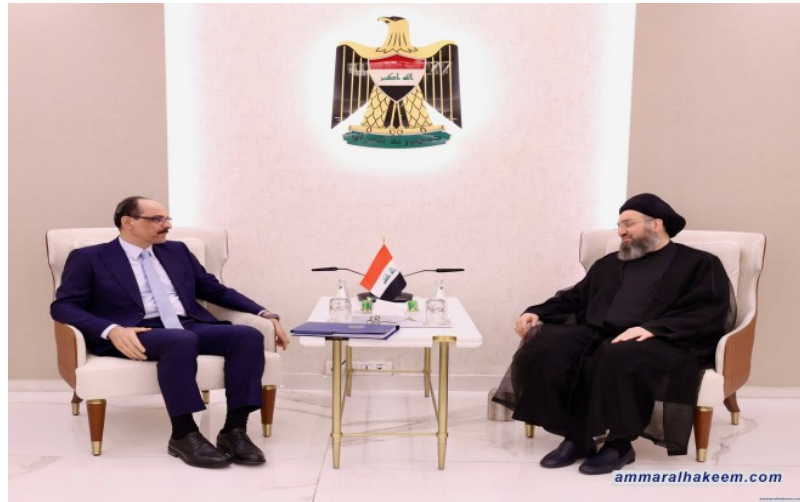


Sayyid Al-Hakeem: Completing Cabinet, Economic Reform, Current Phase Priority



His Eminence Sayyid Al-Hakeem, Head of the National State Powers' Alliance, received Mr. Ibrahim Kalin, Head of Turkey's National Intelligence Organization, and his accompanying delegation. The meeting addressed regional files, as well as bilateral relations between Iraq and Turkey and ways to activate common ground and strengthen interests between the two friendly countries.

H.E. affirmed that Iraq seeks to establish the best relations with neighboring countries, noting that the Iraqi constitution stipulates that Iraq may not be used as a corridor, base, or launching point for threatening neighboring states. H.E. also stressed the importance of preserving national sovereignty and preventing foreign interference in all its forms, affirming the importance of activating economic common ground, particularly regarding the Development Road project, as a strategic opportunity to make Iraq and Turkey a link between East and West.

H.E. noted that Iraq has proven its ability to defeat terrorism in all its forms and guises, and has succeeded in liberating its territories and rebuilding them, calling for benefiting from Iraq's rich experience in combating terrorism, and affirming the importance of joint cooperation between the two countries to pursue the remnants of terrorism and cut off its channels of funding and ideological support.

On the regional front, H.E. expressed optimism that the memorandum of understanding between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States of America would lead to a permanent and comprehensive agreement that spares the region further escalation and restores security and stability to it, calling on active regional countries to support the paths of de-escalation and the restoration of stability.

On the domestic front, H.E. explained that Iraq has overcome a difficult phase of political deadlock, having succeeded in electing the three presidencies and forming the government, noting that the current challenge lies in the economic aspect, and stressing the need to diversify sources of income and outlets for crude oil exports, in a way that strengthens Iraq's revenues and opens up prospects for engagement with new markets.