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From: David Manning

Date: 22 July 2002

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PRIME MINISTER

cc: Jonathan Powell

IRAQ MEETING: 23 JULY: ANNOTATED AGENDA

You have a meeting tomorrow at 0900 hrs to discuss Iraq. There is a lot of ground to cover in a short time. Jack, Geoff, the Attorney, the Chiefs and the Heads of the Agencies will attend.

I suggest you ask:

- John Scarlett to set the scene with a very brief summary of the intelligence picture. I have asked him to be ready to speak for a couple of minutes on regime cohesion, ie what we know about Sadaam's position, his power base, Iraqi public opinion etc.

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- CDS to describe current US military planning for a campaign against Iraq.

This will throw up a number of key questions:

- What is the legal base for action against Iraq?
- Are US military plans viable?
- Can the US find the necessary bases in the region to launch such an operation?
- Is there a particular role for UK forces? What lead time is necessary to prepare them? When do we have to start making funding available, and on what scale?

- What sort of battlefield environment do we anticipate? How do we cope if Sadaam uses BW and CW? What is the medical support?
- How much progress do we need on Arab/Israel before the US launches an attack?
- What will be the impact of military action on the oil price?
- What is the mood here in Parliament, in the PLP and in the country? When should we time our own public information campaign?

In the light of this discussion, you might call Bush and prepare a note for him before the summer break – along the lines proposed in Jonathan's minute of 19 July (copy attached). Timing is for discussion. It might be best to wait until the middle of next week, after I have been to Washington for further talks with Condi and Tenet.

Shm. A
DAVID MANNING