

DECLASSIFIED



36344
14 APR 2003
WHITEHALL
LONDON SW1

34

SECRETARY OF STATE

MO 6/17/15H

12 April 2003

CJO

Copy to:

PS/Minister(AF)

PSO/CDS

PS/PUS

Sec/CNS

MA/CGS

MA/DCDS(C)

Policy Director

DG Op Pol

DGCC

ACDS(Ops)

Head of Sec(Iraq)

PJHQ-Civ Sec

IRAQ: EXPANSION OF THE UK AOR

1. Thank you for your minute (D/PJHQ/10/5341) of 12 April.
2. The Secretary of State has noted that, in line with previous authority, you plan to deploy forces to the northern limit of the extended UK Area of Operation (AO), flushing out any Iraqi forces encountered en route. Mr Hoon agrees that UK forces may exploit further north to take all of the Maysan Province into the UK AO, once Al Amarah is secure. He notes your assessment that this additional area is relatively quiet and that it should not add any unmanageable burden on UK forces.
3. Mr Hoon also notes that the CFLCC has asked CDS whether the UK could take on responsibility for the Basra and Maysan Provinces during Phase IV. Mr Hoon expects to discuss the UK's area of responsibility in Phase IV with the US Defense Secretary on Monday.

Signed on Original

P D WATKINS

PS/Secretary of State

DECLASSIFIED
SECRET/UK EYES ONLY