

DECLASSIFIED

TO6401

JOHN SAWERS

cc Robert Cooper  
David Johnson



*cc Tom McKane*  
*cc comment*  
*(cc JCR)*

*(X) DJ*  
*(2) Jav*  
*(UR)*  
*28*

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.

2. As to whether a shift on sanctions should be linked to a return of the inspectors (your ii), an inspection regime would not be a stable long-term 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.

*If we did that we would have no basis to refuse*

*lift - One attraction of acting unilaterally is that we could avoid indefinite suspension, reversed six months by positive UNSC decision.*

*JH*

*Jan*  
TOM McKANE

27 November 2000

DECLASSIFIED  
SECRET - UK EYES ONLY