

For Six Month Period Ending 11/30/08
(Insert date)

I - REGISTRANT

1. (a) Name of Registrant
American Business Development Group

(b) Registration No.
5810

(c) Business Address(es) of Registrant
2800 S. Shirlington Road, Ste 401
Arlington, Virginia 22206

2. Has there been a change in the information previously furnished in connection with the following:

(a) If an individual:

(1) Residence address(es)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(2) Citizenship	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(3) Occupation	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

(b) If an organization:

(1) Name	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(2) Ownership or control	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(3) Branch offices	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

(c) Explain fully all changes, if any, indicated in items (a) and (b) above.

2008 DEC 30 PM 2: 38
CRM/ISS/REGISTRATION UNIT

IF THE REGISTRANT IS AN INDIVIDUAL, OMIT RESPONSE TO ITEMS 3, 4 AND 5(a).

3. If you have previously filed Exhibit C¹, state whether any changes therein have occurred during this 6 month reporting period.

Yes No

If yes, have you filed an amendment to the Exhibit C? Yes No

If no, please attach the required amendment.

¹ The Exhibit C, for which no printed form is provided, consists of a true copy of the charter, articles of incorporation, association, and by laws of a registrant that is an organization. (A waiver of the requirement to file an Exhibit C may be obtained for good cause upon written application to the Assistant Attorney General, National Security Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20530.)

4. (a) Have any persons ceased acting as partners, officers, directors or similar officials of the registrant during this 6 month reporting period? Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Position	Date connection ended
Laurin Groover	Director, Legislative Liaison	08/01/2008

(b) Have any persons become partners, officers, directors or similar officials during this 6 month reporting period? Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Residence address	Citizenship	Position	Date assumed
------	-------------------	-------------	----------	--------------

5. (a) Has any person named in item 4(b) rendered services directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal? Yes No

If yes, identify each such person and describe his service.

(b) Have any employees or individuals, who have filed a short form registration statement, terminated their employment or connection with the registrant during this 6 month reporting period? Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Position or connection	Date terminated
------	------------------------	-----------------

(c) During this 6 month reporting period, has the registrant hired as employees or in any other capacity, any persons who rendered or will render services to the registrant directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal(s) in other than a clerical or secretarial, or in a related or similar capacity? Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Residence address	Citizenship	Position	Date assumed
------	-------------------	-------------	----------	--------------

6. Have short form registration statements been filed by all of the persons named in Items 5(a) and 5(c) of the supplemental statement? Yes No

If no, list names of persons who have not filed the required statement.

II - FOREIGN PRINCIPAL

7. Has your connection with any foreign principal ended during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name of foreign principal

Date of termination

8. Have you acquired any new foreign principal² during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name and address of foreign principal

Date acquired

9. In addition to those named in Items 7 and 8, if any, list foreign principals² whom you continued to represent during the 6 month reporting period.

Kurdistan Regional Government

10. **EXHIBITS A AND B**

(a) Have you filed for each of the newly acquired foreign principals in Item 8 the following:

Exhibit A³ Yes No
Exhibit B⁴ Yes No

If no, please attach the required exhibit.

(b) Have there been any changes in the Exhibits A and B previously filed for any foreign principal whom you represented during the 6 month period? Yes No

If yes, have you filed an amendment to these exhibits? Yes No

If no, please attach the required amendment.

² The term "foreign principal" includes, in addition to those defined in Section 1(b) of the Act, an individual organization any of whose activities are directly or indirectly supervised, directed, controlled, financed, or subsidized in whole or in major part by a foreign government, foreign political party, foreign organization or foreign individual. (See Rule 100(a)(9).) A registrant who represents more than one foreign principal is required to list in the statements he files under the Act only those principals for whom he is not entitled to claim exemption under Section 3 of the Act. (See Rule 208.)

³ The Exhibit A, which is filed on Form NSD-3 (Formerly CRM-157), sets forth the information required to be disclosed concerning each foreign principal.

⁴ The Exhibit B, which is filed on Form NSD-4 (Formerly CRM-155), sets forth the information concerning the agreement or understanding between the registrant and the foreign principal.

III - ACTIVITIES

11. During this 6 month reporting period, have you engaged in any activities for or rendered any services to any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement? Yes No

If yes, identify each such foreign principal and describe in full detail your activities and services:

Kurdistan Regional Government: Communicated and facilitated meetings for foreign principals with Members of Congress and Congressional Staff as well as Executive Branch agencies; specifically the Departments of Defense, State and Commerce.

12. During this 6 month reporting period, have you on behalf of any foreign principal engaged in political activity⁵ as defined below? Yes No

If yes, identify each such foreign principal and describe in full detail all such political activity, indicating, among other things, the relations, interests and policies sought to be influenced and the means employed to achieve this purpose. If the registrant arranged, sponsored or delivered speeches, lectures or radio and TV broadcasts, give details as to dates and places of delivery, names of speakers and subject matter.

Organized a reception honoring the Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government attended by US business leaders and offices of the Department of Defense and Commerce.

13. In addition to the above described activities, if any, have you engaged in activity on your own behalf which benefits any or all of your foreign principals? Yes No

If yes, describe fully.

⁵ The term "political activities" means any activity that the person engaging in believes will, or that the person intends to, in any way influence any agency or official of the Government of the United States or any section of the public within the United States with reference to formulating, adopting or changing the domestic or foreign policies of the United States or with reference to the political or public interests, policies, or relations of a government of a foreign country or a foreign political party.

IV - FINANCIAL INFORMATION

14. (a) RECEIPTS -MONIES

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal, any contributions, income or money either as compensation or otherwise? Yes [x] No []

If no, explain why.

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies⁶.

Date	From whom	Purpose	Amount
June - December 2008	Kurdistan Regional Government	Monthly retainer	\$70,000

Total

(b) RECEIPTS - FUND RAISING CAMPAIGN

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received, as part of a fund raising campaign⁷, any money on behalf of any foreign principal named in items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement? Yes [] No [x]

If yes, have you filed an Exhibit D⁸ to your registration? Yes [] No []

If yes, indicate the date the Exhibit D was filed. Date _____

(c) RECEIPTS - THINGS OF VALUE

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received any thing of value⁹ other than money from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal?

Yes [] No [x]

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name of foreign principal	Date received	Description of thing of value	Purpose
---------------------------	---------------	-------------------------------	---------

6, 7 A registrant is required to file an Exhibit D if he collects or receives contributions, loans, money, or other things of value for a foreign principal, as part of a fund raising campaign. (See Rule 201(e).)

8 An Exhibit D, for which no printed form is provided, sets forth an account of money collected or received as a result of a fund raising campaign and transmitted for a foreign principal.

9 Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks," and the like.

15. (a) **DISBURSEMENTS – MONIES**

During this 6 month reporting period, have you

- (1) disbursed or expended monies in connection with activity on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement? Yes No
- (2) transmitted monies to any such foreign principal? Yes No

If no, explain in full detail why there were no disbursements made on behalf of any foreign principal.

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies, including monies transmitted, if any, to each foreign principal.

Date	To whom	Purpose	Amount
6/29/08	Ayal Frank	Consulting Services	\$10,000
7/30/08	Ayal Frank	Consulting Services	\$10,000
8/31/08	Ayal Frank	Consulting Services	\$10,000
9/29/08	Ayal Frank	Consulting Services	\$10,000
10/31/08	Ayal Frank	Consulting Services	\$10,000
11/30/08	Ayal Frank	Consulting Services	\$10,000
12/31/08	Ayal Frank	Consulting Services	\$10,000

Total

(b) DISBURSEMENTS – THINGS OF VALUE

During this 6 month reporting period, have you disposed of anything of value¹⁰ other than money in furtherance of or in connection with activities on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement?

Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Date disposed	Name of person to whom given	On behalf of what foreign principal	Description of thing of value	Purpose
---------------	------------------------------	-------------------------------------	-------------------------------	---------

(c) DISBURSEMENTS – POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

During this 6 month reporting period, have you from your own funds and on your own behalf either directly or through any other person, made any contributions of money or other things of value¹¹ in connection with an election to any political office, or in connection with any primary election, convention, or caucus held to select candidates for political office?

Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Date	Amount or thing of value	Name of political organization	Name of candidate
10-20-08	\$1800.00	Joe Wilson for Congress (SC)	Joe Wilson
12-08-08	\$1500.00	Joe Wilson for Congress (SC)	Joe Wilson
12-30-08	\$5900.00	David Poythress for Governor (GA)	David Poythress
10-01-08	\$500.00	Barry Wingard for State House (SC)	Barry Wingard

^{10, 11} Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks" and the like.

V - INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

16. During this 6 month reporting period, did you prepare, disseminate or cause to be disseminated any informational materials¹²?
Yes No

IF YES, RESPOND TO THE REMAINING ITEMS IN SECTION V.

17. Identify each such foreign principal.
Kurdistan Regional Government

18. During this 6 month reporting period, has any foreign principal established a budget or allocated a specified sum of money to finance your activities in preparing or disseminating informational materials? Yes No

If yes, identify each such foreign principal, specify amount, and indicate for what period of time.

19. During this 6 month reporting period, did your activities in preparing, disseminating or causing the dissemination of informational materials include the use of any of the following:

- Radio or TV broadcasts
- Magazine or newspaper articles
- Motion picture films
- Letters or telegrams
- Advertising campaigns
- Press releases
- Pamphlets or other publications
- Lectures or speeches
- Internet
- Other (specify) _____

20. During this 6 month reporting period, did you disseminate or cause to be disseminated informational materials among any of the following groups:

- Public officials
- Newspapers
- Libraries
- Legislators
- Editors
- Educational institutions
- Government agencies
- Civic groups or associations
- Nationality groups
- Other (specify) _____

21. What language was used in the informational materials:

- English
- Other (specify) _____

22. Did you file with the Registration Unit, U.S. Department of Justice a copy of each item of such informational materials disseminated or caused to be disseminated during this 6 month reporting period? Yes No

23. Did you label each item of such informational materials with the statement required by Section 4(b) of the Act? Yes No

¹² The term informational materials includes any oral, visual, graphic, written, or pictorial information or matter of any kind, including that published by means of advertising, books, periodicals, newspapers, lectures, broadcasts, motion pictures, or any means or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce or otherwise. Informational materials disseminated by an agent of a foreign principal as part of an activity in itself exempt from registration, or an activity which by itself would not require registration, need not be filed pursuant to Section 4(b) of the Act.

VI – EXECUTION

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. §1746, the undersigned swear(s) or affirm(s) under penalty of perjury that he/she has (they have) read the information set forth in this registration statement and the attached exhibits and that he/she is (they are) familiar with the contents thereof and that such contents are in their entirety true and accurate to the best of his/her (their) knowledge and belief, except that the undersigned make(s) no representation as to the truth or accuracy of the information contained in the attached Short Form Registration Statement(s), if any, insofar as such information is not within his/her (their) personal knowledge.

(Date of signature)

(Type or print name under each signature¹³)

30 Dec 2008

William H. Skipper

William H. Skipper

2008 DEC 30 PM 2:38
CRM/ISS/REGISTRATION UNIT

13 This statement shall be signed by the individual agent, if the registrant is an individual, or by a majority of those partners, officers, directors or persons performing similar functions, if the registrant is an organization, except that the organization can, by power of attorney, authorize one or more individuals to execute this statement on its behalf.



U.S. Department of Justice

National Security Division

Washington, DC 20530

THIS FORM IS TO BE AN OFFICIAL ATTACHMENT TO YOUR CURRENT SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENT - PLEASE EXECUTE IN TRIPPLICATE

SHORT-FORM REGISTRATION INFORMATION SHEET

SECTION A

The Department records list active short-form registration statements for the following persons of your organization filed on the date indicated by each name. If a person is not still functioning in the same capacity directly on behalf of the foreign principal, please show the date of termination.

Short Form List for Registrant: American Business Development Group

Last Name	First Name and Other Names	Registration Date	Termination Date	Role
Frank	Ayal	05/14/2007		
Demetriades Jr.	George	05/14/2007		
Groover	Elizabeth	05/14/2007	12/20/08	
Skipper	William	05/14/2007		

Ms Groover is still a consultant to American Business Development Group however she no longer works directly or indirectly on behalf of the foreign principal.

2008 DEC 30 PM 2: 37
CRM/ISS/REGISTRATION UNIT



U.S. Department of Justice

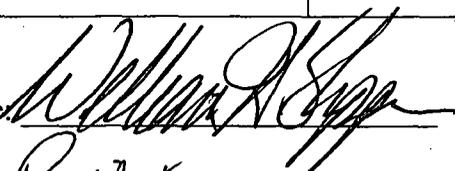
National Security Division

Washington, DC 20530

SECTION B

In addition to those persons listed in Section A, list below all current employees rendering services directly on behalf of the foreign principals(s) who have not filed short-form registration statements. (Do not list clerks, secretaries, typists or employees in a similar or related capacity). If there is some question as to whether an employee has an obligation to file a short-form, please address a letter to the Registration Unit describing the activities and connection with the foreign principal.

Name	Function	Date Hired
No ADDITIONS		

Signature:  Date: 12/30/08
Title: President

2008 DEC 30 PM 2: 37
CRM/ISS/REGISTRATION UNIT

George Demetriades

From: Ayal Frank
Sent: Sunday, December 28, 2008 9:36 PM
To: George Demetriades
Subject: FW: Kurdish American Congressional Caucus
Attachments: KAC Dear Colleague.doc; Kurdish American Caucus Objections & Responses.doc; Kurdish Caucus talking points.doc

From: Ayal Frank
Sent: Thu 7/17/2008 12:32 PM
Subject: Kurdish American Congressional Caucus

Dear senior staff -

In May, the Kurdish American Caucus was established in the House of Representatives by Congressman Lincoln Davis (D-TN) and Congressman Joe Wilson (R-SC). See attached relevant information about the caucus, for your and the congressman's review.

I write you because your boss has previously supported Iraqi Kurdish interests.

To date, representatives Blackburn (R-TN), Filner (D-CA), Moran (D-VA), Loretta Sanchez (D-CA) Shays (R-CT), Rothman (D-NJ), Sestak (D-PA), Israel (D-NY), Meeks (D-NY) and Gilchrest (R-MD) have also joined the caucus.

I stand ready to answer any questions about the caucus. I'm hopeful that your boss will join the caucus as well.

Thank you. Best regards, Ayal

Ayal Frank, Senior Consultant
American Business Development Group
Tel. 703-647-2977
Mobile 202-246-8163
Fax 703-824-0320
www.american-bdg.com

2008 DEC 30 PM 2:38
CRM/ISS/REGISTRATION UNIT

In accordance with the Foreign Agents Registration Act this material is distributed by the American Business Development Group on behalf of the Kurdistan Regional Government. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

KURDISH-AMERICAN CAUCUS INAUGURAL RECEPTION

Honored Guest:

Prime Minister Nechirvan Barzani

Iraqi Kurdistan Regional Government

Wednesday, May 21st, 2008; 5:30pm – 6:30pm
Capitol Room HC-7

Dear Colleague:

Earlier this year, during separate trips, we visited the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. The visit to Erbil was refreshing and encouraging for both the United States and Iraq. We believe that the Kurdish Region is a beacon of stability and security in Iraq. Since the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), in 2003, not a single U.S. soldier or civilian contractor has been killed or kidnapped in the areas administered by the Iraqi Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG). Kurds practice a moderate form of Islam that shuns extremism. The people of Iraqi Kurdistan love the United States. They continue to embrace America as liberators. Iraqi Kurdish forces were our most valuable indigenous ally during OIF. A moderate, democratic and stable pro-American ally on the border between Iran, Turkey, and Syria offers both diplomatic opportunities and deterrent effects to regional conflict. The KRG has played, and will continue to play, a constructive role in reducing tensions with Turkey as well. The Kurdistan Region can be a buffer against international conflict. Indeed, it is also a vital ally in protecting U.S. national interests in Iraq and the region as a whole. The Kurdish Region of Iraq is a model of reconstruction success – the majority of villages razed by the regime of Saddam Hussein have been rebuilt; a liberal foreign investment law allows foreign land ownership, tax incentives and easy repatriation of profits, and there are five vibrant universities operating in the region, including the American University of Iraq, based in Suleimaniyah.

The United States should be known as a Nation that stands by her friends. We must ensure that U.S. policy reinforces the hard-earned success of Iraq's Kurds. It is for this reason that we will be forming the Kurdish American Congressional Caucus. This will help our own national interests in Iraq, and it will help our Kurdish friends as well. We hope you will join us as members of this important caucus.

We invite you to come meet Iraqi Kurdistan Regional Government Prime Minister Nechirvan Barzani next week on Capitol Hill-- Wednesday, May 21st at 5:30pm in room HC-7 of the Capitol Building. He is an excellent young leader in the new Iraq and we

trust the meeting will provide you with important information concerning current events in the region.

For more information about the caucus and the reception for Prime Minister Barzani, please contact Matt Reel with Rep. Lincoln Davis at matt.reel@mail.house.gov or x56831; or Paul Callahan with Rep. Joe Wilson at paul.callahan@mail.house.gov or x52452.

Lincoln Davis (D-TN-04)
Co-Founder and Co-Chair
Kurdish-American Caucus

Joe Wilson (R-SC-02)
Co-Founder and Co-Chair
Kurdish-American Caucus

2009 DEC 30 PM 2: 38
CRM/ISS/REGISTRATION UNIT

Answering Possible Objections to the Kurdish American Caucus

1. Objection: The Kurdish American Caucus (KAC) suggests Congressional support for Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) independence from Iraq at a time when the U.S. is trying to promote national unity and reduce tensions among Iraqi ethnic and sectarian groups.

Response: First, this is **not** an Iraqi Kurdish or KRG caucus. It is a **Kurdish American** caucus that seeks to promote understanding of Kurdish culture, history and issues important to the Kurdish community in the U.S. and elsewhere. Second, the caucus emphasizes the Kurdish commitment to a unified, Federal and democratic Iraq and the full participation of Kurds in the Iraqi government as stipulated in the Iraqi constitution. Third, the KRG is officially committed to a unified, Federal and democratic Iraq and has no ambition to become a separate state.

2. Objection: The caucus suggests Congressional support for an independent Kurdistan, which would incite tensions with our NATO ally, Turkey, as well as Syria and Iran, just as the U.S. is seeking to advance better relations between Turkey and the KRG.

Response: The caucus in absolutely no way advocates a greater Kurdistan. Indeed, the caucus by-laws do not endorse separatism at all. On the contrary, the by-laws call for respect for human rights for Kurdish minorities within recognized nations in which they live and explicitly express the Kurdish commitment to a unified, Federal Iraq. In fact, the caucus can be a vehicle for promoting the integration of Kurdish minorities where they live and encouraging this minority group to embrace the commitment to national unity as the KRG has done in Iraq.

3. Objection: The Kurdish caucus is unprecedented because it is based on ethnic identity rather than national identity.

Response: The House of Representative already has a Hellenic Caucus and an Asian Pacific American Caucus, which have ethnic and transnational purposes. The Kurdish American Caucus will pay special recognition to American Kurds in the U.S., their contributions both to this country and in Iraq, their friendship with the U.S. and the necessity to promote their rights as an ethnic minority in America.

4. Objection: The Kurdish caucus would, in effect, give unprecedented recognition and status to a regional sub-national government. This is a bad precedent that could embroil the U.S. Congress internal disputes between governments and groups.

Response: This is not a KRG caucus. It is an American caucus with a goal of assisting Kurds in the U.S. and in the Diaspora, not the policies of any government.

5. Objection: The Kurdish caucus is not justified based on the relatively small number of ethnic Kurds in the United States.

Response: The Kurdish population in America has not been fully documented. The estimated 50,000 Kurds who have made the U.S. their home deserve to be heard and given the respect they deserve. They are also representative of a people that numbers 30 million worldwide, which have suffered simply because of the language they speak and the culture they hold dear. This caucus will provide them a voice in the U.S. and will allow them the chance to live the American dream.

Why Congress Needs a Kurdish American Caucus

The Kurdish American Caucus would promote knowledge and understanding of the Kurds, a distinct group around the world. U.S. policy toward the Kurds is important to American relations with key allies in Turkey and Iraq as well as relations with Iran and Syria. The Kurdistan Region of Iraq is vital to an American vision of a peaceful and prosperous Iraq. While the Caucus would concern itself with Kurdish populations throughout the world, especially in the U.S., the key focus is the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, which is playing a pivotal role in the future of that nation.

Members of Congress should join the Kurdish American Caucus for three distinct reasons:

1. Kurdistan is a beacon of stability, security and prosperity in Iraq and the entire Middle East. We must ensure that U.S. policy reinforces the hard-earned success of Iraq's Kurds.

- The Kurdistan Region is a model for the rest of Iraq.
- Since the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), not a single U.S. soldier or civilian contractor has been killed or kidnapped in the areas administered by the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG).
- Kurds practice a moderate form of Islam that shuns extremism.
- The Kurdistan Region is a model of reconstruction success - more than 65% of the villages razed by Saddam have been rebuilt; a new liberal foreign investment law passed in 2006 allows foreign land ownership, tax incentives and easy repatriation of profits; there are five vibrant universities operating in the region today, including the American University of Iraq, based in Suleimaniyah.
- The KRG is a functioning democracy committed to establishing a federal, unified democratic system in Iraq.
- The KRG has fostered a climate of moderation and minority rights. In Iraqi Kurdistan, Kurds, Assyrians, Turkmen, Yazidis, Muslim and Christian are living side-by-side in harmony and tolerance.

2. Kurdistan is a vital ally in protecting U.S. national interests in Iraq and the region as a whole.

- The KRG has played, and can continue to play, a constructive role in reducing tensions with Turkey. Iraqi Kurdistan can be a buffer against international conflict.
- There are 30 million Kurds in the region (5 million in Iraq), which is the largest ethnic group in the world without a state. The U.S. must ensure that Iraqi Kurdistan becomes a force for peace.

- A moderate, democratic and stable pro-American ally on the border between Iran, Iraq, Turkey, and Syria offers both diplomatic opportunities and deterrent effects to regional conflict.
- Natural resources in the Kurdistan Region make it an attractive emerging market for American business.
- Kurdish Forces are a cohesive, effective and respected combat force. They were America's most valuable indigenous ally during OIF.

3. The people of Iraqi Kurdistan love the United States. They embrace America as liberators and are committed to a strong alliance with the U.S.

- About 55,000 Kurds live in the U.S. today.
- In a Middle East region torn by conflict and rampant anti-American sentiment, Iraqi Kurdistan is a haven of friendship for the U.S.
- Kurds are open to U.S. investment, ideas, security cooperation and diplomatic partnership.
- America should be known as a Nation that stands by her friends.
- A Congressional Kurdish American Caucus will help solidarity and influence for this friend and vital ally.

2008 DEC 30 PM 2: 39
CRM/ISS/REGISTRATION UNIT

George Demetriades

From: Ayal Frank
Sent: Sunday, December 28, 2008 9:35 PM
To: George Demetriades
Subject: FW: Visit to Washington of Senior Iraqi Kurdish Official

From: Ayal Frank
Sent: Thu 9/4/2008 3:13 PM
Subject: Visit to Washington of Senior Iraqi Kurdish Official

Dear Scheduler:

The Iraqi Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) Foreign Relations Department Director, Falah Bakir, will be in Washington next week, on September 9, 10 and 11.

Minister Bakir would welcome the opportunity of his visit to Washington to brief the congressman about political, economic and security issues in Iraq with an emphasis on current affairs in the Kurdistan Region and related topics including deliberations on U.S.-Iraq security arrangements; the national hydrocarbon law; legislation on provincial elections and other key benchmarks. Minister Bakir can also provide the congressman an update about politics and economics in Iraqi Kurdistan, and would be prepared to answer any relevant questions as well.

Please see below Minister Bakir's bio. I am hopeful that your boss can meet the minister at a time convenient to the congressman. For additional information, do not hesitate to e-mail or call me at 202-246-8163.

Many thanks in advance.

Best regards, Ayal

Falah Mustafa Bakir

**Head of Foreign Relations
Kurdistan Regional Government
Iraq**

Falah Bakir became the Head, with ministerial rank, of the Kurdistan Regional Government Department of Foreign Relations in September 2006. Mr Bakir previously served from 2003 as Senior Advisor and Minister of State to the Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government Nechirvan Barzani.

Minister Bakir's new responsibilities include maintaining appropriate relations with international institutions, receiving foreign delegations to the Kurdistan Region, coordinating the activities of the

12/30/2008

KRG Representative Offices abroad, and liaising with the international media. The Department of Foreign Relations is based in Erbil and is the lead point of contact for all international activities in the Kurdistan Region.

The KRG is the elected government in the federal Kurdistan Region of Iraq, which has been under self-rule since the 1991 Gulf War. Prior to his current posting, Mr Bakir served as KRG Deputy Minister of Agriculture & Irrigation (1999-2003), and Public Relations Officer of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (1991-1999).

Minister Bakir was the KRG's liaison officer to the Coalition Provisional Authority. He has also served as liaison officer to the Multi-National Forces Korean Contingent stationed in Erbil.

Mr Bakir completed undergraduate studies in English language and literature at the University of Mosul in 1986. He earned a Masters Degree in development studies in 1995 at the University of Bath in the UK, and completed the executive programme for senior managers in government at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government in 2001.

Mr Bakir is fluent in Kurdish, English and Arabic. He has written articles in all three languages and has been a main point of contact in the Kurdistan Region for the Western press. He is a guest lecturer at the University of Salahaddin's College of Education in Erbil and works regularly with English language students.

Ayal Frank, Senior Consultant
American Business Development Group
Tel. 703-647-2977
Mobile 202-246-8163
Fax 703-824-0320
www.american-bdg.com

In accordance with the Foreign Agents Registration Act this material is distributed by the American Business Development Group on behalf of the Kurdistan Regional Government. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.

George Demetriades

From: Ayal Frank
Sent: Sunday, December 28, 2008 9:35 PM
To: George Demetriades
Subject: FW: Washington Reception in Honor of Masoud Barzani, President, Kurdistan Region of Iraq

From: Ayal Frank
Sent: Fri 10/24/2008 2:21 PM
Subject: Washington Reception in Honor of Masoud Barzani, President, Kurdistan Region of Iraq

Dear friends - this is written to invite you to a reception next Wednesday (29) in honor of Iraqi Kurdistan Region president Masoud Barzani. Please find the invitation attached. The KRG requests that you RSVP if you plan on attending. I hope you can make it. Best regards, Ayal

Ayal Frank, Senior Consultant
American Business Development Group
Tel. 703-647-2977
Mobile 202-246-8163
Fax 703-824-0320
www.american-bdg.com

In accordance with the Foreign Agents Registration Act this material is distributed by the American Business Development Group on behalf of the Kurdistan Regional Government. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.

George Demetriades

From: Ayal Frank
Sent: Sunday, December 28, 2008 9:32 PM
To: George Demetriades
Subject: FW: Dear Colleague- Briefing on Iraq by Qubad Talabani, the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) Representative to the United States

From: Ayal Frank
Sent: Wed 11/19/2008 10:41 AM
Subject: FW: Dear Colleague- Briefing on Iraq by Qubad Talabani, the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) Representative to the United States

Dear House staff - See below, in case you missed the invite. Hope you can join. Best, Ayal

From: Lowell, Brandi
Sent: Friday, November 14, 2008 11:51 AM
To: Lowell, Brandi; Callahan, Paul
Subject: Dear Colleague- Briefing on Iraq by Qubad Talabani, the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) Representative to the United States

November 14, 2008

Dear Colleague:

The bipartisan Kurdish - American Caucus invites you to attend a briefing on Iraq by Qubad Talabani, the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) Representative to the United States (Representative Talabani's biography is enclosed for your review).

The briefing will be held on **Monday, November 24, at 2:00 pm in 121 Cannon House Office Building.**

Representative Talabani will brief members and senior staff about the U.S.-Iraqi negotiations on the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) as well as other critical political, security and economic developments in Iraq.

Representative Talabani will also discuss last month's state visit to Washington of Kurdistan Region of Iraq president Masoud Barzani. President Barzani met with President Bush and cabinet members as well as the think tank community, business leaders and members of the media. See attached an op-ed by President Barzani, published in the Wall Street Journal earlier this month.

A question-answer session will follow Representative Talabani's presentation.

The event will also provide members and senior staff the opportunity to learn more about the Kurdish American Caucus, established in the House in May of this year. To date, the caucus has eighteen members.

Please RSVP via email to this event by November 20 to Brandi Lowell in Rep. Davis's office (brandi.lowell@mail.house.gov) or Paul Callahan (paul.callahan@mail.house.gov) in Rep. Wilson's office.

12/30/2008

We hope you can attend this important event.

Sincerely,

Lincoln Davis (D-TN)
Member of Congress

Joe Wilson (R-SC)
Member of Congress

Qubad Talabani Bio

Qubad Talabani is the Representative of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) to the United States.

In that capacity, Mr. Talabani works closely with the U.S. Government, the media and research institutions providing critical analysis and up-to-date information about the situation in Iraq and the Kurdistan Region.

In the aftermath of Operation Iraqi Freedom in spring 2003, he served for one year as a Senior Foreign Relations officer for the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) (a leading Kurdish political party in Iraq), operating mainly out of Baghdad and Suleimani. In that position, he worked closely with the U.S.-led Coalition Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance (ORHA), and was the PUK's top liaison to the Coalition after it became the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA). In addition, while in Iraq, Mr. Talabani was a key PUK negotiator during the drafting of the Transitional Administrative Law (TAL), Iraq's first post-Saddam constitution. He also acted as a liaison officer between the PUK and U.S. forces in Iraq.

From 2001 until spring 2003, Mr. Talabani served as the Deputy Representative of the PUK in Washington D.C. In 2000-2001, he was a Special Assistant to the then PUK Representative in Washington, Dr. Barham Salih. Presently, Dr. Salih is Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister.

Mr. Talabani is frequently interviewed by the popular press and other publications. He has appeared numerous times to discuss Kurdish and Iraqi issues on major television networks including: CNN, BBC, FOX News, and other American and international networks.

Mr. Talabani's family has been involved in Kurdish politics for decades. His father, Jalal Talabani, is the President of Iraq and Secretary General of the PUK.

Mr. Talabani studied in London and holds a B.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering.

He lives with his wife Sherri Kraham in Washington, D.C.

Kurdistan Is a Model for Iraq

Our path to a secular, federal democracy is inspired by the U.S.

The Wall Street Journal

12/30/2008

Opinion

November 12, 2008

By MASOUD BARZANI

Iraq's Kurds have consistently been America's closest allies in Iraq. Our Peshmerga forces fought alongside the U.S. military to liberate the country, suffering more casualties than any other U.S. ally.

And while some Iraqi politicians have challenged the U.S.-Iraq security agreement, Iraq's Kurdish leaders have endorsed the pact as essential for U.S. combat troops to continue fighting terrorists in Iraq.

The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) is committed to a federal, democratic Iraq that is at peace with its neighbors.

We have benefited enormously from the service and sacrifices of America's armed forces and their families, and we are deeply grateful. We are also proud to have shared in such sacrifices; my brother was among those severely wounded during the liberation of Iraq.

Last year, following a U.S. request, we deployed Kurdish troops to Baghdad. These troops played a decisive role in the success of the surge. Last month I once again visited Baghdad to meet with the leadership of the federal government. We stressed our commitment to developing an Iraqi state that abides by its constitution and that is based upon a federal model with clearly delineated powers for its regions.

In spite of all this, some commentators now suggest that the Kurds are causing problems by insisting on territorial demands and proceeding with the development of Kurdistan's oil resources. These allegations are troubling. We are proceeding entirely in accord with the Iraqi constitution, implementing provisions that were brokered by the U.S.

In the constitutional negotiations that took place in the summer of 2005, two issues were critical to us: first, that the Kurdistan Region has the right to develop the oil on its territory, and second, that there be a fair process to determine the administrative borders of Iraq's Kurdistan Region -- thus resolving once and for all the issue of "disputed" territories.

Unfortunately, ever since the discovery of oil in Iraq in the 1920s, successive Iraqi governments have sought to keep oil out of Kurdish hands, blocking exploration and development of fields in Kurdistan. Saddam Hussein's government went even further, using Iraqi oil revenues to finance the military campaigns that destroyed more than 4,500 Kurdish villages and to pay for the poison gas used to kill thousands of Kurdish civilians.

The Kurdish leadership agreed to a U.S.-sponsored compromise in 2005 in which the central government would have the authority to manage existing oil fields, but new fields would fall under the exclusive jurisdiction of the regions. Since then, the KRG has taken the lead with Baghdad in negotiations on a hydrocarbon law that is faithful to Iraq's constitution and is conducive to modernizing Iraq's oil infrastructure and substantially increasing its oil production.

We have awarded contracts for foreign oil companies (including some American ones) to explore our territory. In so doing, Kurdistan is not threatening the unity of Iraq. It is simply implementing the

constitution.

The "disputed territories" have a tragic history. Since the 1950s, Iraqi regimes encouraged Arabs to settle in Kirkuk and other predominantly Kurdish and Turkmen areas. Saddam Hussein accelerated this process by engaging in ethnic cleansing, expelling or killing Kurds and Turkmen, or by requiring nationality corrections (in which non-Arabs are forced to declare themselves to be Arabs) and by moving Arabs into Kurdish homes.

The dispute between Baghdad and the Kurds over Kirkuk has lasted more than 80 years and has often been violent. All sides have now agreed to a formula to resolve the problem, to bring justice to Kirkuk, and to correct the crimes against Kurds committed by Saddam Hussein's regime. Iraq's constitution requires that a referendum be held in disputed territories to determine if their populations want to join the Kurdistan Region. Conducting a plebiscite is not easy, but it is preferable to another 80 years of conflict.

If the pro-Kurdistan side should lose the referendum in Kirkuk, I promise that Kurdistan will respect that result. And if they win, I promise that we will do everything in our power to ensure outsized representation of Kirkuk's Turkmen, Arabs and Christians both on the local level and in the parliament and government of the Kurdistan Region.

Regional stability cannot come from resolving internal disputes alone. That is why expanding and deepening our ties with Turkey is my top priority.

My meeting last month in Baghdad with the Turkish special envoy to Iraq was a historic and positive development. There should be further direct contacts between the KRG and Turkey, as well as multilateral contacts that involve the U.S. We are eager to work with Turkey to seek increased peace and prosperity in the region.

I am proud that the Kurdistan Region is both a model and gateway for the rest of Iraq. Our difficult path to a secular, federal democracy is very much inspired by the U.S. And so we look forward to working with the Obama-Biden administration to support and defend our hard-fought successes in Iraq, and to remain proud of what the Kurdistan region is today: a thriving civil society in the heart of the Middle East. When we insist on strict compliance with our country's constitution, we are only following America's great example.

Mr. Barzani is the president of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

Ayal Frank, Senior Consultant
American Business Development Group
 Tel. 703-647-2977
 Mobile 202-246-8163
 Fax 703-824-0320
www.american-bdg.com

2008 DEC 30 PM 2:39
 CRM/ISS/REGISTRATION UNIT

In accordance with the Foreign Agents Registration Act this material is distributed by the American Business Development Group on behalf of the Kurdistan Regional Government. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.