



Founded in 1983, the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations is an American non-profit, non-governmental, educational organization dedicated to improving American knowledge and understanding of the Arab world. The Council has been granted public charity status in accordance with Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. All contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

Vision

The National Council's *vision* is a relationship between the United States and its Arab partners, friends, and allies that rests on as solid and enduring a foundation as possible. Such a foundation, viewed from both ends of the spectrum, is one that would be characterized by strengthened and expanded strategic, economic, political, commercial, and defense cooperation ties; increased joint ventures; a mutuality of benefit; reciprocal respect for each other's heritage and values; and overall acceptance of each other's legitimate needs, concerns, interests, and objectives.

Mission

The National Council's *mission* is educational. It seeks to enhance American awareness, knowledge, and understanding of the Arab countries, the Mideast, and the Islamic world. Its means for doing so encompass but are not limited to programs for leadership development, people-to-people exchanges, lectures, publications, an annual Arab-U.S. policymakers conference, and the participation of American students and faculty in Arab world study experiences. As a public service, the Council also serves as an information clearinghouse and participant in national, state, and local grassroots outreach to media, think tanks, and select community, civic, educational, religious, business, and professional associations. In these ways the Council helps strengthen and expand the overall Arab-U.S. relationship.

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The National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations

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The International Gateway at the



presents

A Conversation with H.E. Samir Shakir M. Sumaida'ie Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to the United States

Moderator: Dr. John Duke Anthony

Tuesday, December 16, 2008
9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

The Horizon Ballroom
The Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center
13th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

His Excellency Samir Shakir M. Sumaida'ie was appointed Iraq's Ambassador to the United States of America in April 2006. Prior to his appointment Ambassador Sumaida'ie served as Permanent Representative to the United Nations from July 2004 - April 2006. During Ambassador Sumaida'ie's earlier service as Iraq's Minister of Interior in Baghdad, he managed a domestic security force of over 120,000 while reorganizing and modernizing the Ministry's operations. In addition, Ambassador Sumaida'ie served as a member of Iraq's Governing Council (GC) and chaired its Media Committee. He also played an integral role in the founding of the Iraqi Telecoms and Media Commission and the Public Broadcasting Institution as well as holding positions on the Security, Finance, and Foreign Relations Committees.

Prior to the removal of the Baathist regime, Ambassador Sumaida'ie was actively involved in opposition efforts in the United Kingdom and attended numerous high-level conferences throughout the world. As founding member of the Association of Iraqi Democrats and the Democratic Party of Iraq, he is widely renowned as an expert on the political climate in Iraq.

Ambassador Sumaida'ie was a successful businessman. He founded a procurement agency, established a design office in London, pioneered the use of computers in Islamic art, and completed important works in Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and the United Kingdom. Most recently he served as Co-Founder and Managing Director of China Business International, an investment consultancy and procurement company based in Beijing.

Ambassador Sumaida'ie was born in Baghdad and resided there until 1960. He graduated from Durham University in the United Kingdom with a degree in Electrical Engineering in 1965. He then returned to Iraq to work with the Baghdad Electricity Board and Iraqi Petroleum Company before leaving the country in 1973.

Ambassador Sumaida'ie is married and has five children, all of whom currently reside in the United Kingdom. He enjoys a wide range of cultural activities, including writing poetry and crafting designs in the Islamic decorative medium.

Schedule of Events

9:00 - 9:30 a.m. - Continental Breakfast

9:30 - 9:40 a.m. - Welcoming Remarks – Introduction

Mr. Jeremy Downs, Director, International Trade Center
Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center

Ms. Diana Sedney, Manager,
International Government Relations, Chevron Corporation

Dr. John Duke Anthony, President and CEO,
National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations

**9:40 - 10:00 a.m. - Prepared Remarks
H.E. Samir Shakir M. Sumaida'ie
Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to the United States**

10:00 - 10:55 a.m. - Audience Question & Answer

**10:55 - 11:00 a.m. - Closing Remarks
Dr. John Duke Anthony**

**Please turn-off all cell phones or place them on silent ring.
Please be aware that this morning's program is being
broadcast live on C-SPAN II.**

For your questions:

Index cards have been provided on each table for your questions. Please write your question on an index card as clearly and succinctly as possible. One question per card.

Raise your hand and one of the student interns will come to your table to pick-up the card and deliver it to the moderator. Dr. Anthony will then combine similar questions, attempt to cover a range of topics, and pose as many questions as possible to Ambassador Sumaida'ie in the time available.

You may begin submitting questions during the continental breakfast at the registration desk.

A Year in Iraqi-U.S. Relations

[Adapted from BBC-TV and the Associated Press]

Jan. 12, 2008 Ba'ath Party Reinstatement

Iraq's parliament unanimously passes a law allowing thousands of former Ba'ath party members to apply for reinstatement in the civil service and military. The legislation also allows pensions to be given to additional senior members still banned from public life.

The law makes a distinction between two categories of Ba'ath party officials who have been barred from state employment since 2003. Only senior party leaders who were in the top five of the party's 10 levels and who implemented the oppressive policies of Saddam's government would remain subject to the ban. Middle-ranking officials and those in the bottom five levels of the party structure would be able to resume government jobs.

Feb. 22, 2008 Moqtada al Sadr Extends Ceasefire

Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr suspends Mahdi Army activities for a second six-month period. "This extension of his Aug. 2007 pledge of honor to halt attacks is an important commitment that can broadly contribute to further improvements in security for all Iraqi citizens," the military said in a statement, according to the AP [Associated Press]. "It will also foster a better opportunity for national reconciliation."

Mar. 11, 2008 Iraq Attacks Decline

The number of enemy-initiated attacks has decreased by about two-thirds since June 2007 to early-2005 levels. The average number of daily attacks decreased from about 180 in June 2007 to about 60 in Jan. 2008, a decrease of nearly 70%. The number of attacks on Iraqi security forces and civilians also declined from June 2007 levels.

Mar. 24, 2008 Four thousand U.S. troops dead

The number of dead US soldiers in Iraq reaches 4,000.

April 2008 U.S Troop withdrawals Halted

U.S. military commander in Iraq, General David Petraeus, tells Congress he plans to halt US troop withdrawals because of fragile security gains.

June 2008 Australia ends its combat operations in Iraq.

Mr. Maliki pays third visit to Iran since taking office as premier. He seeks to allay Iranian fears over proposed indefinite extension of US military

presence in Iraq by saying he will not allow his country to be used as a launch pad for an American attack on Iran.

July 14, 2008 Iraq Calls for U.S. Troop Withdrawal Timetable

Iraq's Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki is quoted at an Arab ambassadors reception saying that "the negotiations with the US party are continuing, and the current orientation is to reach a memorandum of understanding for the evacuation of the US forces or a memorandum of understanding for scheduling their withdrawal."

July 16, 2008 U.S. Troop "Surge" ends

The US military "surge" into Iraq that began on Jan. 10, 2007 has ended. 150,000 US troops remain, about 15,000 more than before the buildup began.

The main Sunni Arab bloc, the Iraqi Accordance Front, rejoins the Shia-led government almost a year after it pulled out.

September 2008 U.S. forces hand over control of the western province of Anbar to the Iraqi government. Once a flashpoint of the anti-US insurgency and later an al-Qaeda stronghold, Anbar is the first Sunni province to be returned to Baghdad's Shia-led government.

Iraqi parliament passes provincial elections law after long debates. Issue of contested city of Kirkuk set aside so that elections can go ahead elsewhere.

October 2008 - Members of the Baghdad Awakening Council, estimated to number about 54,000, move to the Iraqi government payroll, with other members of the Sunni militia councils set to follow.

The US military says al-Qaeda in Iraq's second-in-command has been killed during a raid in the northern city of Mosul, and that the group's top commander in east Baghdad has also been killed. The government sends extra police to Mosul to protect the city's Christians after a spate of killings blamed on al-Qaeda.

November 2008 - The Iraqi parliament approves a security pact with the United States under which all US troops are due to leave the country by the end of 2011.

December 2008 - Iraq will need a U.S. troop presence to help build up its military forces past the newly agreed three-year deadline for the withdrawal of American soldiers, a senior Iraqi official said Thursday.

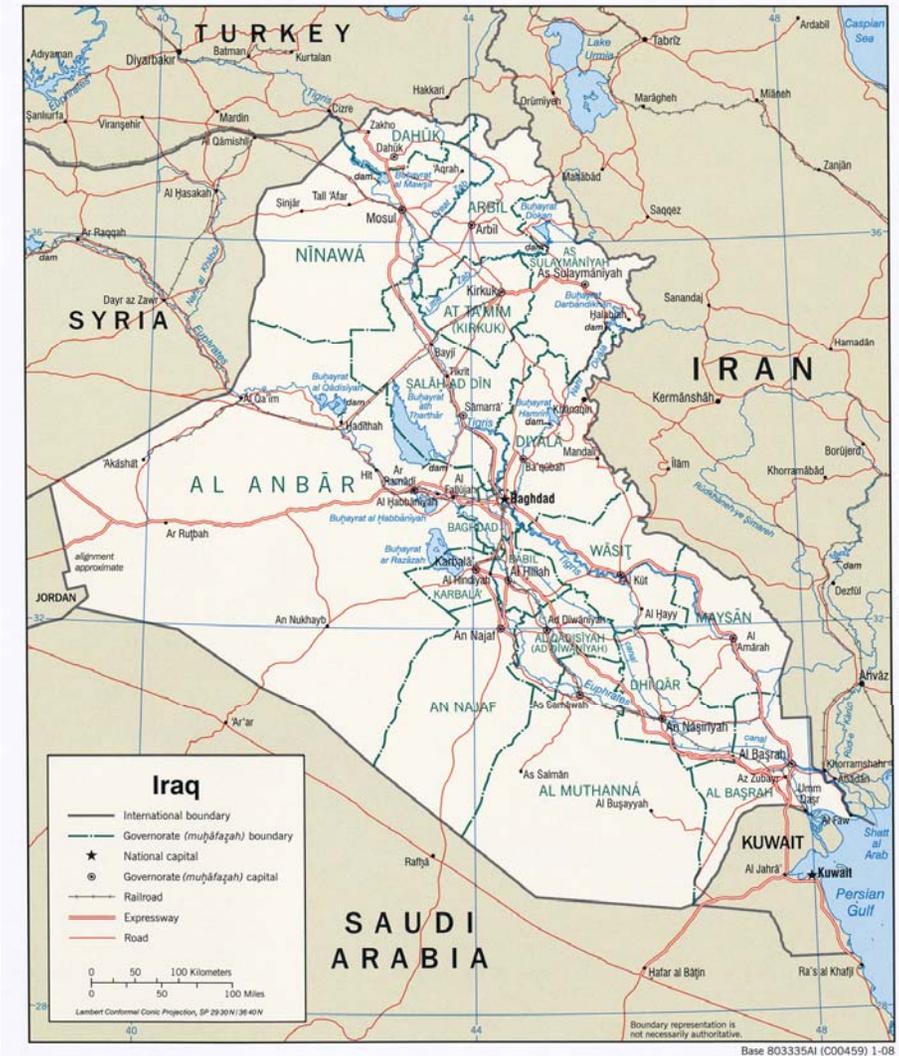
Participating in this morning's program

Jeremy Downs is Director of the International Trade Center, a special project of the United States General Services Administration. The Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center facility brings together federal, state and regional trade resources, international trade related businesses and services to convey the United States' recognition of the importance of trade in linking countries and communities.

Diana Sedney

Diana Sedney is a Manager, International Government Relations for Chevron in Washington, D.C. with responsibility for Eurasian, Middle Eastern, and European issues. She joined Chevron in 1998 initially as a consultant for Caspian energy issues and assumed her present position in 2001. Ms. Sedney has a background in international business development and academic and research chemistry. Ms. Sedney was the first Commercial Associate at the U.S. Embassy in Baku in 1995 with responsibility for supporting U.S. business opportunities in Azerbaijan. She also served at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing beginning in 1991 and at the American Institute on Taiwan in 1990 with the U.S. Foreign Agricultural Service. Ms. Sedney holds a bachelor's degree in chemistry and earned a doctoral degree in inorganic chemistry from Northeastern University in 1979.

John Duke Anthony is founding President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations and an Adjunct Professor at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service's Center for Contemporary Arab Studies. For the past 35 years he has been a consultant and regular lecturer on the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf for the Departments of Defense and State. A member of the Council on Foreign Relations since 1986, Dr. Anthony is a frequent participant in its study groups on issues related to the Arabian Peninsula and Gulf regions as well as the broader Arab and Islamic world. Dr. Anthony has accompanied more than 200 Members of Congress, their chiefs of staff, defense and foreign affairs advisers, and legislative and communications directors on fact-finding missions to the Arab world. He holds a B.A. in History from Virginia Military Institute, a Master of Science in Foreign Service (With Distinction) from the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, and a Ph.D. in International Relations and Middle East Studies from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies.



Area: total: 437,072 sq km, slightly smaller than California
Population: 28,221,180 (July 2008 est.)
Population growth rate: 2.562% (2008 est.)
Ethnic groups: Arab 75%-80%, Kurd 15%-20%, Turcoman, Chaldean, Assyrian, or others less than 5%.
Religions: Muslim 97% (Shia 60%-65%, Sunni 32%-37%), Christian or other 3%
Languages: Arabic (official), Kurdish (official), Assyrian, Armenian.
GDP (2007 est.): \$60.12 billion (2007 est.)
GDP-PPP (2007 est.): \$102.4 billion (2007 est.)
[SOURCE: Iraq Country Profile, U.S. Department of State]