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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

file

From the Private Secretary

14 February 2003

Dear Kara,

IRAQ: PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH

The Prime Minister would like factual answers to the following questions please, some of which he might incorporate into a speech on Iraq:

- (a) How many Iraqi children under the age of 5 die each month? (We have seen the figure of 150 deaths per 1000. Is this accurate, and what does it mean in actual numbers?)
- (b) How many political prisoners are there in prison in Iraq at any time?
- (c) Is Northern Iraq better administered than the rest of Iraq? If so, what concrete examples can we give?
- (d) When Saddam's son in law defected, what did he say at the time about Iraq's BW, CW and nuclear programmes? How did the Iraqis attempt to explain this away at the time?
- (e) Is it the case that inspections in the early 90s were not successful at closing down Iraq's WMD programmes until this defection?
- (f) How were the Shia and Kurd uprisings after the Gulf War put down?
- (g) What was Iraq's standard of living in the 1960s compared with eg Portugal, Taiwan, and others? And today?

With apologies for the tight deadline, please could you and Assessments Staff send answers to these questions by 1300 today.

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I am copying this letter to Julian Miller (Assessments Staff), John Scarlett and Desmond Bowen (Cabinet Office) and Peter Watkins (MOD).

Yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Rycroft', with a stylized flourish at the end.

MATTHEW RYCROFT

Kara Owen
FCO

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