

~~SECRET~~

CCJ3P

03 Sept 03

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF PLANS AND POLICY, JOINT STAFF

ATTN: b 3 b 6

SUBJECT: (S) USCENTCOM Comments on MEK Option Implementation

1. (S) On 29 August 2003, the CENTCOM Plans Division reviewed the impact of implementing Options 2 and 3 with regard to SECDEF guidance on the MEK and determined that maintaining the status quo (Option 1) is still the preferred course of action. CENTCOM's number one priority in Iraq is security. Currently, the MEK continues to cooperate with Coalition forces and, despite incarceration, arrange their own sustainment. While they continue to broadcast anti-Iranian propaganda, it is not derogatory toward Coalition forces or effort. The MEK does not pose an immediate threat to Coalition personnel or operations.

2. (S) Implementation of MEK Options 2 or 3 would entail, at a minimum, restricting MEK movement and communications, prohibition of their broadcasts, and closing MEK offices in Baghdad and Fallujah. While these tasks may promote the strategic effort and international perception, they will likely also promote unrest or attempts by MEK to flee which would necessitate a higher security presence both inside and outside the camp. In addition, responsibility for MEK sustainment would pass to Coalition forces. The combination of these additional tasks would require additional forces, possibly as large as a brigade-sized unit. This would divert critical security and logistical forces from existing essential tasks and priorities to source this immediate requirement.

3. (S) As the commencement of Phase II of the MEK screening process approaches, this is not the time to change the status quo and reduce the level of cooperation we have with the MEK. Immediate implementation of a more aggressive approach at this time would be counterproductive to ongoing operations.

3. (U) POC (b)(3), (b)(6) CCJ3-PP, Ext b 6

J. F. Sattler  
Maj Gen, USMC  
Director of Operations

~~SECRET~~