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(PC)

From: Matthew Rycroft  
Date: 2 May 2003

PRIME MINISTER

cc: Jonathan Powell  
Alastair Campbell  
Sally Morgan  
David Manning  
Nick Cannon  
Emily Hands

IRAQ: ORHA

*I want to know  
from Tim Cross  
that his concerns  
are being met next  
week.*

Attached are:

- An update on ORHA.
- Notes from Mike O'Brien and FCO official Dominic Chilcott who were in Baghdad this week for the conference to help set up the IIA.
- A DfID strategy.

The problem, as Emily has seen for herself this last fortnight, remains that ORHA is not yet up to the job. It has no effective management. There is no clear understanding of who is making policy,

A State Department Ambassador, Bremmer, is due to take over from Jay Garner.

UK input remains insufficient. But Whitehall has at last got your message that we need to send good people into all bits of ORHA to improve its effectiveness, not shun it. We have 20 embedded staff, with a further 40 on their way. DfID have increased ninefold (to nine) their people in ORHA.

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Some immediate points for us to concentrate on:

- (a) The FCO are meeting Mike O'Brien's point by appointing John Sawers as a UK special envoy – he will arrive next week, and work in or very closely with ORHA. ✓
- (b) We shall seek to persuade the US to keep ORHA for the short term, and get it to hand over to the IIA and a UN-led mission to support the IIA. ✓
- (c) We need to concentrate on getting the right political process leading to the establishment of the IIA. This means joint commissions and more conferences like the Baghdad one this week, with as broad and representative a set of Iraqis as possible.
- (d) ORHA must get the Iraqi Ministries operating again, and improve their media work so that improvements in infrastructure are visible. ✓
- (e) ORHA should then develop a plan on security sector reform – police, judiciary, armed forces, security agencies, etc. ✓

*Matthew*

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