

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED



By Fax: |

Foreign &
Commonwealth Office

30 May 2002

Mr A R Brenton
Minister
British Embassy
WASHINGTON

Room [redacted]
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

Telephone: [redacted]
Facsimile: [redacted]
E-mail: [redacted]

UK/US LEGAL CONTACTS

1.

The meeting lasted about an hour, and consisted entirely of an informal discussion, between lawyers, on legal aspects of the use of force. Will Taft explained his approach and current thinking towards the legal aspects of using force against Iraq. He was quite clear, and had advised his clients, that régime change could not, of itself, justify the use of force; it would only be if régime change were necessary and proportionate in order to secure some other, lawful objective (remedying a breach of the ceasefire; self-defence) that régime change would be permissible.

2. The discussion was a good one, though it did not significantly add to our knowledge of the US position.

3.

Michael Wood
Legal Adviser

cc

DECLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

39