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ROUTINE / PRIORITY / IMMEDIATE / FLASH

Classification:

UIC

To:

Matthew

Fax Number:

From:

Kara

Date:

14/2

Pages to follow:

1

Message:

PM's Speech Question

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Kara Owen

From: Kara Owen
Sent: 14 February 2003 15:50
To: Kara Owen
Cc: @dfid.gov.uk; Amanda Tanfield
Subject: FW: PM's speech question
Importance: High

Kara

I have discussed the attached (factual background for PM's speech) with DfID. The figures are now consistent.

-----Original Message-----

From: Kara Owen
Sent: 14 February 2003 11:14
To: Kara Owen
Cc: @dfid.gov.uk; Amanda Tanfield
Subject: PM's speech question

(a) There are no truly reliable figures for child mortality rates (which measure the "probability of dying between birth and exact age five") in Iraq. The only figures available are those produced by UNICEF in a report in 1999 which compared child mortality rates in Iraq in 1994-1999 with those in 1984-1989. The report claimed that child mortality rates had risen in Baghdad-controlled Iraq from 56 per 1000 in 1989 to 131 in 1999, while in UN-controlled northern Iraq they had fallen from 80 per 1000 in 1989 to 72 in 1999. UNICEF defended their methodology. But the report was based on household surveys conducted with the Iraqi regime's "help" and relied on some Iraqi figures. The latter have proved questionable. In 1998, for example, the Iraqi regime claimed a population growth of one million in just six months, giving it the highest birth rate in the world, while at the same time the regime described sanctions as "genocidal". What is clear is that under "Oil for Food" the Iraqi regime could have improved medical care for the Iraqi people if it had chosen to do so rather than to use the Iraqi people's suffering as a political tool.

By fax to Matthew Rycroft Phone
NRLO

Kara

Total number of children to follow
Still searching. Sorry.

TOTAL P.02

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