

D/CGS/51/9/4

28 Mar 03

MA/CJO

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Date	28/03/03
CDR No.	3
PSC	11602
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ENGL No. 12

27/3

AN OPERATIONAL CONCEPT FOR PHASE IV

1. CGS is grateful for the opportunity to comment on CJO's paper on operational thinking for Phase IV. He believes the paper is a strong and pragmatic analysis of the issues. The logic of the recommendations is clear and he is content to agree the first three but would like to offer some thoughts on the drivers for the scale of our commitment and their implications for the size of our eventual AO.

2. CGS believes strongly that we must remain responsive to unfolding events. Our assumptions on the levels of consent encountered, and the extent to which we can use remnants of Regime's administrative machine, may have been optimistic. The operational environment for Phase IV is, therefore, still unpredictable and, whilst the UK's aspiration to draw down to a divisional headquarters and one brigade remains, the situation may demand more of us. We will, therefore, need to consider a range of options for providing the forces that may be required.

3. CGS believes that the level of support Coalition partners can provide will also shape these options. In this area the picture is similarly fluid and CGS is of the view that our planning, and that of the US, must remain sufficiently flexible in order to adapt to the situation that emerges and the resources available.

4. CGS is clear that above all our posture must be sustainable, but beyond this we should provide the forces the task demands. To do this effectively we should be prepared to constantly review our assumptions and the deductions they lead to, and we should approach detailed plans with caution until we can be sure they are robust.

(Original Signed on Chots)

MA2/CGS

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