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PHYSICAL AND PROTECTIVE SECURITY FOR UK STAFF IN THE  
COALITION PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY (BAGHDAD)

Preliminary Report dated 03 November 03

Executive Summary

1. The attack on the Al Rashid Hotel on 26 October exposed the vulnerability of UK CPA staff in Baghdad to Rocket and Mortar attack. While the hotel was clearly exposed as a danger, the attack also raised concerns over the staff accommodated in trailers in the vicinity of the CPA Palace Compound. UK staff accommodated in the Rashid Hotel were evacuated to the Baghdad Support Unit, belonging to the British Military at Maude House. The attack was a shock to many of the British CPA contingent and precipitated a clear demand for quick action, both to mitigate the effects of potential attacks and to relieve justifiable concerns, against the background trend of a steadily rising threat.
2. An urgent review of security was commissioned, with assistance from London arriving on 2 November. This initial report identifies three clear areas for action, some of which are already in hand:
  - a. Improved ballistic protection for UK staff in their place of work and accommodation. This action is required quickly as the threat is likely to worsen in the coming weeks. There are no overnight solutions short of sleeping in offices.
  - b. Improved passage of information and access to detailed threat assessments. Current levels of information are poor and the CPA system for dissemination and action in the aftermath of an incident is inadequate. Greater influence is required from inside the system.
  - c. Consideration of future accommodation options with enhanced ballistic protection. Favoured options will involve some cost and will need to be finessed with the US who are also reviewing their options.
3. This preliminary report is an indication of our current thinking and serves warning of further assistance that may be required. The review team will continue their work and reissue this report later in the week with supplementary information and specialist reports. London is requested to prepare reactions urgently.

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