

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

20 February 2003

Dear Simon,

IRAQ: POLITICAL AND MILITARY QUESTIONS

The Prime Minister has read Adelphi Paper 354 on Iraq. These have prompted a number of questions, to which he would like clear, written answers. There is much work going on in Whitehall on these in any case. Please could the FCO, MOD and DfID decide which of you will answer which questions (perhaps 1-5 MOD, 6-7 FCO, 8 DfID). Please could I receive answers to all of them, cleared as necessary within Whitehall, by 1800 on 24 February.

The Prime Minister's questions are:

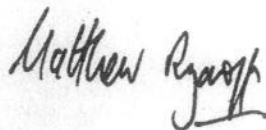
- (1) What is our military's assessment of the likely consequences of an attack on Iraq; ie how many casualties; how quickly the collapse?
- (2) Why do we not think the SRG will dig in, inside Baghdad and fight a guerrilla campaign?
- (3) What is the prospect of a pre-emptive BW or CW attack on our troops in Kuwait and are we certain we are adequately prepared and our troops protected?
- (4) Why will the 2,000 key individuals and the 26,000 SRG personnel mentioned in Ochmanek and Dodge's essays on Iraq (enclosed) not fight to the death, given the hatred of them by ordinary Iraqis?
- (5) How do we prevent the Shias rising up to take over from the Sunnis?
- (6) What is our plan for the successor Government in Iraq? Is it a military ruler? Or a military ruler first then a path to more democratic rule mapped out?

CONFIDENTIAL - PERSONAL
DECLASSIFIED

- (7) What is the UN role in the new Government?
- (8) What are the precise humanitarian issues we need to address and what is our plan for them?

I am copying this letter to Peter Watkins (MOD), Anna Bewes (DfID), John Scarlett and Desmond Bowen (Cabinet Office).

Yours,



MATTHEW RYCROFT

Simon McDonald
FCO

CONFIDENTIAL - PERSONAL
DECLASSIFIED