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LOOSE MINUTE

DG Op Pol/4/6/1 (59/03)

24 March 2003

Policy Director

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Head Sec(Iraq)
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IRAQ: CAMP DAVID MEETING

1. Peter Watkins' minute of 21 March divided up some tasks between you and me. I can deal with the one specifically ascribed to me – review of the military situation. You were asked to pull together MOD views on three of the other four topics. I have a couple of comments.

Post-Saddam Iraq

As you know, there is much discussion of this subject. The Cabinet Office is coordinating post-conflict objectives. My comment about this work, whilst not belittling its importance, is that it is mostly being prepared from our point of view. The post-Saddam Iraqi view is not really getting a look in.

Yes, an Iraqi interim administration is mentioned but usually just as an administrative pawn on the board. I get no sense of anything we're doing of an Iraqi input. (State Dept in Washington have had a large 'Future of Iraq' project going for some time addressing exactly this point – but it seems to have dropped off the table).

Post Conflict Europe

The fact that we've ended up on a non-SCR path is potentially hugely damaging. Leaving aside the question of who is to blame for this (which, by the way, we should) the fact is that we are a European country whose cultural, historical and economic links across the board need to be recognised every bit as much as our pol/mil alliance with the US. Our European military engagement is in NATO and the EU. Broadly speaking, the message of OP TELIC is that neither of these

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organisations in their current form is capable of serious warfighting operations outside Europe.

Ian Lee (signed in absence)

IAN LEE
DG Op Pol

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