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From: Anna Bewes
Private Secretary

Date: 13 February 2003

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IRAQ MOD CAMPAIGN BRIEFING

The Secretary of State received briefing on 12 February from Ian Lee, Director General Operations Policy, MOD; Air Vice-Marshal Clive Loader, Assistant Chief of Defence Staff (Operations); and Air Commodore Mike Heath. The briefing covered current military campaign plans for Iraq. This minute records a few points arising from the meeting.

2. The Secretary of State was briefed on the possibility of UK military being assigned some form of responsibility for a specific area of the south of the country should the Iraqi regime fall. In this event the Secretary of State agreed that DFID should focus its efforts on working in that specific area, together with the military, with the aim of providing an exemplary model for other areas of the country.

3. Those briefing made clear that they were seeing a high degree of sophistication and care in the US planning for action in Iraq, including strong attention to humanitarian concerns. Provision for humanitarian support was built into their campaign plans from the beginning of any action. Together with the UK's plans there was some confidence that the humanitarian risks, such as those highlighted by the Secretary of State in her recent speech to Parliament, would be minimised. Having said that, the military were aware that plans on paper were not always replicated in practice, and were prepared for all eventualities.

4. Air Commodore Mike Heath reported that there was a clear and agreed no strike list accessed by the UK, US, Canada and Australians. This included elements ranging from cultural to humanitarian concerns. If there were areas we wish to be placed on this no strike list, we should convey them to the military. **Action: MENAD/CHAD to raise concerns of Andrew Natsios regarding warehouses with water supplies.**

5. Throughout the meeting the Secretary of State made clear her very strong view of the need for a second resolution before any military action. This resolution should clearly set out the mandate and authority of the UN. Without such a resolution the complexities of coordinating and implementing effective humanitarian support during and after any military campaign would be hugely intensified. Comment: It was clear that those providing the briefing agreed with this position.

Anna Bewes
Private Secretary

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