

DECLASSIFIED
~~SECRET PERSONAL~~

NO. 851

002



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

S SI /03

From the Private Secretary

6 February 2003

Dear Peter,

101 7 FEB 2003

11/2

IRAQ: PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING, 6 FEBRUARY

The Prime Minister met the Foreign Secretary and Defence Secretary on 6 February. CDS, Air Cdr Mike Heath, C, Eliza Manningham-Buller, John Scarlett and No10 officials were also present.

This letter is extremely sensitive. No further copies must be made. It must be shown only to those with a real need to know.

The Foreign Secretary briefed the meeting on Powell's 5 February presentation and immediate reactions.

The Defence Secretary, CDS and Air Cdr Heath briefed on the targeting aspects of the air campaign in any military action against Iraq. The Prime Minister agreed with the overall strategy of the air campaign, creating an overwhelming effect so that the regime collapsed or at least was disabled from using WMD in a conflict, leading to the overall objective of Iraqi disarmament. He underlined the importance of minimising the number of civilian casualties and ensuring that all targets were appropriate and proportionate. We should consider how best to explain publicly the scale and nature of the air campaign.

The Prime Minister asked for a note explaining the rationale behind the targets chosen for the proposed air campaign, and an assessment of the likely accuracy of the campaign. (Comment: please could we receive this by 11 February.)

The Prime Minister also commissioned a paper on aftermath and humanitarian issues. (Comment: please could the FCO coordinate this, in consultation with the MOD and others who will not receive this letter including the Cabinet Office and DfID. It should reach here by 14 February. We shall call a separate Ministerial meeting on these issues in due course.)

DECLASSIFIED
~~SECRET PERSONAL~~

DECLASSIFIED
~~SECRET PERSONAL~~

NO. 851 003

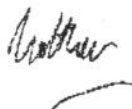
- 2 -

C and John Scarlett briefed the Prime Minister in advance of his meeting later on 6 February with Blix and El-Baradei.

The Head of the Security Service briefed the Prime Minister on terrorist threats to UK interests.

I am copying this letter to Simon McDonald (FCO), C, Head of Security Service and John Scarlett.

Yours,



MATTHEW RYCROFT

Peter Watkins
MOD

DECLASSIFIED

~~SECRET PERSONAL~~