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File

Foreign Policy Adviser to the Prime Minister,  
and Head of the Defence and Overseas Secretariat

19 April 2004

*Dear Geoffrey*

### **IRAQ**

In preparation for his meetings with President Bush and the UN Secretary-General last week, the Prime Minister saw a considerable amount of briefing material, not only on the security situation in Iraq, but also on the problems facing the CPA in the implementation of most of its core programmes and policies.

The Prime Minister is naturally concerned by this, and believes that a renewed effort is needed by the CPA, and by departments in London, to deliver the objectives we have set. I shall pursue this at the meeting of senior officials on 20 April; and the Foreign Secretary will no doubt want to review progress at the Ministerial meeting on 22 April.

I attach a list of subjects on which the Prime Minister has asked for urgent reports. These will be compiled by David Richmond. Generals McColl and Stewart will cover the security aspects. The report on the media will, however, be coordinated by Charles Heatly in No.10.

The Prime Minister would like these reports to be unvarnished accounts of where things stand, with as much local colour as possible; and with clear recommendations, where appropriate, for how to improve things. He is ready, on the basis of advice, to put specific points directly to President Bush in order to speed up American decision-making in the right direction. David Richmond might wish to pull this together in order to come up with a weekly or fortnightly hit list of priorities.

As many as possible of these reports should reach us during the course of this week, and David is, I know, hoping to send at least something before his

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meeting with the Prime Minister on 21 April. That meeting will provide another opportunity to assess the prospects for moving things forward in the key areas.

The Prime Minister is conscious that implementation of these programmes depends on the Americans, in Iraq and in Washington. It is therefore essential that departments in London should ensure that their opposite numbers in Washington are aware of our concerns, and that we work with them to produce credible plans for improving performance. Of course the security situation inhibits progress. But we are in chicken and egg territory, for without action on the political, capacity-building and reconstruction fronts, it will be much harder to bring down the level and intensity of the violence.

I am copying this letter to Chris Baker and CDS (MOD), Mark Bowman (HMT), Moazzam Malik (DFID), Matthew Hilton (DTI), Jonathan Sedgwick (HO), Dominic Hardy (DH), Chris Wormald (DFES), Cathy Adams (Attorney General's office), 'C', Sir Andrew Turnbull, Desmond Bowen and John Scarlett (Cabinet Office), David Richmond and Lieutenant-General John McColl (Baghdad), Patrick Nixon and Major-General Andrew Stewart (Basra), Sir Emyr Jones Parry (UKMis New York) and Sir David Manning (Washington).

*Yours ever*

*Nigel*

**NIGEL SHEINWALD**

Geoffrey Adams CMG  
FCO

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## ANNEX: LIST OF REPORTS

1. Sunni outreach.
2. Shia religious and political leaders, and their attitude.
3. Other political players, including candidates for Prime Minister, Presidency, Cabinet
4. Area-by-area analysis on security
5. Report by GOC MND (SE)
6. Police and civil defence training and readiness
7. Security arrangements from 1/7, including UN role
8. Media
9. Reconstruction, spending and disbursement
10. Attitudes of the neighbouring countries
11. Everyday life report
12. Judicial system
13. Womens' groups.
14. Schools, universities, hospitals
15. Check list of further action.

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