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SECRETARY OF STATE

MST 4/5/2C

31 March 2005

**PJHQ J9 Head Pol/Ops 1**

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**IRAQ: FORCE PROTECTION AT UK CAMPS**

1. Thank you for your note (D/PJHQ/10/5341) dated 30 March 2005 which outlined our plans to protect personnel in Op TELIC camps from mortar and other indirect fire attack.
2. The Secretary of State notes that:
  - a. Force protection in UK camps is being improved through a continuing programme of "compartmentalisation";
  - b. This process is most effective when applied to the design of new camps;
  - c. COS have decided against other approaches to force protection, including the introduction of a new protected sleeping accommodation unit, known as CITADEL, on the grounds of utility and engineering and logistic practicality.
3. The Secretary of State has asked that suitable press lines be worked up to defend our position against the accusation that this decision was taken on cost grounds rather than balanced and pragmatic advice.

M P NAWORYNSKY

Wg Cdr

APS/Secretary of State

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