

7 July 2003

MEMO TO: Secretary Rumsfeld
FROM: Ambassador Bremer <signed>
SUBJECT: Moving Faster; A Problem or Two

I have given thought to the President and Prime Minister Blair's admonishments to identify problems or impediments to moving faster on the reconstruction of Iraq.

There are two problems that I could use help with. The assertion by OMB that it has authority over how Iraqi monies are used is an overreach of US government authority. It is also making efforts to speed up the rehabilitation of the Iraqi economy more difficult and time consuming. CPA should immediately be given full authority for all vested Iraqi funds on behalf of the Iraqi people, without reference to OMB, just as we have for seized funds. As with seized funds, we will be fully accountable after the fact for all our actions. We need this authority now. We are paying government salaries and executing other critical projects from this fund. OMB did not concur with our recent request to use vested funds to pay stipends to former Iraqi military members. I should not have to make such a request of OMB to use monies belonging to the Iraqi people. OMB mentioned concern about large draws on vested assets until the funding source is identified for the roughly \$1B reserve requirement for the Iraq Central Bank. The timing and source of Iraqi funds to use for the reserve requirement deposit(s) into the Central Bank should be my call.

The importance of having the personnel that I need when I need them is self evident. It would help if a sense of urgency and high priority to responding to my requests for personnel could be made the order of the day. A quick status report on my recent request: on 17 June we requested two hundred and fifty new and replacement personnel to quickly build the staff strength we need. To date only about a dozen people have been named; none assigned.

CPA00372-03

We need to change this. Your support for a strong interagency priority overriding current and planned assignments, training and the like to get us the people we need now would make the difference. Your staff has the details.