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DAVID MANNING

cc Jonathan Powell  
Andrew Allberry

*for me*  
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*12*

**IRAQ: PETER MANDELSON**

For the record I should note that, at his request, I met Peter Mandelson earlier today. He said that when he found himself at speaking engagements on Israel and Palestine he was asked for his views on Iraq and felt short of background knowledge. John Sawers had suggested he speak to me and Mr Mandelson said that he had mentioned his intention to do so to the Prime Minister, who had been content.

2. I rehearsed the background to the Iraqi question. Mr Mandelson was particularly interested in the prospects for effective action to unseat Saddam Hussein. I pointed out the legal position and also the difficulties in finding an effective strategy, whether military or otherwise, to deal effectively with Iraq.

3. Mr Mandelson asked about other possible targets for Coalition action in Phase 2 and I sketched out in general terms the links between Usama Bin Laden and Islamic extremists in other countries, notably Yemen, Somalia, . We left it that if he had any further follow-up questions he would get in touch.



**TOM McKANE**

4 December 2001

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