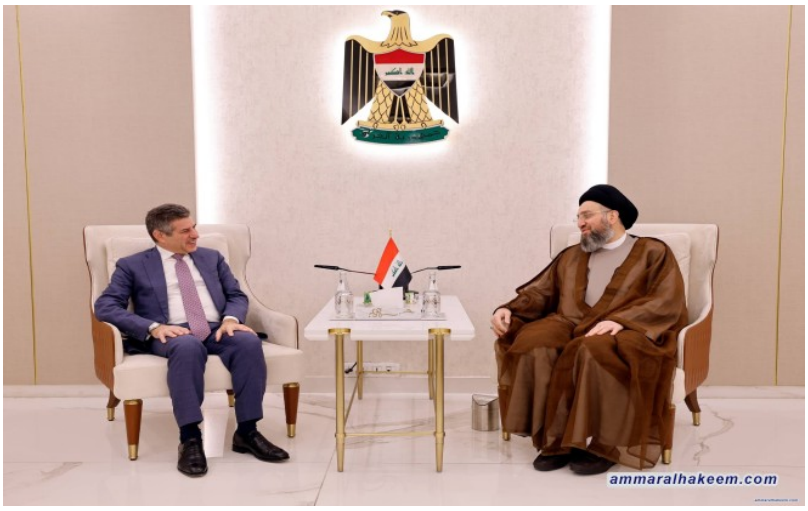
Sayyid Al-Hakeem Calls to End Regional Escalation, Instead Dialogue, Understanding



His Eminence Sayyid Al-Hakeem, Head of the National State Powers' Alliance, received at his office in Baghdad the Chargé d'Affaires of the US Embassy in Baghdad, Mr. Stephen Fagin, and the two sides discussed the latest political developments in Iraq and the region and ways to develop bilateral relations between the two countries.

H.E. renewed the call to address the issue of weapons outside the framework of the state, explaining the importance of dealing with this file from the standpoint of the Iraqi national interest, according to Iraqi mechanisms and timelines, and affirming that resolving this issue is a constitutional entitlement and a national interest, while commending all efforts that contributed to liberating the land and restoring the state.

Regarding the economic situation in Iraq, H.E. stressed the importance of diversifying the economy and the outlets for exporting Iraqi oil, along with the importance of raising production in proportion to Iraq's wealth and population and the damage it has suffered as a result of regional events and the fight against terrorism, calling for an end to the escalation in the region and its replacement with dialogue and understanding, and for efforts to restore stability and calm.