

~~S//REL TO USA and MCFI//20150611~~

1.4b

**: SCIRI and the Badr Organization in Najaf Province
11 June 2005**

~~(S//REL)~~ **Background:** [1.4b] in Najaf by utilizing SCIRI and its militant wing, the Badr Organization. SCIRI, or the Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq, is a political organization that operated from [1.4b] during the Saddam era. The Badr Organization, previously the Badr Corps, is the paramilitary wing of SCIRI that received training and salary support from the [1.4b] SCIRI and Badr work within coalition-backed structures by placing members on town councils and in security forces. SCIRI had a strong showing in national, provincial, and council elections, allowing many of its members into high level government positions, including the cabinet position for the Ministry of Interior. The Badr Organization has taken a more political approach since the elections of late January and has increased in favor across southern Iraq. Together, these two organizations are attempting to shape Iraq according to their agendas by infiltrating Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and purging members of the ISF not loyal to SCIRI, a method used during the Saddam era to maintain power and control.

~~(S//REL)~~ **Influence in Najaf Province:** SCIRI continues attempts to control the security forces at the local and provincial levels by recruiting SCIRI sympathizers. Despite appointments to the Najaf security forces made by the SCIRI-affiliated Minister of Interior (MOI), the Najaf governor (Assad Altase Abu Gilal) and chief of police are installing their own appointments. In one case, MOI-appointed [b)(6)] [b)(6)] was arrested in April for mutiny and human rights violations, after reportedly complaining of payroll corruption to the MOI. The deputy governor of the province, reportedly sympathetic to SCIRI, is now the acting chief of police.

~~(S//REL)~~ The Badr Organization has distanced itself from its militant heritage since the success of the elections, even toning down its name from Corps to Organization to prevent being associated as a militia. Badr members, with the help of SCIRI leadership, are filling both high ranking and mid-level provincial security positions within the ISF in order to expand their influence.

~~(S//REL)~~ **SCIRI and Sadr:** The Sadr Bureau, an increasingly influential Shi'a organization led by Mu'tada Al Sadr, has generally been in opposition to SCIRI despite strong [1.4b] Friction exists between both organizations as they vie for public support for their organizations. Sadr is reaching for greater support by increasing his religious stature and adopting legitimate political measures. Most recently Sadr acted as a mediator between SCIRI and the MUC.

~~(S//REL)~~ **Assessment:** Citizens in Najaf are suspicious of [1.4b] causing SCIRI and Badr members to hesitate on relying too heavily on [1.4b] for support. Both organizations have taken measures to assure the citizens of Najaf Province that they are not being manipulated by [1.4b] While [1.4b] does provide funding for

~~S//REL TO USA and MCFI//20050611~~

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the organizations, reporting indicates that the organizations are looking to move away from [1.4b] as the emerging Iraqi government matures.

One way SCIRI may try to gain more popularity among the Shia may include a name change. If SCIRI decides to change names it would likely happen before upcoming December elections in order to change public perception of [1.4b] [1.4b] among SCIRI members. Another possible COA could include dissolving the Badr Organization with members filling security positions throughout the province and other Shia dominated areas in order to show non-supporters they are no longer [1.4b]. SCIRI will continue to influence governmental and security positions by placing more members in mid level governmental positions throughout An Najaf province. The Badr Organization will conduct more positive public activities in order to increase support for their organization. Future Badr operations against MNF and ISF IVO An Najaf will be limited to covert intelligence collecting.

MNC-I C2 CACE, Future Intelligence Section, DSN [b)(6)]

Sources:

[1.4c]

Approved for Release

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