

## Statement With Iraqi President Sheikh Ghazi Al Yawer

### Secretary Colin L. Powell

Baghdad, Iraq

July 30, 2004

**SHEIKH GHAZI:** Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I met this morning...this afternoon with Secretary Powell, Secretary of State of the United States of America. I welcome him for being here in Baghdad. I thank him for taking the chance to come here. And of course, as usual, this is part of the close cooperation and coordination between Iraq and the United States for the sake of Iraq, for the sake of this hemisphere, this country and this hemisphere of the world. And we discussed many issues of mutual interest and things for the better prosperity of Iraq. Thank you.

**SECRETARY POWELL:** Thank you very much, Mr. President, Sheikh Ghazi. It's a great pleasure for me to be back in Baghdad: a Baghdad that is now free and sovereign under its new leadership. I've brought greetings from the President to Sheik Ghazi, and I also reaffirmed our determination and commitment to keep working with the Interim Government as they go about the process of establishing democracy and the basis of freedom and human rights in Iraq.

We are facing challenges in the weeks ahead, but we are determined to overcome. We look forward to the National Conference that will be held in two weeks time, where the people of Iraq can assemble and speak to their leaders and to begin to debate amongst themselves and to talk to each other about the kind of Iraq that they wish to see.

I also expressed to the President and to the Prime Minister, when I saw him yesterday in Jeddah, how impressed we all are with the courage and the determination they have shown in the face of adversity. And we are pleased at the leadership they are showing in taking over the responsibility for governing this great country.

So, Mr. President, thank you for receiving me. I look forward to the rest of my visit here today and I look forward to returning again in the not too distant future. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

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