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DAVID MANNING

cc Jim Drummond  
Nick Gibbons

### IRAQ: STRATEGIC POLICY OBJECTIVES

We have been working with Departments on our strategic objectives in respect of Iraq. The result is attached and speaks for itself. Disarmament is the watchword.

2. You should be aware that there are some who have argued for translating our aspirations for the future of Iraq into our main objective. I have resisted this on the grounds that our purpose has been plainly stated by the Prime Minister as disarmament and because the effective implementation of that policy does not necessarily deliver our wider aspirations. It has also been impressed on me that the paper, as drafted, will need to evolve with changing circumstances. If military action is authorised, with or without the explicit sanction of the United Nations Security Council, we will need to revise the paper. While the prime objective may remain valid, I would expect to add subsidiary objectives relating, for example, to the need to remove the regime which was unprepared to be disarmed in accordance with UNSCRs.

3. It would be useful to agree on the attached objectives for the present phase of activity; Whitehall would find it helpful and, in particular, it would help us in formulating an information strategy. This paper is not intended for publication.

4. If the Prime Minister is content, you would no doubt wish to arrange for it to be sent to DOP colleagues

5. I am sending copies of this note to David Omand and John Scarlett here, Peter Ricketts and Edward Chaplin (FCO), Ian Lee and Tony Cragg (MOD), Stephen Boys Smith (Home Office).

  
DESMOND BOWEN

4 October 2002

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## **IRAQ: STRATEGIC POLICY OBJECTIVES**

Our prime objective is to rid Iraq of its weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their associated programmes and means of delivery, including prohibited ballistic missiles (BM), in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolutions. This would reduce Iraq's ability to threaten its neighbours and the region, and prevent Iraq using WMD its people. UNSCRs also require Iraq to renounce terrorism, and return captured Kuwaitis and property taken from Kuwait. These UNSCRs are an expression of the will of the international community, with which Iraq has persistently failed to comply, thereby perpetuating the threat to international peace and security.

As rapidly as possible, we would like Iraq to become a stable, united and law abiding state, within its present borders, co-operating with the international community, no longer posing a threat to its neighbours or to international security, abiding by all its international obligations and providing effective and representative government for its own people.

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A further objective is to restore the authority of the United Nations by demonstrating the Security Council's effective response to the challenge posed by Iraq's non-compliance. Success in achieving our prime objective should help deter the proliferation of WMD and BM more generally.

Our immediate priorities are to:

- a) achieve a tough new UNSCR;
- b) return UNMOVIC/IAEA inspectors to Iraq under conditions which enable them to identify and eliminate prohibited WMD/BM material, associated equipment and activity;
- c) enable UNMOVIC/IAEA to institute long-term measures to ensure compliance as part of their Ongoing Monitoring and Verification regime;
- d) maintain international solidarity behind the UN Security Council and support for effective UNMOVIC/IAEA action;
- e) preserve regional stability;
- f) continue to make military plans and preparations in case military action is required to force compliance with UNSCRs.

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