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TB 46/04
12 December 2004

IRAQ

This is worrying.

- (1) The Petraeus plan does not seem to be yielding the looked-for progress.
- (2) The attacks continue far beyond what is manageable.
- (3) The Sunni's don't seem to want to participate in sufficient numbers.
- (4) Holding the elections is vital and probably we should stick to the timetable; but the security situation must make voting difficult.
- (5) The UN profile is at best unclear. We need them out speaking.
- (6) The most worrying was Riley's comment that ten months on, life in Basra had not sufficiently improved ie reconstruction is a problem.

My conclusion: this may be lower down the media profile; but it is not getting sorted.

We need to sit down with the US in the New Year and work out a proper strategy based on a hard-headed reality check. The paper I have seen for 2005 is inadequate.

Also, the media co-ordination out of Iraq is still very poor.

But this needs a big review, US/UK urgently.

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