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S 178 /02

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

25 June 2002

*Dear Peter,*

**IRAQ**

The Prime Minister was grateful for your Secretary of State's minute of 31 May.

The Prime Minister has asked for further advice on precisely what steps would have to be taken now, including financial commitments, in order to keep open the possibility of deploying a large-scale force by the end of this year - bearing in mind that we may not get six months warning.

It is encouraging that, following the Rumsfeld visit, our military planners have now been invited to discussions with the US. It will be important, as the Defence Secretary acknowledged in his minute, to make clear the conditions for UK involvement in military action set out by the Prime Minister. Public opinion needs to be prepared, the UN inspectors' route needs to be given every chance of success and there must be progress in tackling the Arab/Israel crisis.

I am copying this to Simon McDonald (FCO), Mark Bowman (HMT), Andrew Allberry and Tom McKane (Cabinet Office) and Jonathan Powell.

*Yours sincerely*  
*Sam*

DAVID MANNING

Peter Watkins  
MOD

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