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S 209 /02

Foreign Policy Adviser to the Prime Minister,
and Head of the Defence and Overseas Secretariat

1 August 2002

See Hardy.

**IRAQ NO FLY ZONES: CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR THE LOSS
OF AN AIRCRAFT**

Thank you for your letter of 22 July which I have now discussed with the Prime Minister.

The debate has been protracted. We must now draw a line under it, not least because the safety of our pilots is involved.

The Prime Minister therefore agrees with the Defence Secretary's advice, ie we should now agree a US/UK joint plan against targets we both deem acceptable in the knowledge that the US would take unilateral action simultaneously against three additional targets.

We shall have to accept that there is a risk that we could face legal proceedings about those three targets, and be ready to deal with the problem if and when it arose.

I am copying this letter to Simon McDonald (FCO) and Ian Fletcher (CO).

Yours truly,
David Manning

DAVID MANNING

Martyn Williams
Ministry of Defence