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American Assistant Secretary of State Jeffrey Feltman Visits Iraq

United States Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, Jeffrey Feltman, visited Baghdad June 15 – 17 and met with Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, President Jalal Talabani, Deputy Prime Minister Rafie al-Issawi, Vice President Tariq al-Hashimi, Vice President Adel Abd al-Mahdi, Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari, former Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, Sayyid Ammar al-Hakim, and the UN Secretary General's Special Representative to Iraq Ad Melkert.

Assistant Secretary Feltman's visit to Iraq was part of regular visits to his region of responsibility. He received an update on the status of negotiations over the formation of a new government directly from Iraqi leaders, and reviewed with Ambassador Christopher R. Hill and USF-I Commanding General Raymond T. Odierno the transition from a military-led to a civilian-led relationship with Iraq.

Assistant Secretary Feltman did not bring specific proposals for power-sharing or for specific leadership of the new government. He repeated in all his meetings that the formation of a new government is for Iraqis to decide and it is not appropriate for the United States to present specific scenarios. He stressed that the United States would like to see a government that is inclusive, representative of the will of the voters, and formed without unnecessary delay.

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