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From: Michael Wood
Legal Adviser

Date: 21 November 2002

cc: PS/PUS

Elizabeth Wilmshurst
John Grainger
Edward Chaplin
Stephen Pattison, UND
Charles Gray, MED
Iain MacLeod, UKMis N/Y

Peter Ricketts

IRAQ: SCR 1441: DRAFT LETTER TO LSLO

1. I understand that you and most copy addressees (other than the PUS and Iain MacLeod) saw a first draft of a letter to go to the Legal Secretariat to the Law Officers about 1441. It has now been revised, and I should be grateful if you and copy addressees could look through it again and let me have any suggestions as soon as possible.
2. There are many changes of detail, but I would draw attention to the following more substantive ones. First, I have tried, in paragraphs 2-4, to set out the policy background to the matter. I would particularly welcome suggestions on these paragraphs, or indeed complete redrafts. Second, I have tried to set out the two broad views of the resolution, and would particularly welcome comments on paragraphs 17-19, to ensure that they do justice to what I have termed "the alternative views". If Iain MacLeod (or, indeed, anyone else) would find it easier to go over their points on the phone, I would be ~~happy to do so (in Iain's case,~~ I intend to produce a further draft (my aim is to do so on Monday 25 November), which I will once again circulate before sending to the Attorney. On that occasion, I shall include PS/Secretary of State on the distribution list, so that the Foreign Secretary is aware of the letter before it goes, and has an opportunity to comment if he wishes.

[signed]

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