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Pres office

From: Matthew Rycroft
Date: 3 March 2003

PRIME MINISTER

cc: Jonathan Powell
David Manning
Alastair Campbell
Sally Morgan

Nick Cannon

IRAQ: SECURING THE CHILEAN VOTE

We need a strategy to secure the Chilean vote, since: they are not there yet, we will not get to nine positive votes without them, and if we get them we will probably also get the Mexicans.

. In particular, he is looking for a little more time and a report from Blix judging Saddam's compliance against specific benchmarks.

The three main elements of the strategy could be:

- (a) **A slight change to the draft resolution.** We could add in explicit reference to the Blix/El-Baradei reports of 28 January, 14 February, 28 February and 7 March. Two possible places: (a) in PP5 which could read "Noting the reports of the heads of UNMOVIC/IAEA that confirm that Iraq has submitted a declaration pursuant to its resolution 1441 containing false statements and omissions and has failed to comply with, and cooperate fully in the implementation of that resolution". Or in OP1 which could read "Decides on the basis of the reports of the heads of UNMOVIC/IAEA that Iraq has failed to take the final opportunity afforded to it in Resolution 1441."

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- (b) **Benchmarks.** See separate note. This would not be part of the draft resolution, but we could make clear publicly in the next day or so what is required of Saddam in one or more key areas, eg interviews of scientists. The deadline for full compliance on the benchmarks is the vote on the resolution. This would allow Lagos to say, with our support, either before or at the time of the vote that as there is not full compliance Chile will vote in favour of the resolution.
- (c) **Offer of exile/amnesty for Saddam.** Again, this should not be part of the draft resolution. But we can make clear publicly (again) that we are not intent on war come what may, and that we are determined to explore every last avenue for peace. This includes making clear that we support Arab attempts to get Saddam to leave Iraq and go into exile, in exchange for an amnesty.

David thinks you should phone Lagos tomorrow and thank him for seeing him and John yesterday (his birthday) and giving them so much time. You should then say you are thinking about what Lagos told you on the phone yesterday and what he said to David, and you will want to get back to him with some ideas. We shall need to decide how much to say to Bush before you explore these with Lagos. We shall need secure comms (we are pursuing the possibilities) for when you follow up with the package (and it might be possible to have a secure phone available for tomorrow's call). If that does not work, you will need to send someone back to Lagos to do the business face to face.

Do you agree?

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Matthew Rycroft'.

MATTHEW RYCROFT

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