

# San Diego World Affairs Council

Invites you, your family and associates to an evening talk with

## Honorable Joseph Ghougassian

Recent Advisor to Iraq Ministry of Higher Education &  
Former Ambassador to Qatar

### *The Status of Higher Education in Iraq*

Thursday, November 18th, 2004  
Registration 6:00 PM  
Program 6:45 PM

San Diego World Trade Center  
1250 Sixth Avenue  
San Diego, CA

The San Diego World Affairs Council is proud to present the Honorable Joseph Ghougassian, former Ambassador to Qatar. Ambassador Ghougassian recently served in Iraq where he was the Deputy Senior Advisor to the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research in Iraq.

On Thursday, November 18th, Ambassador Ghougassian will give an illustrated lecture on current conditions in Iraq with a focus on higher education.

Ambassador Ghougassian seemed destined for his role on the international stage. Born in Cairo, Egypt, he was an early bloomer in academics, receiving his first two degrees (a B.A. and an M.A. in philosophy) from the Gregorian University in Rome, Italy, in 1964 and 1965. He garnered a doctorate in philosophy from Louvain University in Belgium by the age of 22, and was brought to the United States by a job offer: teaching philosophy and psychology at University of San Diego. He subsequently received a Bachelor of Science degree in family studies from Louvain University in 1974.

Upon passing the bar exam, Ghougassian was recruited by the White House and became a senior adviser to President Ronald Reagan in the Department of Domestic Policy. Besides working to develop the administration's immigration and refugee policy, he consulted with the Department of Justice to propose reforms in the Immigration and Naturalization Service, developed policy papers on the peace process for the Department of State's work on the Camp David Accords, and became director of the Peace Corps in the Yemen Arab Republic.

After a three-year stint in Yemen - where his duties centered on reversing the negative trend in U.S.-Yemen relations - Ghougassian was named U.S. Ambassador to the State of Qatar, a tiny country in the Persian Gulf that shares a border with Saudi Arabia. He was the first naturalized U.S. Ambassador from the Middle East, and in the job he honed his skills in bringing disparate, antagonistic peoples together, realizing such skills could change the world. (*USD Magazine, Summer 2004*)

For reservations please call (619) 325-8200 or register on-line at <http://www.sdwac.com>.

Cost is \$15 for WAC Members, \$20 for Guests and \$5 for Students with valid ID.

\*Members who do not RSVP will be charged Guest Rate.\*