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DNP 19/1

114

D/VCDS/40/1 (10/035)

21 Feb 03

Min(DP) ✓

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BP
Minister

Operation TELIC – UORs

Reference:

A. D/Min(DP)/WB/14/6/3/1 dated 17 Feb 03.

The predictable answer:
VCDS agreed with Dsch;
but the COS shouldn't
know it.
So I think
we'll have to
live with this

1. We spoke about the note for the record (at Reference) of the meeting which Min(DP) chaired to discuss UORs for Operation TELIC, and specifically about the point in para 3 of the Reference about the reporting of equipment-related issues from theatre.

2. As we discussed, there is a need to avoid cutting across established and well understood command chains from theatre, through CJO, to CDS. Beyond that, given the large number of people who are at geographically remote locations in theatre – some of whom are still en route and many are in the process of acclimatisation and preparation for possible operations – it would be very difficult for an agent outside the command chain to keep an eye on the many equipment issues which may arise. That said, I acknowledge fully the need for a rapid and timely information flow on any equipment-related issues which may emerge to ensure that they can be brought to Ministers' attention and responded to as quickly as possible. This point is well taken by all in the command chain, and I know that CJO has taken steps to alert DCDS(EC) as a matter of urgency to any matters which require his attention. Similar arrangements are in place in terms of the interface with the DLO. Finally, the presentational aspects of any UOR requirements will be addressed by maintaining a close dialogue with DGCC/DCRS.

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< Original signed >

VCDS