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M.Ch. van der Sman, "Verslag Blue Shield Symposium, 17 december 2004," in *Blue Shield Nederland* (the Netherlands), online, December 17, 2004: one of the speakers, the Iraqi architect specialised in restoration Usam Ghaidan, was for years UNESCO representative in Iraq: the long years of dictatorship and the recent events have been disastrous to Iraqi culture; he stressed the need for stronger punishment at the buyer's end of the archaeological-site looting racket, the demand in the West has to be curbed; Major René Teygeler (Dutch CIMIC Cultural Affairs) explained his complicated position as Sr. Cultural Advisor to the Iraqi Ministry of Culture and the US Embassy: as a representative of the US, he cannot have official contacts with Arab countries nor does it facilitate or even allow contacts with some European non-Coalition countries; indeed, the archaeological site of Babylon was damaged by Coalition troops; Saddam Hussein before too didn't always respect the remains, e.g., he had the Greek theatre reconstructed on concrete foundations; Teygeler was happy though he was able to protect the Imam Ali Mosque in Najaf and save the Ottoman archives of the National Library in Baghdad; there are plenty of projects planned but execution is a different matter due to the continuing insecurity, lack of electricity, water, phone service; the military needs to be involved to get anything whatsoever done; it's hard not to get cynical, corruption is rampant; positive is that a young, enthusiastic generation of Iraqis is very invested in the cultural projects; the Iraqi Ministry of Culture has requested 2 more cultural advisors under the CIMIC program from the Netherlands [civilian cultural experts who are given a military rank, see Tiggeloven April 5, 2004; Teijgeler has actually just finished his job (beginning of March 2005) and has left Iraq as will the remainder of the Dutch military contingent very soon; there is no word yet on a successor as Cultural Advisor or whether there will even be one...]