

Letters to Financial Times, June 13, 2014

Iraq crisis offers Iran its chance . . .

From Prof John Ure

Sir, The big story about the current crisis in Iraq surely is the opportunity it offers Iran to consolidate its influence over the country in addition to its support for President Bashar al-Assad in neighbouring Syria. Iran has already sent the Revolutionary Guard to help the government beat back the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (Isis). On the contrary, the US and other western allies are between a rock and a hard place, with few meaningful options. Such is the outcome of the ill-advised Iraqi war, although these tensions were bound to emerge at some stage. Strange, then, that your front-page coverage yesterday was exclusively about the ponderings of the White House; a very western narrative.

. . . but it could go the other way

From Albion Urdank

Sir, Your editorial "[The nightmare emerging in Iraq](#)" (June 12) overlooks one irony: that Iran may now find it in its interest to intervene militarily. And if it did, it would be doing so as a US ally. Perhaps, too, concrete military co-operation in Iraq would undergird a more productive US-Iranian negotiation over Iran's nuclear capacity. Who would have thought that Iran might emerge as key to stability in the region?