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David

① Copy to Desmond Bowen

to progress other
groups & base small
groups for now

(as discussed with Desmond)
From: David Manning (2/16/02)
Date: 12 September 2002

PRIME MINISTER

✓

cc: Jonathan Powell
Sally Morgan
Alastair Campbell
Desmond Bowen

IRAQ

Now file per 1/16/02
② Back time 1/16/02

We need to review our No.10/OD Secretariat machinery for handling Iraq.

If you agree, I would propose to set up two groups, following the pattern for Afghanistan last year. The first "Inner Group", which I would chair, would include JIC, FCO, MOD, SIS, Security Service, GCHQ, Home Office and David Omand. It would have access to all the key intelligence.

The second "Wider Group" would be chaired by the OD Secretariat and would have representatives of all Departments listed in the Inner Group, but would also include participants from DfID, Metropolitan Police, Treasury, DTI and media specialists from No.10 and FCO News Department. This Wider Group would be tasked as necessary by the Inner Group.

You also need to decide what to do about a Ministerial Group (the "War Cabinet" issue). If we follow the Afghan precedent, we could set up an Ad Hoc Group (perhaps technically a Sub-Committee of DOP under your chairmanship) to include Jack, Geoff, CDS, C and No.10. The idea would be to keep it tight, with meetings in the Den. If we move to military action, we would of course need to widen this to include John Prescott, David Blunkett and perhaps others.

This leaves the question of what to do about the Attorney. I assume that you would not want him to attend your Ad Hoc Group except by invitation on specific occasions.

Does this sound right?

David
DAVID MANNING

*Yes but we
can wait before
setting up a War
Cabinet group.*

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