News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UST CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES AND THE BILTAERAL US-ARAB CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENT 'IRAQ: THE AMBASSADOR'S PERSPECTIVE'

HOUSTON (Sept. 21, 2006)—H. E. Samir Shakir Mahmood Sumaida'ie, Iraq's ambassador to the United States, will offer his views regarding the outlook on Iraq at 4 p.m. Monday, Oct. 9, in Cullen Hall on the University of St. Thomas campus. The Bilateral US-Arab Chamber of Commerce and the Center for International Studies sponsor his visit.

While Iraq may seem a world away, Iraq's issues will be among those dominating the American political debate in what promises to be a pivotal election year.

With announcements from the finance minister that Iraq will invest $4 billion in oil infrastructure and refineries and plans a $33 billion budget for 2007, Iraq presents tremendous opportunities for U.S. businesses, according to the Bilateral-U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce. The question that remains is, will the coalition government be able to maintain security and prevent the spread of civil war, and what role will U.S. troops play now that responsibility has been officially handed over to the present government?

Appointed in April 2006, Sumaida'ie became Iraq's first ambassador to the United States. For many years he opposed the Baathist regime. He founded numerous political organizations that drew attention to the Iraqi opposition movement. Since 1978, his private sector career has spanned two continents, representing firms doing business between the United Kingdom and China.

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