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Reference

FROM: ^{To}

Ext:

DATE: 12 March 2003

CC: PS/PUSS
PS/Suma Chakrabarti
Nicola Brewer
Carolyn Miller
Alistair Fernie
Moazzam Malik

Special Advisers

To: 1. Carolyn Miller
(discussed at length
and agreed)
2. PS/Secretary of State

**IRAQ: HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY AND IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE
PLAN: INFORMATION NOTE**

1. Our preparation for the humanitarian effort in Iraq is progressing steadily. The attached outline paper sets out our broad strategy and initial plan.
2. The strategy aims to address our key objectives of saving lives and relieving the suffering of Iraqi people whilst adhering to our principles of impartial humanitarian response. In view of the uncertainties and our limited resources, we are planning to retain the maximum operational flexibility.
3. The Secretary of State may wish to note the following points:
 - The UK military have an obligation under international law to provide humanitarian assistance. This will be vital during the first few weeks after hostilities when the response capability of the humanitarian agencies will be limited or absent. We are helping the MOD to plan and prepare for the humanitarian role in their area of operations, making clear that DFID and international agencies will be focused on the Iraq-wide humanitarian needs. The MOD is not well prepared at present for their humanitarian role. The implications of this are covered in the draft letter from the Secretary of State to Prime Minister, submitted separately.
 - Until we judge that there is a permissive security environment, CHAD OT will remain on readiness to deploy but not immediately establish a

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forward base. This may affect our capability to respond on the ground in Iraq. (The position of civil-military humanitarian advisers embedded with the military is judged sufficiently safe for their deployment.)

- Our planning is based on the assumption that we will have £65 million for immediate response needs – this comprises funds from the contingency reserve as well as the MENAD and CHAD aid frameworks. Given the scale of the potential needs, these funds will be committed quickly, certainly within the first three months.

Humanitarian Programmes Manager
Conflict and Humanitarian Affairs Department

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IRAQ HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY AND IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE PLAN

Humanitarian Approach

Our humanitarian strategy is based on DFID's humanitarian principles, which includes seeking the best possible assessment of needs and giving priority to the most urgent cases of distress. It aims to:

- Save lives and relieve suffering of the Iraqi people
- Respond to the immediate humanitarian needs within Iraq and in neighbouring countries
- Protect and restore livelihoods
- Support a rapid transition from relief to recovery

Constraints

Humanitarian policy development and operational planning is constrained by the:

- Uncertain outcome of military action
- Wide range of potential humanitarian scenarios
- Limited DFID human resources
- Uncertainty over financial resources
- Need to differentiate between support to Coalition Forces and traditional humanitarian partners
- Need for a clear DFID security policy given the threat of NBC

Strategy

Our humanitarian strategy will focus on:

- Ensuring coordination of the international humanitarian effort.
- Working with the UN to maintain the Oil For Food (OFF) programme.
- Providing humanitarian assistance through our traditional humanitarian partners – the UN, Red Cross and NGOs.
- Supporting the UK military's stabilisation and humanitarian relief effort.
- Designing humanitarian interventions that take account of longer term recovery and reconstruction issues.

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Implementation

We will implement the strategy by:

- Gathering and analysing appropriate information to inform DFID, international and military humanitarian activities. We will place DFID specialists in the region and with key partners.
- Funding UN, Red Cross and NGOs.
- Using DFID resources from the relief stockpile to meet critical needs.
- Deploying limited relief and immediate reconstruction capability as required.

Operational Plan

In view of DFID's limited resources, we will retain **maximum flexibility to respond to changing scenarios and needs**. Whilst positioning key personnel and equipment in the region, we will retain core operational capacity in UK.

Specific actions planned or underway include:

- Information Management. We will place CHAD OT staff in Kuwait and Amman to monitor events, liaise closely with humanitarian organisations and report back to London. We are evaluating the need for similar positions in Turkey, Iran and Larnaca. CHAD will collate, analyse and disseminate field information. We will retain a limited capacity to deploy assessment teams to localised crisis points.
- Humanitarian Advice/Funding. CHAD will provide humanitarian advice to inform policy and funding decisions. In addition to advisers and secondees in the field, we will retain a core capability in London to scrutinise funding proposals from our humanitarian partners.
- Direct Support to the UN. We are seconding specialists to support coordination and information activities through the UN Humanitarian Information Centre (HIC) and the UN Joint Logistic Centre (UNJLC). We are considering other requests for support.
- Advice to the Military/Coalition. We are providing humanitarian advice to the UK military, including two secondees, to the Commander UK 1st Division in Kuwait. We are considering a secondment to the National Component HQ in Qatar. We have placed a DFID official in the US Government's Office for Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance (ORHA). These advisers also serve as part of our information gathering system.

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- Material Support. We have brought DFID's stockpile of non-food items, vehicles and equipment to immediate readiness, including procuring additional relief items. We are positioning some elements of the stockpile in Kuwait and elsewhere in the region to facilitate the humanitarian response.
- Direct Implementation. We are ready to assess and undertake limited relief and immediate rehabilitation operations through supervised Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) implemented by our traditional partners and possibly the UK Military. This could include building or repairing critical infrastructure required for the humanitarian effort.
- Oil for Food Programme. OFF has played a key role in providing humanitarian assistance to Iraq. We will work with the UN agencies, notably WFP, and other partners to maintain and protect the OFF programme or a variant mandated by the UN.

Conflict and Humanitarian Affairs Department
Department for International Development

12 March 2003

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