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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

SUBJECT
MASTER
Filed:

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From the Private Secretary

15 June 2004

Dear Chris,

IRAQ: PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING, 15 JUNE

The Prime Minister met the Defence Secretary, Foreign Secretary, International Development Secretary and Chief Secretary to the Treasury on 15 June. CDS and No10/Cabinet Office officials were also present.

Tim Dowse and CDS gave an update on the security situation in Iraq. The Defence Secretary briefed on his 14 June visit to Iraq.

The Defence Secretary and CDS gave an update on Iraqi-isation. In response to the Defence Secretary's comment that modest amounts of funding for infrastructure projects were still not getting through, the Prime Minister asked for the precise details of any blockages on funding or equipment for Iraqi-isation or for other projects eg infrastructure, for him to raise with Bush. These should arrive here as and when we hear about them, ie Departments should not wait to be asked again but should automatically inform us of specific examples of blockages.

The meeting addressed again the possible reinforcement of UK troops in Iraq. The meeting concluded that we should not close the door to the possibility of sending further UK troops. We should keep the option open until around the time of the NATO Summit. But there was no pressing military reason to send them, nor were we coming under much pressure from the US to do so. We should not raise US expectations by talking to them about the details of how the reinforcement might take place.

I am copying this letter to Geoffrey Adams (FCO), Mark Bowman (HMT), Moazzam Malik (DFID), C, and to Sir Andrew Turnbull, Desmond Bowen and Tim Dowse (Cabinet Office).

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Your

Matthew

MATTHEW RYCROFT

Chris Baker
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