

DECLASSIFIED

Reference EMD 0103 0122 1143 001

27A  
4e

FROM:

Ext:

DATE: 31 October 2003

CC: Private Secretary  
PS/PUSS  
PS/Suma  
Nicola Brewer  
Michael Green

Peter Troy o/r

DFID Iraq

FCO

To: Jim Drummond

**IRAQ – THE EXTENSION OF SECURITY SUPPORT SERVICES FOR BAGHDAD AND BASRAH**

Issue

To increase the number and duration of security support services in Iraq currently undertaken by Control Risks Group and approve a contract amendment increasing the overall contract value to £8.5m.

Recommendation

2. I recommend that you approve the contract extension, increasing manpower from 16 to 68 and the duration to 31 March 2003, providing essential and high quality security support services in both Baghdad and Basrah.

Timing

3. Urgent – Immediate. Recent events have further underlined the need for good quality security support that provides valuable independence from military escorts.

Publicity

4. None

DECLASSIFIED

# DECLASSIFIED

## Background

5. In July 2003, In order to ensure the safety and security of UK staff in Iraq, DFID awarded a contract to Control Risks Group to provide security support services (original submission Flag A). These services include armed protection, close protection and information ops. Due to the worsening security situation in Iraq it has been decided that security support services should be extended to Basrah. It is also apparent that a permissive security environment will not be a reality for some time.
6. Following a staffing assessment in August, the Regional Co-ordinator of CPA South, Sir Hilary Synott, concluded that up to 37 additional posts were urgently needed. The majority of these posts are senior level and cover a wide range of subjects. DFID has agreed to fund these posts for an initial period of six months. Considerable additional armed protection is required to provide the necessary security support services.
7. The security support services provided under this extended contract are substantial (breakdown at Flag B) and follow recommendations from a joint DFID/FCO SSU security assessment. In Baghdad, four full-time APTs (consisting of 1 team leader and three team members), a 24hr close protection team (CPT) to David Richmond (deputy UK Special Representative), an operations manager, watch-keeper  
are supplied under the DFID contract ensuring that our staff have sufficient security resources to operate effectively. In Basrah, ten full-time APTs, an operations manager, joint watch-keeper/communications technician  
are supplied under the DFID contract. The FCO has increased its number of APTs in Basrah to meet the requirements of the Southern Governorates ensuring that the APTs under the DFID contract are free to meet the needs of HMG staff and CPAS more widely. This operating structure has been deemed effective and is mirrored in the FCO contract – initially management and ops roles were shared, but due to the scale of operations these have been made exclusive to each contract.
8. A need has been identified in Baghdad for communications advisers to assist the CPA OFF team in ensuring a smooth transition from the UN OFF programme to a CPA managed public distribution system. This is a short-term requirement of a maximum of three months that will include the installation and maintenance of the PDS communications system (Baghdad and Governorates) and the training of Iraqi staff in the use and upkeep of the system. CRG are currently assessing their ability to fulfil this requirement.
9. Feedback from various sources regarding the CRG performance to date has been positive. Specifically, the OCPA Baghdad Security Manager has deemed their response in the immediate aftermath of the attacks on the Al Rasheed hotel "an excellent job".

## Cost

DECLASSIFIED

# DECLASSIFIED

10. This increase in services and duration comes at substantial additional cost (£6.7m); however, this has been earmarked in the resources currently available for the Iraq response. A considerable number of savings have been made in negotiation with CRG; the DSA has been reduced to the standard DFID rate of £4 from £25 pp/pd - this will save £257,040. The insurance premium has been reduced from £54 to £6 pp/pd - this will save £587,250. A total contract saving of approximately £850,000.

## Administration

11. If you approve, I would be grateful if you could sign the attached project header sheet (flag C) - I will then liaise with Procurement Department to issue the contract amendment.

12. For further consideration, we may wish include the security support services to Andy Bearpark, at the expiration of the current service provider Meteoric Solutions, within the CRG contract. I believe this would not only provide a better service to Andy himself, but will also provide better value for money for DFID.

Iraq Directorate

# DECLASSIFIED