

TO7927

DAVID MANNING

cc: Matthew Rycroft
Jim Drummond

IRAQ

1. We spoke about the machinery for managing Iraq and I promised to let you have a note. If you approve, we should, at a time of your choosing, give it a wider circulation, in particular to include Andrew Turnbull.
2. We agreed that, following the pattern of Afghanistan, we should establish two groups. I recommend the following composition:
 - a. Inner Group
 - David Manning/Desmond Bowen (Chair)
 - John Scarlett (or Julian Miller)
 - Edward Chaplin
 - Tony Pigott (and/or Ian Lee)
 - (or 'C'?)
 - Eliza Manningham-Buller
 - (or Francis Richards?)
 - Stephen Boys-Smith (or Bob Whalley)

Questions:

- Should DIS be invited?
- Who else from OD Sec? I recommend Jim Drummond but I would also want to be in the know in order to make a smooth transition to COBR possible. could act as Secretary.
- Should we invite an information specialist – Alastair Campbell or Tom Kelly?
- Should Home Office be included? I have assumed 'yes'.

b. Wider Group

Desmond Bowen or Jim Drummond (Chair)
Assessments Staff rep.
Edward Chaplin (or Charles Grey)
Stephen Pattison (or rep.)
News Department rep.
Ian Lee (or Stephen Pollard) (MoD)
DIS rep.
SIS rep.
GCHQ rep.
Barry Ireton (or Chris Austin) (DfID)
Bob Whalley (HO)
David Venness (Met Police)
William Nye (Treasury)
CIC rep.

DTI to be in attendance for discussion of oil.
Ditto other Treasury officials on world/UK
economy.

3. The Wider Group should meet periodically from now on and, inter alia, address the issues set out in Jim Drummond's minute of 30 August, (which I see being remitted in the first instance to a Sub-Group led by Jim Drummond). The Inner Group should begin work once you decide that the time is right – my recommendation is that you use COBR(R) on Wednesday to announce the transition.
4. We also need to consider the composition of a Ministerial Group. One possibility would be to use DOPIT (shortly to become DOPSIT under David Omand's proposals) but, having discussed the issue with _____, I would recommend the creation of a separate Ad Hoc Sub-Committee of DOP, chaired by the Prime Minister, with the Foreign Secretary, Defence Secretary and Intelligence Chiefs. DOP could meet less frequently and be the means of formalising decisions. The Attorney General might be invited to be in attendance at both of these groups, as required, and the Leader of the House should be invited to attend DOP.



TOM McKANE

2 September 2002