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From: William Ehrman, DG (D&I)
Date: 14 February 2003

cc: PS
PS/PUS
Edward Chaplin
Dominick Chilcott
Edward Oakden

To: Peter Ricketts

SUBJECT: IRAQ: DAY AFTER

1. There was discussion at a Manning meeting today about day after issues.
2. David Manning expressed strong concern about the way in which junior CENTCOM planners seemed to be dreaming up an ever larger area of Iraq for the UK to administer. The Chiefs of Staff had advised the Prime Minister that if we went in as part of a Coalition fighting force, it would be easier to play a lesser part in the aftermath. The opposite now seemed to be the case. I said that it appeared that the prospective UK area might be enlarged to include the two Iraqi holy places of Najaf and Kerbala. David Manning said Armitage was talking of military administration for two years. The Pentagon seemed more sensible, talking of six months. Did we not need to reduce our 40,000 troops to around 5,000 by the end of six months? And who would pay for all of this? Some on the US side seemed to be saying: you pay for what you administer. Rumsfeld, at least, seemed to have the practical idea that the UN should authorise use of the Trust Fund, in which there was \$10 billion.
3. I said that, if we did take on a sector, we should be getting as many like-minded allies as possible to agree to come in with us. We should use the Anglo-Italian and Anglo-Spanish summits for this. Simon Webb wondered whether Spain and Italy would be able to contribute. They were almost fully committed in Kosovo, and we were trying to line up Spain as the next ISAF lead. David Manning however favoured using the summits for the purpose I suggested. He also said we should look to involve Arab countries: Egypt, Jordan, UAE; and maybe also Malaysia and Pakistan.

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4. He asked MOD to get the best information they could, at a senior level, on what size of sector was really being proposed for the UK; and FCO, with MoD, then to let No 10 have views on the issues which would be involved in its administration, and how we would seek to deal with these. We are setting up a meeting with MoD at official level next week.

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