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From the Private Secretary

21 March 2003

Dear Simon and Peter,

**IRAQ: UK MILITARY CONTRIBUTION TO POST-CONFLICT IRAQ**

The Prime Minister was grateful for the joint minute from the Foreign and Defence Secretaries of 19 March:

The Prime Minister agrees with the Foreign and Defence Secretaries' proposals, provided that there is a satisfactory resolution of the following issues: (a) the size of any UK sector, (b) the length of time of our commitment and the exit strategy, and (c) agreement on an authorising UN Security Council Resolution. He would be grateful for further urgent advice on points (a) and (b) - point (c) is in hand following the 1500 ministerial meeting today.

I am copying this letter to Mark Bowman (HMT), Anna Bewes (DfID), PS/C, and Sir Andrew Turnbull, John Scarlett and Desmond Bowen (Cabinet Office).

Yours,

MATTHEW RYCROFT

Simon McDonald, FCO  
and Peter Watkins, MOD

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