period, has any foreign principal established a budget or allocated a specified sum of money to finance your activities in preparing or disseminating informational materials? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, identify each such foreign principal, specify amount, and indicate for what period of time.

These activities are performed as part of our consulting services agreement; however no specified amount of money or budget is allocated towards these efforts.

19. During this 6 month reporting period, did your activities in preparing, disseminating or causing the dissemination of informational materials include the use of any of the following:

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| ☐ Radio or TV broadcasts | ☒ Magazine or newspaper articles | ☐ Motion picture films | ☒ Letters or telegrams |
| ☐ Advertising campaigns | ☒ Press releases | ☒ Pamphlets or other publications | ☒ Lectures or speeches |
| ☒ Internet | ☒ Other (specify) _____ | | |

20. During this 6 month reporting period, did you disseminate or cause to be disseminated informational materials among any of the following groups:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☒ Public Officials | ☒ Newspapers | ☐ Libraries |
| ☒ Legislators | ☒ Editors | ☐ Educational institutions |
| ☒ Government agencies | ☐ Civic groups or associations | ☐ Nationality groups |
| ☐ Other (specify) _____ | | |

21. What language was used in the informational materials:

- ☒ English ☐ Other (specify) _____

22. Did you file with the Registration Unit, U.S. Department of Justice a copy of each item of such informational materials disseminated or caused to be disseminated during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☒ No ☐

23. Did you label each item of such informational materials with the statement required by Section 4(b) of the Act? Yes ☒ No ☐

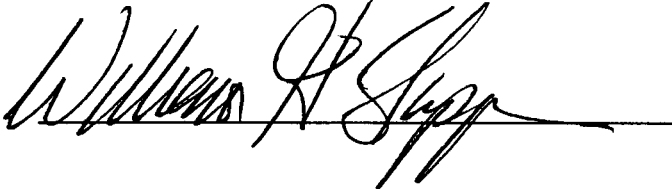
12 The term informational materials includes any oral, visual, graphic, written, or pictorial information or matter of any kind, including that published by means of advertising, books, periodicals, newspapers, lectures, broadcasts, motion pictures, or any means or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce or otherwise. Informational materials disseminated by an agent of a foreign principal as part of an activity in itself exempt from registration, or an activity which by itself would not require registration, need not be filed pursuant to Section 4(b) of the Act.

VI – EXECUTION

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. §1746, the undersigned swear(s) or affirm(s) under penalty of perjury that he/she has (they have) read the information set forth in this registration statement and the attached exhibits and that he/she is (they are) familiar with the contents thereof and that such contents are in their entirety true and accurate to the best of his/her (their) knowledge and belief, except that the undersigned make(s) no representation as to the truth or accuracy of the information contained in the attached Short Form Registration Statement(s), if any, insofar as such information is not within his/her (their) personal knowledge.

20 Dec 07

(Date of signature)

(Type or print name under each signature¹³)*William H. Skipper*

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COMMUNICATIONS SECTION UNIT

¹³ This statement shall be signed by the individual agent, if the registrant is an individual, or by a majority of those partners, officers, directors or persons performing similar functions, if the registrant is an organization, except that the organization can, by power of attorney, authorize one or more individuals to execute this statement on its behalf.

PRESIDENT/CEO
Title



U.S. Department of Justice

Washington, DC 20530

THIS FORM IS TO BE AN OFFICIAL ATTACHMENT TO YOUR CURRENT SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENT
PLEASE EXECUTE IN TRIPLICATE

SHORT-FORM REGISTRATION INFORMATION SHEET

SECTION A

The Department records list active short-form registration statements for the following persons of your organization filed on the date indicated by each name. If a person is not still functioning in the same capacity directly on behalf of the foreign principal, please show the date of termination.

Short Form List for Registrant: American Business Development Group

Last Name	First Name and Other Names	Registration Date	Termination Date	Role
Skipper	William	05/14/2007		
Demetriades Jr.	George	05/14/2007		
Groover	Elizabeth	05/14/2007		
Frank	Ayal	05/14/2007		

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U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE



U.S. Department of Justice

National Security Division

Washington, DC 20530

SECTION B

In addition to those persons listed in Section A, list below all current employees rendering services directly on behalf of the foreign principals(s) who have not filed short-form registration statements. (Do not list clerks, secretaries, typists or employees in a similar or related capacity). If there is some question as to whether an employee has an obligation to file a short-form, please address a letter to the Registration Unit describing the activities and connection with the foreign principal.

Name	Function	Date Hired
EDWARD O' DONNELL	DIRECTOR, INTL OPERATIONS	OCT 2007

Signature:

Title:

Date:

Please see supplemental statement, Section 6.

RECEIVED
REGISTRATION UNIT
DEC 20 2007
PM 1:44



December 20, 2007

Reference: Registration Number 5810

Department of Justice
Registration Unit
1400 New York Avenue, NW
1st Floor - Public Office, Suite 100
Washington D.C. 20005

2007 DEC 20 PM 2:00
DOJ/REGISTRATION UNIT

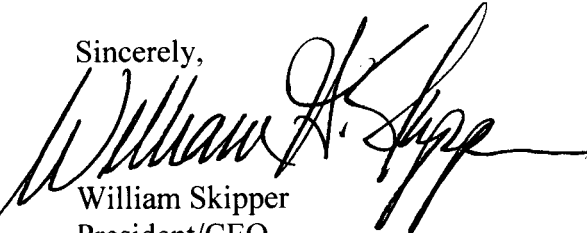
Sir or Madam:

In accordance with Section 4 of the Foreign Agents Registration Act, please find attached correspondence and informational material in which the American Business Development Group assisted in preparing and/or disseminated on behalf of the Kurdistan Regional Government during the preceding six month registration period; June 1, 2007 to December 30, 2007.

Although we do not anticipate any material to be prepared and/or disseminated between December 20 and December 31, 2007; we will forward under separate letter any additional documents.

Should you have any questions regarding this submission, please contact George Demetriades at 703-647-2972.

Sincerely,



William Skipper
President/CEO

Adriano Tarantola

From: Ayal Frank
Sent: Friday, December 14, 2007 4:27 PM
To: Adriano Tarantola
Subject: FW: Senate Resolution on Federalism in Iraq

From: Ayal Frank
Sent: Friday, June 29, 2007 4:16 PM
Subject: Senate Resolution on Federalism in Iraq

Dear Senate Staff – On 7 June, a bipartisan resolution was introduced on the subject of federalism in Iraq, S. Con. Res. 37. It is a good resolution. I hope that your senator will co-sponsor it. Please don't hesitate to call me if you have any questions on the subject. Thanks in advance for your time and consideration. Best regards, Ayal

In accordance with the Foreign Agents Registration Act this material is distributed by the American Business Development Group on behalf of the Kurdistan Regional Government. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.

Ayal Frank, Senior Consultant
American Business Development Group
Tel. 703-647-2977
Fax 703-824-0320
www.american-bdg.com

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2007 AUG 13 PM 2:00
COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

Submission for the Record

August 10, 2007

Fact Sheet: Response and Corrections to the testimony of Dr. Michael Rubin before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, July 17, 2007

On July 17th, Dr. Michael Rubin, a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, testified at a House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on "Policy Options in Iraq." Mr. Rubin's testimony and answers to questions include misleading and false assertions about the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) and Iraqi-Kurdish leaders. This "Fact Sheet" has been prepared as a formal response and correction to the House Foreign Affairs Committee record of the hearing.

- *Dr. Rubin: "Rather than bring stability or victory, partial withdrawal will ensure chaos and defeat...Nor is redeployment into Iraqi Kurdistan wise."*

KRG Response: Redeploying U.S. forces to the Kurdistan Region of Iraq would in fact benefit America's national security interests in Iraq and the Greater Middle East, especially in the Global War on Terrorism. The KRG formally welcomes a U.S. military presence to deepen U.S.-KRG-Iraq counter-terrorism cooperation and to defend Iraq's territorial integrity, including preventing interference in Iraq's domestic affairs by its neighbors. The Kurdistan Region is strategically significant for counter-terrorism operations in Iraq, and to preventing terrorists from using Iraq as a base of operations for attacks in Iraq, the Middle East and elsewhere in the world. A U.S. military presence would signal America's long-standing and enduring commitment to the Kurds of Iraq, and support for the more tolerant and relatively democratic and free market approach of the Kurdistan Regional Government within Iraq.

- *Dr. Rubin: "The Iraqi Kurdish leadership's rhetorical declarations that they are America's best regional ally are more rhetorical than real."*

KRG Response: Iraqi-Kurdish troops were the only indigenous Iraqi forces to fight with the U.S.-led Coalition during the liberation of Iraq in 2003. Iraqi Kurdish forces, fighting side-by-side with the U.S. military, helped defeat Iraqi army units and destroy the base of the al-Qaeda-affiliated group "Ansar al-Islam," near the Iranian border. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, Iraqi Kurdish forces suffered the second largest number of casualties in combat among all U.S.-led Coalition forces. Iraqi Kurdish "Peshmerga" forces are regularly cited by U.S. military commanders as the best performing of Iraqi units, and they have been vital to security and stabilization operations throughout Iraq, including as part of the Baghdad Security Plan.

Furthermore, the KRG has assisted in the capture of several "high value" targets in Iraq. Without Iraqi Kurdish support, the war would have been more difficult and the losses to the U.S. would likely have been far greater.

The Kurds of Iraq remain deeply grateful to the U.S. toward upholding the No-Fly-Zones, as well as for the removal of Saddam Hussein and his Baath regime. A USA Today/CNN/Gallup Poll stated that 97% of Kurds polled were in favor of the U.S.-led coalition presence in Iraq, believing that more good than harm came from the war.

- *Dr. Rubin: "[Iraqi Kurdish leaders] enable al-Zawraa, the most virulent anti-American and pro-insurgent television, to broadcast from their territory."*

KRG Response: The KRG does not support or endorse Al-Zawraa, nor does it in anyway, allow Al-Zawraa to be broadcast out of Kurdistan. The station in question is as anti-Kurdish as it is Anti-Coalition. Al-Zawraa's signal has been previously traced to Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia. Thus Dr. Rubin's assertions are unsubstantiated.

- *Dr. Rubin: "Masud Barzani, the President of Iraqi Kurdistan, has both enabled the Iranian Revolutionary Guards to increase their presence in the region and interfered with U.S. attempts to intercept those planning attacks on Americans."*

KRG Response: This is an egregious assertion by Dr. Rubin with absolutely no basis in fact and should impute his credibility as future witness before the House Foreign Affairs or any other Congressional committee. The KRG Peshmerga forces are engaged in daily collaborative operations with U.S. forces against terrorists in Iraq. To assert that KRG President Masoud Barzani has interfered with U.S. attempts to intercept those planning attacks on Americans is a lie and a slander. Furthermore, President Barzani and the Kurdistan Regional Government do not enable the Iranian Revolutionary Guards "to increase their presence in the region." Rubin's remarks are again unsubstantiated and false.

- *Dr. Rubin: "[President] Barzani has provided safe-haven and arms to PKK terrorists responsible for the deaths in Turkey of more than 100 people since January alone."*

KRG Response: The KRG in no way supports, funds, or arms the group formerly known as the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK). In fact, Iraqi Kurdistan's two key political parties, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), fought the PKK alongside Turkish forces throughout the 1990s.

KRG Prime Minister Nechirvan Barzani has said on many occasions that in no way will the Kurdistan Region of Iraq be used by any group against the interests of any of its neighbors. On August 8, 2007, he commented on Turkish concerns about the PKK: "We are ready to support Turkey if it wants to resolve it via dialogue...We don't want to turn our territory into a battleground for armed organizations. We do not approve the PKK attacking Turkish territory from the Kurdistan region because that would harm us as well."

The KRG remains committed to ensuring a lasting, strategic and positive relationship with Turkey. The billions of Turkish investment dollars spent in Iraqi Kurdistan, and the fact that over 80% of the Foreign Direct Investment that has taken place in Iraqi Kurdistan has come from Turkish companies is a testament to the progression of the relationship between Turkey and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

For more information please contact: +1 202 637 2496 or US@krg.org.

Adriano Tarantola

From: Ayal Frank
Sent: Friday, December 14, 2007 4:26 PM
To: Adriano Tarantola
Subject: FW: A Response to the Testimony of Michael Rubin on Iraq
Attachments: KRG Response to Michael Rubin Testimony.pdf

From: Ayal Frank
Sent: Wednesday, August 15, 2007 9:38 AM
Subject: A Response to the Testimony of Michael Rubin on Iraq

Dear Foreign Affairs staff - This is written to provide you the attached response to the testimony of Michael Rubin at a HFAC Iraq hearing last month. Please do not hesitate to call or e-mail me if you have any questions about this fact sheet. Thank you and best regards, Ayal

In accordance with the Foreign Agents Registration Act this material is distributed by the American Business Development Group on behalf of the Kurdistan Regional Government. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.

Ayal Frank, Senior Consultant
American Business Development Group
Tel. 703-647-2977
Fax 703-824-0320
www.american-bdg.com

12/14/2007



Submission for the Record

August 10, 2007

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- *Dr. Rubin: "Masud Barzani, the President of Iraqi Kurdistan, has both enabled the Iranian Revolutionary Guards to increase their presence in the region and interfered with U.S. attempts to intercept those planning attacks on Americans."*

KRG Response: This is an egregious assertion by Dr. Rubin with absolutely no basis in fact and should impute his credibility as future witness before the House Foreign Affairs or any other Congressional committee. The KRG Peshmerga forces are engaged in daily collaborative operations with U.S. forces against terrorists in Iraq. To assert that KRG President Masoud Barzani has interfered with U.S. attempts to intercept those planning attacks on Americans is a lie and a slander. Furthermore, President Barzani and the Kurdistan Regional Government do not enable the Iranian Revolutionary Guards "to increase their presence in the region." Rubin's remarks are again unsubstantiated and false.

- *Dr. Rubin: "[President] Barzani has provided safe-haven and arms to PKK terrorists responsible for the deaths in Turkey of more than 100 people since January alone."*

KRG Response: The KRG in no way supports, funds, or arms the group formerly known as the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK). In fact, Iraqi Kurdistan's two key political parties, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), fought the PKK alongside Turkish forces throughout the 1990s.

KRG Prime Minister Nechirvan Barzani has said on many occasions that in no way will the Kurdistan Region of Iraq be used by any group against the interests of any of its neighbors. On August 8, 2007, he commented on Turkish concerns about the PKK: "We are ready to support Turkey if it wants to resolve it via dialogue...We don't want to turn our territory into a battleground for armed organizations. We do not approve the PKK attacking Turkish territory from the Kurdistan region because that would harm us as well."

The KRG remains committed to ensuring a lasting, strategic and positive relationship with Turkey. The billions of Turkish investment dollars spent in Iraqi Kurdistan, and the fact that over 80% of the Foreign Direct Investment that has taken place in Iraqi Kurdistan has come from Turkish companies is a testament to the progression of the relationship between Turkey and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

For more information please contact: +1 202 637 2496 or US@krg.org.

Adriano Tarantola

From: Ayal Frank
Sent: Friday, December 14, 2007 4:25 PM
To: Adriano Tarantola
Subject: FW: Letter from Washington - "Kurds turn to Capitol Hill to open up travel, get more aid"

From: Ayal Frank
Sent: Friday, September 28, 2007 2:10 PM
Subject: Letter from Washington - "Kurds turn to Capitol Hill to open up travel, get more aid"

**Kurds turn to Capitol Hill to open
up travel, get more aid**

By Kevin Bogardus
The Hill

September 28, 2007

09/28/2007 PM 2:01
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One of America's most reliable allies in the Iraq war, the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), has turned to Congress for help in opening up northern Iraq to more investment and travel.

KRG representatives have been working with lawmakers to soften the State Department travel advisory for Iraq to acknowledge Kurdistan's relative safety. They argue that such a move would recognize the area's greater stability and lead to more American involvement.

Qubad Talabani, the KRG's representative to the U.S., said his government turned to Congress after receiving a "lukewarm, if not cold reception" from State Department officials to a formal request to change the travel advisory. Consequently, a "Dear Colleague" letter advocating the KRG's position has circulated Capitol Hill and attracted 11 signatories so far.

"We are working this great democratic system," said Talabani of the effort. The travel advisory "is negatively affecting [U.S.] policy in Iraq."

A number of countries, including Japan, Germany and the United Kingdom, have already toned down their own travel warnings for Kurdistan.

In a wide-ranging interview with *The Hill*, Talabani described what Kurdistan has undertaken this year with Congress and emphasized Kurdish ties to the U.S.

"We strongly believe that America has a solid partner in the heart of the Islamic Middle East," said Talabani, the son of Iraq's president, Jalal Talabani. "It's the Kurds."

The Kurds' success has led to growing talk of independence from Iraq, but Talabani emphasized that his office is not an embassy and that the KRG supports keeping the country intact.

"We remain committed to a federal democracy in Iraq, and 'federal' is the key here," said Talabani. "But we do have a responsibility to protect the lives of the 4 million-plus people who live in the

Kurdistan region.”

The Kurds got a boost Thursday when the Senate passed a non-binding amendment to the defense authorization bill that called for a federalist, decentralized Iraq. Sen. Joseph Biden (D-Del.), a longtime advocate of a “soft partition” of the country, was the author of the measure.

There is also a broader effort to build a Kurdish Congressional Caucus in Congress, which Talabani is helping to lead.

Along with KRG’s liaison office, much of the government’s outreach to Capitol Hill is being conducted through lobbying firms, such as the American Business Development Group and Barbour Griffith & Rogers.

Chief congressional allies so far include Reps. Christopher Shays (R-Conn.) and Howard Berman (D-Calif.), who co-authored the travel advisory letter. Berman has championed Kurdistan since the 1980s and called for sanctions against Saddam Hussein’s regime after its chemical-weapons attacks on the Kurdish people in 1988.

“My fear is that the [current] travel advisory makes [Kurdistan] look like Basra and Baghdad. I thought it made sense for the State Department to consider this,” said Berman.

In the letter, Berman and Shays write that the travel warning does not “represent the conditions on the ground,” and note that no Westerner has been harmed by hostile action in the region since the Iraq war began in 2003.

Talabani says changing the travel advisory would also help attract more American businesses to the region. In addition, the office is working on creating an American-Kurdish Business Council to help facilitate more U.S. investment.

“We have a lot of foreign companies investing in Kurdistan today. Very few of them are American,” he said.

Yet one of the KRG’s recent business successes — an oil exploration deal with Hunt Oil — has attracted the unwarranted attention of Capitol Hill. Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio) has called for an investigation into the agreement because CEO Ray Hunt, a major Republican campaign donor, is close with Bush administration officials.

“No rules have been bent to get an American firm in. It has been a very transparent process,” said Talabani.

Talabani also is trying to secure more reconstruction aid for Kurdistan. Six hundred forty-seven million dollars in U.S. funds for reconstruction have been appropriated to the Kurdish region, according to Baghdad’s U.S. Embassy. Twenty-one billion dollars have been slated for Iraq’s reconstruction overall.

“On the face of it, it seems they are not getting their fair share of the reconstruction monies,” said Rep. Steve Rothman (D-N.J.). Rothman will propose language in the House’s war supplemental appropriations bill that calls for more reconstruction funds to go to Kurdistan.

The KRG has also tried to bring Congress to Kurdistan by ferrying more and more congressional delegations to the region.

“We didn’t have to wear our helmets or our armor. That’s the only place [in Iraq] we didn’t, except for the shower,” joked Sen. Ben Nelson. The Nebraska Democrat, along with three other senators, recently stopped by Erbil after traveling to Baghdad.

Part of the KRG’s message to Capitol Hill is to consider the region as part of a redeployment strategy as U.S. soldiers leave Iraq. Calls for a quick withdrawal are a particular worry for Talabani.

“We need to keep drumming this beat: that’s in your interests to keep forces in Kurdistan and it is ultimately in our interests for you to do so,” he said.

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Adriano Tarantola

From: Ayal Frank
Sent: Friday, December 14, 2007 4:25 PM
To: Adriano Tarantola
Subject: FW: President of Iraqi Kurdistan statement regarding the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK)
Importance: High

From: Ayal Frank
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2007 4:44 PM
Subject: President of Iraqi Kurdistan statement regarding the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK)
Importance: High

**Kurdistan Regional Government**

October 23, 2007

Statement from the Presidency of the Iraqi Kurdistan Region: The continuing crisis between the Government of Turkey and the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK)

The policy of the Presidency, the Government, and the political parties of the Iraqi Kurdistan Region related to this issue can be summarized as follows:

1. We do not believe in the use of violence as a doctrine and method to achieve political objectives.
2. We do not accept in any way, based on our commitment to the Iraqi constitution, the use of Iraqi territories, including the territories of the Kurdistan Region, as a base to threaten the security of neighboring countries.
3. We call upon the PKK to eliminate violence and armed struggle as a mode of operation. The current problems should be solved through political and diplomatic methods. It is necessary to stop using other methods, which are useless, and we demand that the PKK remain committed to the cease fire and not resort to armed operations.
4. We condemn all terrorist activities from any party because the people of Kurdistan itself are victims of terrorism. We have always struggled for the sake of peace, democracy, development and stability for our people and peoples of the region. We are in fact in a bitter and continued state of struggle against terrorism.

12/14/2007

We declare that these principles are the firm policies of the people of Kurdistan, we reiterate that we endeavor to build friendly relations with the people of the region and we share a commitment to good neighborly relations with all.

We have always called for peace and security and we believe that the outstanding problems can be solved only through dialogue and understanding.

Official spokesman of the Presidency of the Kurdistan Region

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Kurdistan Regional Government

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2007 OCT 23 PM 2:01
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*American Business Development Group on behalf of the Kurdistan Regional Government.
Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.*

Kurdistan's Hope for Talks

By Nechirvan Barzani

The Washington Post

Monday, November 5, 2007; Page A19

When President Bush and Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan meet today to discuss ongoing conflict between the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and Turkey, we in the Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq (KRG) will be listening with hope. We welcome this meeting. The only solution to this decades-old problem lies in diplomacy.

Let me be clear: The KRG is, and will remain, fully prepared to find a long-term solution to this problem. To this end, we propose talks among Ankara, Baghdad, Erbil and Washington. This is a transnational issue, complicated by ethnic ties, and no party can find a solution on its own. We will sit down at any time with anyone who seeks a negotiated, diplomatic resolution.

We must discard the rhetoric of violence and recognize that a military response to the current crisis would be a disaster for everyone except the PKK. We in the Kurdistan region of Iraq would be slowed on our path to peace, democracy and prosperity; the Turkish army would become bogged down in a bloody and unproductive struggle against the PKK outside its borders; the United States and Western allies would become estranged from a vital NATO ally; and the economies and peoples of the region -- particularly Turkey, Syria, Iran and Iraq -- would suffer.

We have tried to explain to our Turkish friends that we want only peace and cooperation with them. Our region depends heavily on investment and trade with Turkey. The great majority of foreign businesses operating here are Turkish, nearly all of our construction is done by Turkish contractors, we receive much of our electricity from Turkey and well over 75 percent of our imports arrive via Turkey. Why would we provoke Turkey into a military action that would severely damage our economy?

The history of this conflicted part of the world carries a message: Problems such as the PKK cannot be solved through military means. For decades the government of Saddam Hussein tried to liquidate the Kurdish people by violence, at a tremendous price for both sides. We ourselves fought against the PKK in the late 1990s with help from the Turkish military, and 10 years later we again find ourselves at a crisis point. The mountains inside our region and in Turkey have protected the PKK for decades, and there is little reason to believe that new military actions would be any more successful than past attempts. Problems for which military solutions are sought here seem to have a way of never getting resolved.

We have condemned and will continue to condemn the PKK for its unwarranted attacks in Turkey. We insist that its members lay down their arms immediately. We do not allow them to operate freely, contrary to what some have suggested. Turkey, with its substantial military capability, has not been able to eradicate the PKK within its own borders, yet some Turks inexplicably expect us to be successful with far fewer capabilities and

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resources.

Just as we ask the Turks to seek a peaceful resolution, so must the PKK abandon its failed strategy of armed conflict. Diplomacy and dialogue must be given a chance. With time, patience and stability, we believe that peaceful change can occur. Just 10 years ago the PLO and the IRA were considered terrorist organizations. Today they have begun a process of transformation and are working within the political arena. Can such a transformation take place within the PKK? We cannot be certain. But we do know that military action will only radicalize the situation further, and violence will surely breed more violence.

We want peace along our border with Turkey. We want to cooperate on economic, social and cultural issues. We want to be a good neighbor and to exercise our responsibilities as good neighbors. Our successful efforts in cooperation with Ankara and Baghdad to secure the release of Turkish soldiers demonstrate our sincere desire to find peaceful solutions to the problem. We will continue taking concrete steps to improve the security environment at the border. But the Turkish government needs to overcome its refusal to talk to us as neighbors.

The Kurdistan region is the only part of Iraq where peace and development have prospered since the liberation of 2003, and we are the constitutionally recognized regional government in the area. We have come a long way both economically and politically. But much more work remains. We have chosen to become part of a federal Iraq and will uphold that commitment. We threaten no one as we move toward greater development. We hope that we can extend the hand of friendship to Turkey and work together to find solutions to this crisis that will lead to long-term stability and peaceful relations.

The writer is prime minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq.

PM's statement: KRG welcomes PKK's release of 8 Turkish soldiers
Erbil, 4 November 2007

Statement by KRG Prime Minister Nechirvan Barzani

The Kurdistan Regional Government welcomes the release today of the eight Turkish soldiers held by the PKK since late October. This is a positive and encouraging beginning which will help to lessen tensions between Iraq and Turkey.

We hope that this tangible result will pave the way for greater cooperation on issues related to border security between our two countries and will help ease pressures for a military solution.

The release of the soldiers is an important step in reducing tensions, and a hopeful

symbol of improved relations between the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and Turkey.

The KRG is grateful for the efforts of all in Ankara, Baghdad and Erbil who helped bring about this release, and is pleased that the captive soldiers have been returned to Turkey safely to be reunited with their families.

We reiterate our condemnation of the PKK's recent violent actions in Turkey. Recognising that a window of opportunity exists, we call upon the PKK to institute an unconditional ceasefire, lay down its arms, and commit itself to the political process. We hope that this will encourage Turkey to find a peaceful solution to the issue.

We desire nothing more than the resumption of normal, friendly relations with Turkey and look forward to additional progress in easing tensions in the coming days. The KRG, in cooperation with the federal government in Baghdad and the United States, is dedicated to playing a constructive part in the peaceful resolution of the current situation.

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Adriano Tarantola

From: Ayal Frank
Sent: Friday, December 14, 2007 4:24 PM
To: Adriano Tarantola
Subject: FW: The Iraqi Kurdistan Regional Government on the subject of Turkey-PKK

From: Ayal Frank
Sent: Monday, November 05, 2007 2:40 PM
Subject: The Iraqi Kurdistan Regional Government on the subject of Turkey-PKK

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By Nechirvan Barzani

The Washington Post

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Adriano Tarantola

From: Ayal Frank
Sent: Friday, December 14, 2007 4:24 PM
To: Adriano Tarantola
Subject: FW: CQ Weekly - "Rift in Cabinet Over Kurds' Business Push"

2007 DEC 23 PM 2:02
 CQ/ISS/LEGISLATION UNIT

From: Ayal Frank
Sent: Monday, November 19, 2007 12:29 PM
Subject: CQ Weekly - "Rift in Cabinet Over Kurds' Business Push"

CQ WEEKLY – IN FOCUS
 Nov. 19, 2007 – Page 3462
 Rift in Cabinet Over Kurds' Business Push
 By Jonathan Broder, CQ Staff

As Turkish troops earlier this month massed on the border with Iraq's Kurdish region and threatened to invade in retaliation for guerrilla raids, the Kurdistan Regional Government still had time for other matters, proudly announcing that it had signed oil exploration deals with a dozen foreign companies.

With the northern Kurdish enclave having largely escaped the sectarian violence that has devastated most of Iraq, officials there are using the relative peace to assert some independence, and make money to boot.

In the past year, the Kurds have signed more than 20 oil and gas agreements with foreign companies, including Texas-based Hunt Oil Co., and have passed their own regional oil law over the protests of the national government in Baghdad, which has been unable to accomplish the same thing for the entire country.

"We're open for business," said Qubad Talabani, Iraqi Kurdistan's unofficial ambassador to Washington. "You don't have to go through Baghdad to get to us."

The Kurds' eagerness for commerce has caused problems in Washington, though, setting Cabinet departments against each other on the issue of private investment in Iraq.

The State Department has warned U.S. oil companies to hold off making deals with the Kurds lest the agreements conflict with any national Iraqi oil policy adopted in the future. The warnings underscore concerns within the Bush administration that the Kurdish region's economic development will outpace the rest of the country, undercutting the Baghdad government and hurting Iraq's chances for national unity.

The Commerce Department, though, has been actively encouraging U.S. investment in Kurdistan and does not think companies should have to wait for the establishment of a stable national government before doing business. One Commerce official visiting the region said it was a gateway for eventual investment in the rest of the country.

Besides, oil investors from China, Korea, Russia and Western Europe, backed by their own energy-hungry governments, are snapping up deals to develop Kurdish oil resources without thinking about

Baghdad.

“These oil deals are now facts on the ground,” said Nader Habibi, a professor of Middle East economics at Brandeis University. “To be sure, they are still risky deals politically. But as long as these other investors are moving in, American investors could be missing an opportunity.”

One of the key players in the quickening pace of U.S. business investment is Talabani, the 30-year-old son of Iraqi President Jalal Talabani.

From a second-floor office just two blocks from the White House, the London-educated Talabani has been lobbying the Bush administration to adopt a more favorable policy toward private U.S. investment in Iraqi Kurdistan. In his dealings, he never fails to acknowledge the debt of gratitude that Iraqi Kurds owe the United States for enforcing a “no-fly zone” over their region starting in 1991 that helped protect them from Saddam Hussein and allowed the region to develop economically.

Success Story

In his campaign to win administration support for direct U.S. investment in the Kurdish region, Talabani has reminded U.S. officials that the area’s stability and lack of violence is one of the few success stories the administration can claim in Iraq. “How many of those can we point to?” he asked. “We want America to take pride and keep investing in Kurdistan’s success.”

After more than a year of meetings with administration officials, Talabani persuaded both Commerce and the Pentagon to support a policy of encouraging U.S. business investment in the Kurdish region. In February, Franklin L. Lavin, the undersecretary of Commerce for international trade, led the first U.S. business delegation to the Kurdish north.

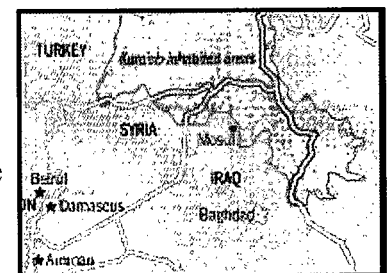
On a subsequent visit in September, Lavin said the region “tends to enjoy a very positive business environment, a very good security situation, and also a very welcome investment philosophy. Frankly, it would be very difficult to suggest to U.S. companies that they need to start their Iraq activity in Baghdad.”

The Defense Department, as part of its new strategy to bolster economic development in Iraq, has taken several delegations of U.S. businessmen to the Kurdish region to explore investment opportunities.

Wayne Culbreth, a venture capitalist from Memphis and managing director of Global Consulting, went along on several of those trips to flesh out some investment possibilities he saw in Kurdistan while on active duty with a Tennessee National Guard unit. Culbreth now says he will invest up to \$3 million in a tomato paste factory in the northern Kurdish town of Harir.

“There is huge agricultural potential there,” Culbreth said, speaking from his Memphis office. Together with another Iraq War veteran, he is now seeking investors for a \$100 million fund to invest in other Kurdish agribusiness ventures.

Culbreth says Turkey’s recent threats to invade northern Iraq to root out Kurdish guerrillas have not dissuaded him. Turkey, he notes, has major investments in the Kurdish region. Indeed, Turkey is the source of 80 percent of the \$5 billion that foreigners have sunk into the region since the fall of Saddam in 2003. Turkish construction companies are building airports, roads and housing projects in Iraqi Kurdistan, and Turkey provides most of the consumer goods that are sold in the region’s shops.



Kurdish Inhabited Areas:
[Click here to view the map](#)

“So they may rattle their sabers, but at the end of the day, they’ve got a pretty big chunk of their economy that’s dependent on exporting to Kurdistan,” Culbreth said. “I don’t think they’re going to threaten that.”

So far, Culbreth’s instincts — and those of the foreign companies that signed oil production agreements with the Kurdistan Regional Government, known as the KRG — appear to be paying off. Despite all the tough talk, Turkey has confined its military actions to small raids across the border.

“We were expecting this crisis to have a major impact on our investment efforts, but it didn’t have that much of an impact,” said Talabani. “In our part of the world, businessmen do their thing regardless of the politics.”

Protecting Iraqi National Unity

When it comes to Kurdish oil, however, the Bush administration is not willing to let U.S. companies do their thing. On Sept. 27, responding to the Kurds’ oil production agreement with Hunt, a senior official at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad criticized the deal, saying it “needlessly elevated tensions between the KRG and the government of Iraq.”

The official, who insisted on anonymity, noted that the United States was pushing for passage of the national oil law, one of 18 congressionally mandated benchmarks for progress in Iraq. In the meantime, he said, both sides should “knock off the things that undermine national unity.”

But the national legislation, which would regulate how Iraq’s oil fields were run and establish rules for the sharing of oil and gas revenue among the country’s Shiite, Sunni and Kurdish regions, remains stalled, with no clear prospect of when it might pass. Frustrated, the Kurdish regional parliament passed its own oil law in August, which regional officials such as Talabani are now citing to reassure foreign companies of the legality of any oil production contracts.

Under Iraq’s new national constitution, he notes, the Kurdish region is permitted to conduct business with foreign investors. The Kurdish oil law also includes language from the draft national measure, stipulating that 83 percent of Kurdish proceeds from any oil sale be given to the Iraqi national treasury. That, Talabani says, would allow Kurdistan to begin tapping its oil reserves and pump money into the national coffers.

“These deals are beneficial to Iraq’s national budget,” Talabani said, trying to dampen any suspicions that the Kurdish region plans to break away from Iraq. “They will increase the revenues that Iraq will get.”

Talabani has won some allies on Capitol Hill, including Republican Christopher Shays of Connecticut and Democrat Howard L. Berman of California, who have written to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice urging her to revise the State Department’s current travel advisory to Iraq, which warns U.S. citizens to stay away. “The warning may dissuade the U.S. business community from investing in and promoting the economic development of this important region,” they wrote.

Until Iraq enacts a national oil law, however, the State Department is unlikely to approve of U.S. oil investments. By that time, less-risk-averse foreign competitors will probably sew up the most promising contracts, betting that any national oil law will honor those agreements. Anything less, notes Brandeis University’s Habibi, could jeopardize the national unity that Baghdad — and the Bush administration — seek to preserve.

FOR FURTHER READING:

Turkish-Kurdish border crisis, CQ Weekly, p. 2097; U.S. troops move on Kurdish guerrillas, p. 363.

Source: **CQ Weekly**

The definitive source for news about Congress.

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Adriano Tarantola

From: Ayal Frank
Sent: Friday, December 14, 2007 4:39 PM
To: Adriano Tarantola
Subject: FW: General Wesley Clark on Turkey-PKK
Attachments: 11.November.16.KURDISTAN.FTimes.WESLEY CLARK.Invasion is the wrong answer to Turkey.doc

From: Ayal Frank
Sent: Monday, November 19, 2007 2:40 PM
Subject: General Wesley Clark on Turkey-PKK

Dear House staff - I thought you would find the attached of interest. Best, Ayal

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Invasion is the wrong answer to Turkey's problems

By Wesley Clark

Published: November 16, 2007, *The Financial Times*

Just over a week after US president George W. Bush and Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Turkey's prime minister, met in Washington, Turkish troops remained poised to move across the border into Iraqi Kurdistan in an attempt to destroy elements of the Kurdistan Workers party (PKK). We can only hope that a solution based on the idea of joint co-operation against the PKK that seemed to be forged in the Oval Office meeting, focusing on diplomatic engagement between the US, Turkey, Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government, will trump the still-looming military assault.

The Turks are understandably angry and ready for war. Accumulated frustrations over recent attacks by the PKK erupted in public demands for a decisive military solution. Turkish popular opinion strongly supported attacks on rebel base camps inside Iraqi Kurdistan, and the Turkish armed forces have mobilised more than 100,000 troops on the Iraqi border, setting the stage for a massive Turkish invasion of northern Iraq that would have disastrous consequences.

On paper all wars seem simple. Turkish military planners may hope that one bold thrust into Iraqi Kurdistan will, once and for all, eradicate the PKK. A glance at what soldiers call the "troop-to-task" ratio might suggest that the job could be done quickly. Turkey has a very good army and it would seem feasible that 100,000 well-trained and fully equipped Turkish troops could quickly capture or kill 3,000 PKK rebels hiding in an area somewhat larger than Maryland.

But war is never simple. The friction and fog of war always conspire to make the actual combat far more complex, time consuming and bloodier than the sterile and optimistic plans written in the comfort of remote headquarters. Even the military genius Alexander the Great was stalled by the inhospitable terrain of southern Turkey and northern Iraq. Despite popular longing for a quick military solution, a Turkish invasion would bring only stalemate and frustration and - more ominously - would destabilise the region, undermine US-Turkish relations for decades, and jeopardise the stability and prosperity of Iraq's Kurdistan region.

Turkey will certainly benefit by continuing on the more creative and diplomatic path now being pursued by Mr Erdogan. He has secured a US promise to share intelligence and to co-operate in neutralising PKK elements in Iraq and preventing their movement across the border. He should open a dialogue with the KRG to formulate joint measures to prevent the PKK from striking Turkey from Iraqi territory. To that end, he needs to embrace the establishment of four-party talks between Turkey, Iraq, the US and the KRG. This must be the way forward.

War is not the answer, especially given the creative alternatives available. First, strike the PKK where they are vulnerable, not in the mountain base camps where they are strongest. Divide the enemy by crafting an amnesty that permits civilians and lower level PKK members to lay down their arms and rejoin society. This worked in Northern Ireland to isolate radical fringes of the Irish Republican Army and it will work here, where the PKK's popular support at best is tepid.

Second, the US and others could cripple PKK operations by cutting off its financial support. The PKK's centre of power is not, and never has been, in Iraqi Kurdistan; its popular base lies in south-eastern Turkey. Its financial base is in the cities of continental Europe, where the money is

raised. Its leaders travel freely in European capitals. A co-ordinated international effort is needed to interdict the flow of money and supplies to the PKK.

Decades of military action against the PKK have failed to produce a lasting solution and it would fail again. Albert Einstein was not a military strategist but he did know something about how to solve problems. He also recognised the folly of substituting haste for thoughtful, reasoned decision-making when he said: "We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them."

Dealing with the PKK is an essential element of resolving the larger conflict in Iraq and improving the peace in the region. This challenge requires a creative strategy, one rooted in diplomacy and dialogue. Most of all it requires leaders with vision who rise above raw emotion - courageous leaders who are willing to forgo short-term violent actions in order to wisely serve their nation's long-term interests.

General Clark is a former supreme commander of Nato, led the alliance of military forces in the Kosovo war (1999) and is a senior fellow at the Ron Burkle Center at UCLA

Voice of America

US General: Non-Military Efforts Important in Fighting Kurds

By Al Pessin
Washington

04 December 2007

The commander of U.S. forces in Europe says Turkey needs to deal with Kurdish violence using counterinsurgency principles that go beyond military force and focus on eliminating the reasons for the popular discontent that fuels insurgencies. General Bantz Craddock spoke to reporters in Washington, as VOA's Al Pessin reports.

General Craddock declined to provide details of meetings he has had with Turkish officials, but he described the Kurdistan Workers Party or PKK as a terrorist organization that is acting like an insurgency. He said "obviously" counterinsurgency theories are important in fighting it.

"There are counterinsurgency indications, and obviously counterinsurgency measures that can be taken. And we are talking to them about our experiences and our doctrine," he said.

The new U.S. military counterinsurgency doctrine calls for a multi-faceted approach, including military forces, but focusing on winning the hearts and minds of the people involved by providing government services and economic development. U.S. forces began implementing the doctrine in Iraq and Afghanistan earlier this year, and have had some success. General Craddock says Turkey is also doing some non-military counterinsurgency work in Kurdish areas near the Iraqi border.

"In an insurgency, there are very few military solutions," he added. "It's a comprehensive approach. It's counterinsurgency doctrine, separating leadership from followers, providing followers [with] alternatives. I think if one looks at what's happening, particularly in southeast Turkey, you'd see some counterinsurgency operations conducted by the Turkish government, beyond the military, which is helpful and I think in the right direction."

The general did not say what could be done to apply counterinsurgency principles to PKK guerrillas who operate in the mountains of northern Iraq, and strike at Turkish targets across the border. He called the impact of the PKK attacks

"significant."

In October, after a particularly deadly cross-border strike, Turkey's defense minister called on its NATO ally the United States to take "tangible action" to help end the attacks. Since then, Turkey has stepped up military operations against the PKK, and the United States has reportedly provided some help through intelligence, political pressure on the Kurdish regional government in northern Iraq and other forms of cooperation. But U.S. military forces in Iraq have not become involved in the fighting

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