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Legal Adviser *18/2*

Iraq Post-Conflict

At Cabinet this morning Clare Short asked the Foreign Secretary about the legal authority for post-conflict reconstruction work (Ms Short much prefers the term "post-conflict" to "day after"). She said that she understood that FCO legal advice was that, for any conflict, existing UNSCRs - from 687 to 1441 - provided sufficient legal authority. The same applied for urgent humanitarian relief. However, there appeared to be no legal authority for post-conflict reconstruction work.

Is this true? The Foreign Secretary thinks that it is. If so, it underlines the importance of having effective UN authority in place very quickly (the so-called third Resolution). The Foreign Secretary knows that officials are already in touch with DFID about this but would like this work to be given even higher priority.



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(Simon McDonald)

cc: PS  
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