

~~SECRET ORCON~~



HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER

MEMORANDUM FOR:
03

DATE: 27 May

DCDR _____
 COS _____
 DCS _____

URGENT

CDR Tasker: See back of attached report.

Iraq Museum Paper. See CDR's comments on attached. What is the plan? Provide data on number of missing items. More information on seizure.

Need comprehensive bullet paper on the museum issue, the plan, etc.

J3/JIACG LEAD
DUE 5-29

CC: J1 _____
J2 _____
J3 _____
J4 _____
J5 _____
J6 _____
J8 _____
CAG _____

Executive Assistant

~~SECRET ORCON~~

527-044

What's the Plan/Timeline?
ES.??

~~FOUO~~

26 May 03

CCJIACG INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: IRAQ NATIONAL MUSEUM IN BAGHDAD ANTIQUITIES INVESTIGATION

1. Executive Summary: In mid-April, the press reported 170,000 antiquities had been stolen and damaged from the Museum. USCENTCOM sent a team from CCJIACG, consisting of CCJIACG personnel and ICE/US Customs agents, to investigate the theft and begin recovery procedures by identifying the antiquities actually missing. After intensive investigation, the missing items count changed daily because the museum comprises of several departments, each maintaining manual and non-uniform inventory system. Also, many items were moved to other locations as the war commenced

2. DISCUSSION:

a. CCJIACG continues the investigation at the Iraq Museum in Baghdad, due to theft reported by the Museum employees and media of a substantial number of priceless artifacts. Negative press reports regarding efforts to prevent the thefts distracted attention from Coalition successes. CCJIACG was directed to plan, coordinate, and execute a preliminary investigation. The team, consisting CCJIACG personnel and ICE/Customs and, arrived at the museum 22 Apr 03.

b. After a thorough investigation, the number of missing items, as initially reported, has decreased. Part of the reason for the discrepancy between initial reports and actual number of items missing is based on separate museum departments not coordinating, and each maintaining a manual and non-uniform inventory system. Additionally, many items were moved to other locations prior to the war for "safe-keeping".

c. The investigation team continues to make progress. On 22 May, 425 items from the Iraq Museum were recovered at a routine military checkpoint. The major tasks remaining are: 1) Finding the results of the seizure of antiquities, 2) monitoring the opening of the Central Bank vaults, 3) finishing the inventories of various rooms in the museum, 4) updating the Customs, FBI, State, and Interpol web sites, and 5) persuading the museum staff to reveal the "secret" location that items were moved to for "safe-keeping" during the war (museum director has provided an inventory of items in the "secret" location).

3. Recommendation: None. For information only.

Approved by

[Signature]
[Redacted]
(b)(3), (b)(6)
CHOPS, CCJIACG

PREPARED BY:

[Signature]
[Redacted]
(b)(3), (b)(6)
Action Officer

Begin with ms #, Show where today, and Plan for future

[Signature]

VICTOR E. RENUART, JR.
Major General, USAF
Director of Operations

~~FOUO~~

to what?