

**Ricciardone, Francis J** <ricciardonefj@state.gov>

To: [nibraska@yahoo.com](mailto:nibraska@yahoo.com), [galois@aol.com](mailto:galois@aol.com)

Sun, May 22, 2005 at 6:29 AM

dear nibras

i raised this with you in regret, not anger or reproach, hoping to salvage a lesson learned from a setback, because i know you are deeply committed to the cause and intelligent enough to grasp the point.

Gen. Zinni is (still) one of the top commanders of the most powerful military force on the planet, and THE commander of the only serious foreign military forces arrayed against saddam hussein. as such, even if he were not personally competent and widely admired (if not among Iraqis), his opinions have impact on US and foreign audiences important to the INC. The INC and all involved in the cause of change in Iraq should take the time to do some deep soul searching when he speaks, and only then to give a carefully considered and well-targetted response -- not shoot back from the hip. and especially not through a medium with a hostile track record. Otherwise, we're all dancing to Saddam's tune, and giving a bad story even longer play -- and worse, credibility.

The Turks say, "let it be past." we are at a potentially exciting time, with the first direct USG funding and the prospect, at long last, of serious training and material support under the ILA. You may have heard that the INC leadership is working now to set up regional councils, at long last bringing Iraqis around the world, we hope, into more meaningful participation and membership in a movement with real impact. I hope you'll stay in the thick of the action. As this develops, I'll be glad to come back to visit your parish in Dearborn.

Best regards

Frank

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Nibras Kazimi [SMTP:[nibraska@yahoo.com](mailto:nibraska@yahoo.com)]

> Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2000 12:02 PM

> To: Ricciardone, Francis J; Dr. Ahmad Chalabi

> Subject: Re: al-quds strikes again

>

> Dear Frank,

>

> General Antony Zinni is no hero of mine. He is not the  
> hero of many, many other Iraqis, nor of the cause for  
> democracy and freedom in Iraq. That is all I am  
> concerned with.

>

> Furthermore, what good is an active INC media  
> operation that cannot even defend itself in the face  
> of slander?

>

> Should we just roll over and play dead when EI  
> Generalissimo says so?

>

> We are no lackeys to U.S. officials...We are partners,  
> and we behave with poise, professionalism, patriotism

> and pride: that is why we are resented by some in  
> Washington and others in the Gulf.  
>  
> Sincerely,  
>  
> Nibras  
>  
>  
>  
>  
> --- "Ricciardone, Francis J" <[RicciardoneFJ@state.gov](mailto:RicciardoneFJ@state.gov)>  
> wrote:  
> > nibras  
> >  
> > is it true what al-quds reported about your ad  
> > hominem slander of tony  
> > zinni? if so, it was a real foot shot. he is a  
> > hero to many in washington,  
> > including me, and more to the point, many, many  
> > people in the Congress.  
> > and the suggestion that he is pandering for arab  
> > arms sales is completely  
> > misplaced, cheap, and, in my view, destructive of  
> > INC interests.  
> >  
> > ahmad  
> >  
> > another instance demonstrating the urgent, desperate  
> > need for an active INC  
> > media operation. free-lancing like this will kill  
> > the INC.  
> > as will silence, of course.  
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