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**DFID** Department for  
International  
Development

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From the Secretary of State

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16 JUN 2004

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C. S. J.  
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16 June 2004

D. Douglas

I am writing to support Jack Straw and David Blunkett who have proposed an Iraq Campaign Medal for civilians who have served in Iraq in support of Government policy.

DFID has sponsored a large number of staff to work on the reconstruction of Iraq. In order to fulfil their tasks they have to work closely with the Iraqis and travel out of secure areas, whether to supervise projects in the southern Governorates or to work in Ministries in Baghdad. They have shown extraordinary dedication and willingness to take considerable personal risk. Their work is essential to the reconstruction effort and we need many of them to carry on after the Transition. We must treat them fairly. I favour a civilian medal to cover them all.

Some have made an exceptional contribution and should be recognised through the Honours system. DFID has a small allocation of honours. We would like to see either some greater flexibility in that allocation over the next year so that we can reward those that worked in Iraq or a further special list for Iraq.

I am copying this letter to Members of the Ministerial Group and to the Prime Minister.

Y. -

H. B.

HILARY BENN

Head: ISSU  
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Iraq Dir.

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