

assured me that we would receive a response to the proposal. On the 31st of March 2004, I spoke with Mr. Ahmad Al Fahad, Undersecretary to the Prime Minister's Office, while the Foreign Minister was visiting the United States. I also spoke with the Ambassador's Office in Washington, D.C. and requested a meeting between the Foreign Minister and Madeleine Albright, former U.S. Secretary of State, and a member of my consortium. The Foreign Minister was kind enough to grant the request and met with Secretary Albright and with Carol Browner, former head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, on April 2, 2004. The Foreign Minister would not address the substance of the proposal in that meeting but instead requested another copy of the proposal. Ms. Browner personally delivered a copy to him at his hotel. Notwithstanding these efforts, no response was forthcoming after this meeting.

Following the meetings in Washington, I have made at least five more trips to Kuwait, and was in constant contact with various officials whom I thought may be responsible for providing their recommendations to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Prime Minister's Office, so that we might receive a long-awaited response.

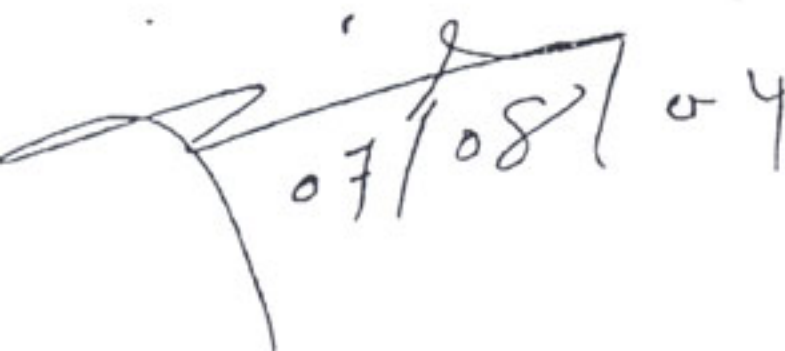
Given the time that has elapsed and the repeated assurances received from officials in Kuwait, it is now imperative that Kuwait respond, for the absence of a response sends its own message. I am now advised that our wait is at an end – that all of the comments have been received from the relevant authorities within Kuwait – and that in the Foreign Office you are charged with responsibility for addressing a response to the consortium. If the comments regarding the proposal have been positive, I urge you immediately to extend an invitation to a high level delegation from the consortium to work out the terms of a mandate, and that if any questions remain, these can be addressed to the consortium in writing, and we will respond promptly.

Time is of the essence. Each day that passes without progress diminishes Kuwait's chances of success. Our consortium stands ready to assist, but we cannot do so without Kuwait asking for that assistance.

Sincerely yours,



Shahmeen J. Sheikh



07/08/04