

BIOGRAPHIC SUMMARY

JAMES A. PLACKE

James Placke entered the United States Foreign Service in 1958, studied Arabic and served abroad primarily in Arab oil exporting countries, including Iraq, Kuwait and Libya. He also served as Economic Counselor at the US Embassy at Ottawa, Canada in 1977-79, followed by assignment to Saudi Arabia as Minister and Deputy to the Ambassador. He returned to the State Department in 1982 as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs, with particular responsibility for the Persian Gulf region and for overall economic relations with the Middle East and North Africa. He retired from the Foreign Service in 1986 to become a consultant on international affairs and joined Cambridge Energy Research Associates in 1991 as Director for Middle East Research and head of the Washington, D.C. office. He retired from full time employment in 2001 but remains a Senior Associate with the company. In 2006, he served on one of four Working Groups that supported the bipartisan Iraq Study Group.

Placke twice received the State Department's Meritorious Honor Award for his work on petroleum and financial matters and received the Presidential Meritorious Service Award in 1985. He holds a BSc and an MA degree in economics from the University of Nebraska.