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SECRET AND PERSONAL

(4)

Peter Ricketts

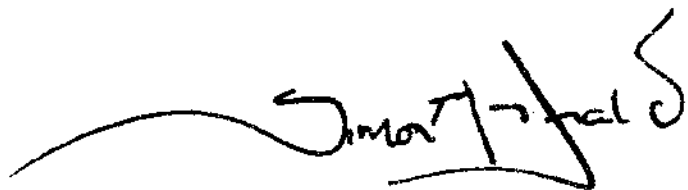
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Iraq

Thank you for your minute of 8 March covering the draft non-JIC papers for the Prime Minister's use at Crawford next month. The Foreign Secretary would like (as you suggest) an office meeting later this week or next week to discuss all this. The Diary Secretary will be in touch.

On the WMD Programmes of Concern paper, the Foreign Secretary commented: "Good, but should not Iraq be first and also have more text? The paper has to show why there is an exceptional threat from Iraq. It does not quite do this yet."

On the Iraq paper, the Foreign Secretary asked for details of what happened in 1998, particularly the sequence of events (mentioned by Robin Cook at Cabinet on 7 March). On para 10, the Foreign Secretary asked what was, in Washington's view, the legal basis for a strike on Iraq? On para 13, he asked for more detail about the Iraqi National Congress and about the convictions of Ahmad Chalabi. On para 25 (restraining Israel in the event of Iraqi use of WMD against Israel),



11 March 2002

(Simon McDonald)

cc: PS
 PS/PUS
 Stephen Wright
 Michael Wood
 Graham Fry
 Alan Goulty
 William Ehrman
 Head: MED

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