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Iraqi minister takes seat at Arab League meeting

By Salah Nasrawi
 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAIRO, Egypt — Iraq's foreign minister took his country's Arab League seat Tuesday, a first step toward gaining broad acceptance for the interim government set up by the United States.

By simply sitting down at a circular table, Hoshiyar Zebari settled a two-month dispute among Arab leaders over whether to recognize the Iraqi Governing Council.

"The new Iraq will be different from that of Saddam Hussein," Zebari said in his remarks to the league. "The new Iraq will be based on diversity, democracy, constitution, law and respect for human rights."

Zebari, a Kurd, emphasized the multiethnic nature of Iraq but also pledged to work with "Arab brethren," earning applause from foreign ministers gathered around the table.

"The new Iraq will stand firm against terrorism, from which it is now suffering," Zebari added, referring to the series of car bombings and shootings that have killed more than 100 civilians in recent weeks, including the U.N. envoy to Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello.

The Arab League's decision to allow the Governing Council to occupy Iraq's seat came after a late-night, six-hour debate.

Undersecretary-General Ahmed bin Helli said Iraq's interim government would be welcome for one year, after which the league would review Iraq's progress toward forming a government.

Bin Helli called on the interim Iraqi leadership to advise the league of its plans for drafting a constitution and forming a permanent government.

"I would like to stress that the Iraqi Governing Council will

Iraq again holds a seat in Arab League

Arab League members allowed the new Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari to take his country's seat for one year, a move member governments were reluctant to make since they refused to recognize the interim Iraqi Governing Council. The seat had been empty since U.S. and British forces toppled Saddam Hussein in April.

Formally called the League of Arab States, it's a forum for forging unified Arab positions on global and regional matters. It was founded in 1945 by Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Egypt and Lebanon and now has 22 members.

- ▶ Algeria
- ▶ Bahrain
- ▶ Djibouti
- ▶ Egypt
- ▶ Iraq
- ▶ Jordan
- ▶ Kuwait
- ▶ Lebanon
- ▶ Libya
- ▶ Mauritania
- ▶ Morocco
- ▶ Oman
- ▶ Qatar
- ▶ Saudi Arabia
- ▶ Somalia
- ▶ Sudan
- ▶ Syria
- ▶ Tunisia
- ▶ United Arab Emirates
- ▶ Yemen
- ▶ Palestinian Authority
- ▶ Comoros Islands

▶ The current Secretary-General is Amr Moussa, the former Egyptian foreign minister

▶ Some of the League's hard-line members still reject the idea of peace with an Israeli state, but the League is working toward shifting that position if Israel returns Arab land won in 1967

SOURCE: Associated Press

do its utmost for Iraq to return to being a fully sovereign, independent state," Iraq's Zebari said in his speech.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher said the league's action was a positive step.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher welcomed the league's decision.

"This demonstrates the growing acceptance of the Governing Council as representatives of the Iraqi people as Iraq moves forward to take over its own future and its own affairs," Boucher said.

In addition to welcoming Zebari, the league made two other overtures to post-Saddam Iraq on Tuesday.

It condemned Saddam's regime in connection with the discovery of mass graves of victims of his rule. The foreign ministers also began discussing how they might participate in Iraq's reconstruction.

The league also said members

of the Saddam regime should be brought to justice and be punished "for all dangerous violations of international law, including Geneva Conventions."

Iraq's seat on the 22-member Arab League had been vacant since the war. When the Governing Council was appointed in July, the league refused to recognize it, fearing that it would be seen as a sign of support for the U.S.-led invasion, which was strongly opposed at the level in the Arab world.

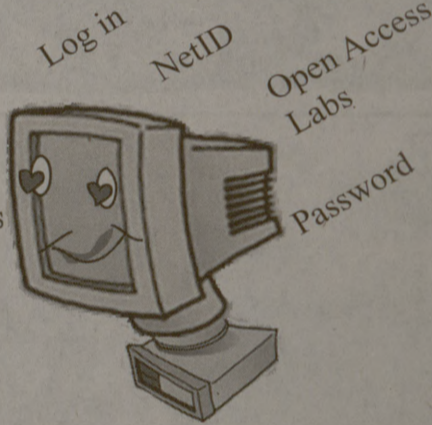
Without Arab recognition, the league would have been difficult for other nations and institutions to embrace the Governing Council. Pressure mounted on the league to change its mind.

Last month the U.N. Security Council welcomed the creation of the Governing Council as an interim government for Iraq and Kuwait, followed by the Gulf Arab states, pushed the league to recognize the Council for Iraq that the Governing Council appointed Sept. 1.

I ♥ my WebCT

Beginning of Semester Help is available at the following locations:

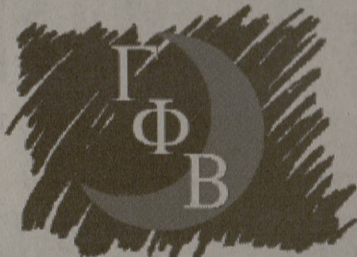
- Sept 3, 1:30 - 3:30pm Blocker
- Sept 3, 5:00 - 7:00pm SCC
- Sept 4, 8:30 - 10:30am SCC
- Sept 5, 10:30am - 12:30pm West Campus
- Sept 8, 9:00 - 11:00am Blocker
- Sept 9, 2:30 - 4:30pm West Campus
- Sept 9, 5:00 - 7:00pm SCC
- Sept 10, 1:30 - 3:30pm SCC



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 MSC 225
 6:00p.m. & 8:00p.m.

Preference Night (By Invitation)
 Friday, September 19, 2003
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Questions?

Please call Gamma Phi Beta at 979.680.5747 or email at tamugammaphi@aol.com.

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Clarett Star

By Ru THE ASSO

COLUMBUS running back charged Tuesday stolen from his coach Jim Tress ready to cut ties. Clarett was meanor falsific spokesman Scott ed, Clarett would jail and a \$1,000 likely the harsh would impose, c McIntosh said.

Tressel said he to return this se national champio recommend that C his scholarship if by Clarett, the co Clarett has al indefinitely from bly will not play season. He is al by the NCAA.

Tressel was a Clarett to move o "I think that h with his family, thinks is best for I

If Clarett's ca over, the running rank among the school history. He in the second ove over Miami in the Buckeyes their onship in 34 year

Alan C. Milst attorney, said he Tressel's comm meanor charge.

"Nothing Ohi me," he said. "I recognizes what C motivations are, e

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