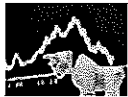




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By Joe Brock

LONDON, Dec 7 (Reuters) - Some international oil companies have

overstated how high they can take Iraq's crude oil production, a senior government adviser said on Monday, ahead of a second round of oilfield development tenders this week.

Thamir Ghadhban, adviser to Iraq's prime minister and a former oil minister, told an industry conference that he believed 6 million barrels per day (bpd) was a realistic target for Iraq's oil output within the next 6 to 7 years.

This is well below the estimates of 10 or even 12 million bpd that have been mentioned as a result of plateau production targets proposed by some foreign oil companies as they bid for Iraqi oilfield contracts.

Iraq's Oil Ministry plans to auction off contracts for 10 untapped oilfields on Dec. 11-12, the latest chapter in a scheme to catapult it into the big league of oil producers. Contracts awarded since a first round of tenders in June alone have the potential to almost triple output to 7 million bpd. Continued...

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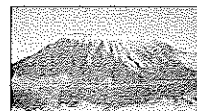
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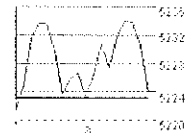
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FTSE All	2,667.43	+0.71
TRX UK	96.25	+0.07



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Yen	inGBP = 0.0070

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