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SECRETARY OF STATE'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES: 10-11 JULY 2001

IRAQ

Key messages

- Obviously disappointing that we cannot introduce our new system as soon as we would have liked. But should not regard outcome as a defeat. Must press on. Our proposals for helping the Iraqi people have attracted widespread international support. Russia was isolated even in the P5. The Iraqi regime and Russia are widely acknowledged to have acted in their own interests, not in the interests of the Iraqi people. Our PR position is improved, but the "double standards" link in Arab minds to Israel/Palestine remains a problem for US.
- Must not yield to temptation to abandon multilateral approach, which would play very badly in the current wider Middle East context.
- Next steps: Much for our teams to do to put pressure on Russia in run-up to key visits to US and UK by Putin this autumn. Most importantly:
 - Strip away Russian objections to Goods Review List, which is now accepted by France and China;
 - Continue work to gain the cooperation of Iraq's neighbours, particularly Syria. Will Colin Powell resume efforts with Syria? Or is Palestine an insuperable obstacle?
 - Related to this, continue trying to identify a safety net for Iraq's neighbours, especially Jordan.
 - Keep France and China on board and urge them to join us in putting pressure on Russia.

If raised

Russian draft resolution/elaboration of SCR 1284

- Russian draft resolution, which seeks to rewrite resolutions 687 and 1284, does not provide a serious basis for Security Council consensus. We should signal readiness to discuss the wider question of how to implement resolution 1284, but make clear that we are not prepared to hold up efforts to agree our new approach meanwhile. Our proposal is an interim measure to help Iraqi civilians, made necessary by Iraq's continued refusal to implement or even engage on resolution 1284. It does not require the Iraqi regime to cooperate – that is the whole point.

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Regime change

- Overt regime change through support of exiles not viable (INC weak and ineffective, no credibility in Iraq or Arab world). Change must come from within. Increased trade and economic freedom best way to weaken regime's grip on Iraq.

No-Fly Zones

- Present approach is least-bad option if we wish to defend Kuwait. But important to keep profile as low as possible and keep looking for better ways of achieving our aims. Have to accept that NFZs generate a lot of hostility in the region -

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