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Assyrian Universal Alliance

الاتحاد الأشوري العالمي

Member: Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO)

Friday, December 29, 2006

AUA Americas comments on ISDP draft proposal to ISDP Committee

RE: Formation of the Nineveh Plain Administrative Unit

The draft proposal requires some revisions, in light of the following pre-requisites:

1. Identification and Description of the “Constituents” for the Nineveh Plain -

The Assyrians (aka - Chaldean Syriacs Assyrians) legitimacy for establishing the Nineveh Plain is dependant on our collective ability to transform from the current posture and state of mind of being a “vulnerable minority” to a rather “main stream movement’ that is “pluralist, populist with cross-sectarian appeal and having democratic and progressive socio-economic agenda”.

Accordingly, the stated constituents of the Nineveh Plain shall be “all-inclusive and pluralist”, consisting of the following:

- 1) All inhabitants of a “targeted geography” – that is determined subject to being (i) economically sustainable, (ii) topologically defendable, and (iii) with alternate international borders – estimated at 2,500,000 (targeted districts of Ninawa and Dahuk provinces), with non-Muslim minorities collectively estimated at +700,000, i.e. 27% of total.
- 2) Return of all Assyrian Refugees – estimated +250,000 persons.
- 3) Diaspora Assyrians right for dual citizenship – estimated +1,000,000 persons.

This structure does not require mandatory relocation of any one group for ethnic or religious reasons. Indeed, the current aim is not to resurrect “Assyria” as a reminiscence of the “City State of Ashur” -- but rather, resurrecting reminiscence of the Assyrian Empire from ashes of history – that was a homogenous nation only in the course of its most contracted history, and rather a cosmopolitan consisting of heterogeneous ethnicities throughout its glories.

2. The term “Nineveh Plain” is very much acceptable phrase since it unites various religions, sects and ethnicities – however, this term shall not give reason for self-imposed geographical limitations for the objective of achieving an “all inclusive, a pluralist” Assyrian region;
3. Nineveh Plain as a “federal unit” of Iraq is ideal – foremost to deter the Kurdish aim to dominate the Assyrian affairs – however, there are current and potential obstacles against prospects of this proposition:

- a) KRG on its own and also in collaboration with a number of Assyrian political parties (Assyrian Patriotic Party, Democratic Bet-Nahrain, and two Chaldean parties), as well as certain influential persons has a stated claim to the same territory (please refer to KRG web site). Moreover, ADM has two members in the Kurdish National Assembly (KNA) and to-date has not raised objection to the KRG claims, e.g. by withdrawing its parliamentarians from KNA.

In light of strong elements of control and influence by the Kurdish block in the Iraqi government, unless an advanced agreement of mutual understanding and alliance with KRG is achieved, such proposal is death on arrival – however, with a mutually agreeable agreement and terms of certain alliance, KRG objections will be pacified for the will have no objection for the Nineveh Plain from becoming a Federal Unit – although in functionality KRG may dominate affairs of this federal unit.

- b) Iraqi Constitution has expressly conditioned the granting of a “federal units” subject to result of the related referendums – In the absence of our deliberate undertakings with respect to the underlined prerequisite, result of any referendum will be against the Nineveh Plain and in favor of the competing claims.
- c) It is not mutually exclusive for the Nineveh Plain to be a “federal unit” and also closely allied with KRG, vs. “Shiites / Sunni” alternatives. Among bad choices, alliance with KRG it may be a favorable option.

4. Geography of Nineveh Plain – (Too Small – vs. Too Large)

The scope, range and domain of Nineveh Plain will make it either an autonomous unit or a dependant unit –

The scope, range and domain of Nineveh Plain will make it either a geo-politically and commercially attractive territory for the interests of international powers / capital or a regressive agricultural society –

Basic Geographic Requirement: Having International borders with Syria and Turkey.

5. Proposal for the Nineveh Plain shall also seek procurement of Safe Haven for minorities that will continue to be constituents of other Governorates of Iraq.

Further to addressing the above, the other statements and elaborations made in the ISDP Draft are either unnecessary or unwanted because they tie-up the region’s prospects and flexibilities. As a federal unit, Nineveh Plain shall have all and the same rights

Regards,

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