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VISIT OF US VICE PRESIDENT DICK CHENEY 11 MARCH:

IRAQ

Key Messages

- Looking forward to discussing Iraq in full with President next month. Welcome your initial thoughts.
- In complete agreement on objective. World better place without Saddam in power. Need to ratchet up the pressure on Iraq.
- Containment policy has had some success. Effectively frozen Iraqi nuclear programme and curtailed his missile and CBW programmes. Climate post 11 September could provide opportunities for enhanced containment, but cannot bring about regime change.
- Military action requires key allies, particularly in the region, to be on board. That is why we see continuing with UN route – i.e. ratcheting up pressure on Iraq to comply with UN resolutions and allow weapons inspectors back in as a necessary precursor. We doubt Saddam will cooperate but we must be seen to have tried.
- Also essential to alert sceptical world to the WMD threat. Must get more into the public domain both about Saddam's past record and his constant efforts to build up his WMD and missile capabilities. We are working on evidence paper.
- Meanwhile too, should continue our efforts to get GRL (Goods Review List) implemented – will remind international community that our quarrel is not with the Iraqi people.
- Understand US / Russian negotiations on the GRL (Goods Review List) are going well. Introduction of revised sanctions regime will send an important signal of Security Council unanimity. Thereafter focus will be on clarification of UNSCR 1284. We should use this to put pressure on Saddam to readmit inspections.
- Consistent message we are getting from region and beyond is that if it is decided to launch military action, that action must succeed in removing Saddam, otherwise we will be worse off than we are now.
- Issues arising from regime change on which I would welcome your thoughts
 - Assessment of Iraqi Opposition; our view is they lack credibility inside Iraq

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- Require serious movement on MEPP to give us space in which to act
- Day after issues loom large. Territorial integrity of Iraq important. Likely replacement for Saddam – another Sunni strongman. Establishing representative Government would require long term commitment
- Genuine consultation and construction of convincing legal basis will be important
- Looking forward to discussing all this with President.

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