

Declassified 16/1 DP

15.



SECRETARY OF STATE

MO 6/17/15C

21 May 2002

PSO/CDS

Copy to:
PS/PUS

DAVID MANNING'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON 17 MAY - IRAQ

1. You will have seen Matthew Rycroft's letter of 18 May 2002 reporting Sir David Manning's discussions on Iraq during his visit to Washington.
2. The Secretary of State was surprised and concerned to read the suggestion that "a UK officer at Tampa" had indicated to the Administration that "the UK would provide an armoured division" for action against Iraq.
3. Given the very close hold under which contingency planning for Iraq has been conducted and the fact that no options have yet been presented to Ministers, the Secretary of State would be grateful for any light which can be thrown upon this story. Is the UK team in Tampa party to the current work on Iraq?

Cdr RN
APS/Secretary of State

CHOTS: SOFS-Private Office
SOFS-Private Office-S