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D Cts(Ops) 1/5 (123-03)

19 Nov 03

All TLB Holders

PROVISION OF ARABIC INTERPRETERS FOR OP TELIC

Reference:

A. D/PJHQ/1/1635/1 dated 4 Nov 03.

1. You may be aware that the Defence Augmentation Cell has recently tasked a number of Arabic speakers to deploy on Op TELIC at short notice. I am conscious of the considerable pain this will cause some individuals within your organisations as they either deploy or cover for gapped posts. I am writing to assure you that this decision was not taken lightly but was driven by the operational imperative outlined by CJO at the Reference.

2. Unfortunately the short-term demand for Arabic Linguists will continue and will require a further deployment in January. I am hopeful that, after this one further painful measures will not be necessary - but I can make no promises. I can assure you, however, that I am making every effort to minimise this pain by making extensive use of civilian interpreters and exploring all other possible sources. I am also developing longer-term solutions to meet this requirement to prevent the issue re-occurring.

3. I continue to be grateful for the way in which you are supplying people, often at short notice and at considerable pain, to sustain our operations globally.

ACDS(Ops)

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