



INFORMAL TRANSLATION

March 27, 2004

The Honorable L. Paul Bremer
Administrator
Coalition Provisional Authority
Baghdad, Iraq

Dear Ambassador Bremer,

On behalf of the people of Al Anbar, I wish to express my gratitude to the United States of America for providing nearly 500 million dollars in reconstruction projects to our province. I also appreciate the effort undertaken by the Director of your Project Management Office, Admiral William Nash, to visit Ramadi and explain how these projects would be realized. In the warm spirit of collaboration represented by that visit, I wish to share with you the considered views of the Al Anbar Provincial Council, the Ministry Directors General and myself in reaction to the proposed list. After close consultation and research, we believe that the following recommendations will maximize the intended impact of the American peoples' generosity and provide a strong basis for the economic development of Western Iraq for the next generation.

As an overview, we regard these projects as a unique opportunity to restore the provincial infrastructure and obtain new technology and expertise that has been blocked from us for more than a decade. For that reason, we request that you focus these funds on infrastructure projects that we are not yet able to complete ourselves. Specifically we request that you focus these very generous investments on roads, bridges, sewage treatment, potable water and health. These are areas where the United States can make unique and lasting contribution. Our recommendations follow.

In regards to education, we would prefer less emphasis on school renovation and more emphasis on construction and innovation. Many of the schools on the list have now been renovated and the remaining schools can be re-done for a small fraction of the allotted costs. Instead, we urge that the Ministry of Education construct ten advanced secondary schools in Ramadi (2), Fallujah (2), Haditha, Hit, Al Qaim, Rutba, Ana, and Rahwa. We would like to see these secondary schools built according to a western model, complete with libraries, laboratories and gymnasiums. These institutions will instill and invigorate respect for learning in these communities and train our leaders of tomorrow.

In regards to health, again, we are deeply grateful for your generosity. I would note that two projects included on the list, Abu Graeb General Hospital and Al Kadhmiya Children's Hospital, are not located in Al Anbar and do not generally serve the people of Al Anbar. We appreciate the offer of investment into the Hospital at Al Rutba, but note the difficulties of staffing an advanced medical facility in a remote area. Instead we



02811

Document #1
09-F-0243

Arsht, Leslye (SES)

To:
Cc:
Subject:

(b)(6)
(b)(6)
RE: PMO Projects for Al Anbar

86

(b)(6): I have copied (b)(6) so there will be no confusion here. In addition, I have spoken with the Minister, Dr. Alwan, so you can be assured that I am representing his sentiment and that of the Ministry of Education, which is now autonomous.

The Ministry did NOT make the rule about 'no new construction', the US Congress did. These were the instructions we were given when the first lists were compiled. IF, we had been allowed to construct new schools, we would have done so around the country because there is a need for 4500 school buildings to meet the needs of today's Iraqi children.

Since new construction has been banned, I see no way to grant your request. To meet the requirements of the Congress, we set the following criteria for the DGs, who compiled a list of schools using it:

- 1) rehabilitate the most schools focusing on those with the greatest need;
- 2) add new classrooms to relieve crowding;
- 3) demolish and rebuild (not allowed under the supplemental)
- 4) new construction (not allowed under the supplemental)

Based on this criteria, Al Anbar would have very few eligible schools, since as you indicate, most of your schools have already been rehabilitated.

If it were possible to "change" the Congressional requirements, the MoE would have to re-vet the entire list of schools submitted to us from the DGs of each Governorate, because other Governorates would want and deserve to have access to new schools. This change alone would ensure that no work on schools will begin before June and that delay would come just to complete the paperwork. But, the fact is, the rule change is not likely to happen in the best of times (it took Congress 4 months to agree to this supplemental budget).... and these are decidedly not the best of times.

The "Laboratories of Excellence" of which there will be 162... (two for each province in the country,) will be created out of the existing stock of schools or other available buildings ... each is to have a library, science lab, and computer room; possibly a room for women/mothers to meet; possibly a kindergarten. Teachers in the facilities will get additional training and will offer that training to their surrounding peers. Schools in the community would use these schools as their own.

This infrastructure of high quality facilities will provide equity and access nationwide, which will augment the school rehabilitations chosen by the provincial DGs, which is important to the Ministry.

Having said all this, if you can arrange funding for new schools for Al Anbar, we would encourage you to do so.

Regards,

Leslye A. Arsht
Senior Advisor, Education Ministry
Republican Palace Rm S-206
Baghdad, Iraq
e-mail: (b)(6)

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

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, April 05, 2004 4:32 PM
To: Arsht, Leslye (SES)

86

Subject: PMO Projects for Al Anbar

Leslye,

Congratulations on transition of Min. Ed. Sorry I missed you Saturday.

I would welcome your clarification on Min Ed's reactin to Al Anbar Governor Barjas' letter to Amb Bremer. I understood from your last msge that Min. Ed was considering buliding two model "schools of excellence" in each province, including Al Anbar.

this tracks w/ gov barjas' request for seven new schools.

On Sat., you suggested that no new construction was authorized. We confirmed w/ (b)(6) that this is not/not a PMO rule. Is it a Min. Ed rule? If so, why would Min Ed resist new construction? How will they build "schools of excellence" from existing stock?

I was encouraged by your email msge last week. i thought we could go back to the governor and offer him two model schools to get started. but my impression from saturday is that Min Ed would be opposed to even this.

Are we empowering the Ministries to the degree that local leaders will have to accept anything that baghdad offers? Given Iraq's diversity, I hope there will be room for regional improvisation. In fact, we should encourage it.

The DG for Ed here in Anbar is a very impressive individual. Many people have told me that they feel lucky to have him. But he does not appear to be involved in the process yet. Are we urging Ministries to reach down and consult?

I don't want to pester you but its hard to get a bead on this stuff from out here. PMO will hae to respond to Gov Barjas' letter. What do you think we should do?

Thanks.

(b)(6)

Check out MSN PC Safety & Security to help ensure your PC is protected and safe. <http://specials.msn.com/msn/security.asp>

(b)(6)

From: Arsht, Leslye (SES)
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2004 6:30 PM
To: (b)(6) BL
Subject: FW: RE: PMO Projects for Al Anbar

Leslye A. Arsht
Senior Advisory Team, Education Ministry
Republican Palace Rm 206
Baghdad, Iraq
e-mail: (b)(6) BL

-----Original Message----- BL
From: Gibb, Thomas Jr (CIV)
Sent: Saturday, April 10, 2004 10:32 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6); Arsht, Leslye (SES)
Subject: RE: RE: PMO Projects for Al Anbar

I am quite sure that Leslie Arsht knows the restrictions, but will reread and make sure that we cannot use 2004 Supplemental for new construction of schools. I will ask LCOL (b)(6) to double check with the lawyers in OMB, it is really their call if there is any doubt. We intend to recommend the sewer system in Hit be funded since that is the least expensive. There is a significant gap between our estimates and the Governance quoted figure, if we can get some confidence in the figure cited that would be a real help. The number in the system is much higher (over twice as much. We would like to get a breakdown of the cost estimate or some drawings reproduced so that we don't find ourselves in a bind having promised something we cannot deliver. Best Regards, Tom

Tom Gibb (SES) BL
Director of Programs
(b)(6) BL

-----Original Message-----
From: (b)(6) BL
Sent: Saturday, April 10, 2004 8:19 PM
To: Gibb, Thomas Jr (CIV) BL
Subject: FW: RE: PMO Projects for Al Anbar

(b)(6) BL
would be interested in your response.

clearly, we do not want to go through a nationwide process. it seems to me that if pmo funds can be used for new construction, however, we shld have the discretion to build two model schools w/ pmo funds. finding another building is certainly an option. adding to existing schools probably wont work and wont give the desired effect.

(b)(6) BL

>From: "Arsht, Leslye (SES)" (b)(6)
>To: (b)(6) BL
>CC: Gibb, Thomas Jr (CIV) (b)(6) BL
>(b)(6)
>
>Subject: RE: PMO Projects for Al Anbar
>Date: Sat, 10 Apr 2004 19:28:51 +0400
>

AL-Anbar Governorate

List received Jan / 24 / 2004		Annex C MOE Project List Draft 12-January 2004 Received From Ministry of Planning		
		P. Cost US \$	Const Cost	
1.	Ahmed Shawqi for Boys	216.745	131.7	(4 new C.L) #62 558.9
2.	Qubbet AL-Sakhrat for Girls	216.745	131.700	4 new C.L) 3 569.65
3.	Rashed Alie AL-Kelane	216.745	131.700	(4 = =) 49.350.00
4.	AL Ezza Primary for Boys	150.639	91.574	150.639.23 ✓
5.	AL Manhil for Boys	49.350	30.000	(new ceilings) 216.745.20
6.	AL Mithaq Sec. for Boys	49.350	30.000	(new ceilings) 150 639-23
7.	AL Ramadi Primary for Boys	150.639	91.574	
8.	Mecca Al-Mukarreme Intermediate	49.350	30.000	new ceilings 216.745
9.	Port Saeed Intermediate	325.118	197	216.745.20
10.	Um Salma for Boys	216.745	131.700	(4 new C.L.) 150 639
11.	AL Ahwazz	216.745	131.700	(=) 150 639
12.	AL Mithaq Sec. for Boys	49.350	30.000	
12.	Abi Dharr AL-Ghafari for Girls	216.745	131.700	(4 new C.L) 150 639
13.	AL Rafidain for Girls	216.74	131.700	= 150 639
14.	AL = = = Boys	=	=	=
15.	AL Wasifi for Boy	=	=	=
16.	Ibn Zaydon ^{Secs} for Boys	162.559	98.820	(2 new C.L.) 216-745
17.	AL Azhar Girls	49	30	new Ceiling

المشور
X

All Project Titles were
changed for 17 Site.