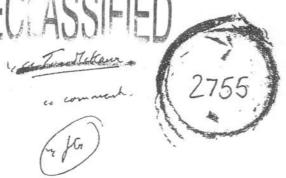
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cc Robert Cooper David Johnson



IRAQ

Reading your minute of 24 November to the Prime Minister led me to think that there is one further policy option which we have not considered to date: dismissing any thought of moving UNMOVIC into Iraq and trying to enforce sanctions. The aim would be not to hurt the Iraqi people - the current high price of oil should ensure that legal oil revenues remain high - but to stop Saddam's sanctions busting. It may well be impossible to stop sanctions busting. Certainly it would involve persuading the US to apply maximum pressure on Even if it is unworkable it may help to demonstrate the need for a change of approach.

As to whether a shift on sanctions should be linked to a return of 2. the inspectors (your ii), an inspection regime would not be a stable longterm solution but it would help to justify publicly sanctions suspension. One possibility would be to deploy inspectors with the aim of withdrawing them within a limited timeframe, in the course of which Saddam would complete certain pre-defined key disarmament tasks.

TOM MCKANE

27 November 2000

