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PRIME MINISTER

From: Matthew Rycroft
Date: 5 June 2003

cc: Jonathan Powell
Alastair Campbell
Sally Morgan
David Manning
Nick Cannon
Danny Pruce

IRAQ: MEETING AT 0800 ON FRIDAY

You are meeting Jack, Geoff and Valerie at 0800 on Friday, to follow up your post-visit meeting earlier in the week.

Immediate reconstruction

In response to your request for a list of issues to raise with Bush, attached are notes from FCO (30 day priorities), Valerie and John Sawers. The key outcome from your meeting should be an agreed set of big picture but concrete points for you to put to Bush when you call him at 1235. We will update the list after your meeting, but it will look something like:

- (a) SECURITY. This is the top priority.
- Get US forces in Baghdad out on foot patrols.
 - Deploy a 3,000 strong international police force.
 - Re-employ some ex-servicemen to provide guards for infrastructure and ministries to prevent looting.
- (b) SORT OUT THE CPA's ORGANISATION. The only way to get round the problem is for you to raise directly with Bush.

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- Install proper phones and IT.
- Delegate more decision-making to the CPA, to avoid wrangling.
- Sort out the communications strategy.

(c) INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS. This is where we will be judged by ordinary Iraqis.

- Get Bechtel to conclude their sub-contract with Siemens UK asap, so Siemens can help restore power capacity.
- Set up the national phone network.
- Get UNDP and UNICEF to sort out the power and water supplies.

(d) RESTORING NORMAL LIFE.

- Sort out the currency.
- Open the airports to civil flights.
- Appoint x to sort out the Iraqi media.
- Press on with security sector reform.

(e) Basra: see separate list of things we can do in our own area, attached.

(f) US/UK contacts. We need a process so that you and Bush can feed in ideas like this and know that they will happen. Since we share legal responsibility as occupying powers, we (the UK) may also at times need to have a veto over CPA decisions. It will also be vital that we have the best possible shared information - it is ridiculous that John Sawers cannot attend Bremer's intelligence briefing: another reason you need to resolve your National Disclosure Policy.

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(These are the key points. There are many more in this vein which we could send in writing to the US after your Bush call.)

Political process

Some of the Ministers will want you to raise with Bush the next steps on the process towards a representative Iraqi government. The FCO paper on De Mello's role which you requested is attached. De Mello has now arrived in Baghdad and has met John Sawers.

The latest Bremer plan is:

- Political Council to form itself by July. 30 members. Mainly advisory functions, but will appoint interim ministers in consultation with the CPA.
- With CPA agreement, this will then set up a number of Commissions to carry out longer term political reforms, eg education, judiciary.
- A Convention of 100-200 members will be set up in July to prepare a new constitution, producing a draft within a year to be put to a referendum.
- This would then lead to the full post-election government.
- Alternatively, there could be an additional phase of a transitional government between this IIA and the full government, which could be chosen by National Conference.

De Mello is broadly happy with this, but concerned about the powers of the Political Council and about how we plan to set it up, especially if there is no National Conference. The key is to ensure that however it is done there is enough transparency to ensure that the IIA has credibility and is fully

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representative. The Iraqi people will soon need to know what the process and timetable is.

Your representative in Baghdad

Our advice is that Jeremy Greenstock should succeed John Sawers. He would probably be willing to do so, if you ask him yourself, from September. The FCO would appoint David Richmond before then to cover the gap and continue to work with Jeremy.



MATTHEW RYCROFT

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