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 Subject: I:OO:REST:IRAQ: FOREIGN SECRETARY'S CONVERSATION WITH
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FROM PRIVATE SECRETARY

SUBJECT: IRAQ: FOREIGN SECRETARY'S CONVERSATION WITH RUSSIAN FOREIGN
 MINISTER, 30 JANUARY

SUMMARY

1. Ivanov presses for more time for the inspectors. Sees no reason to declare Iraq in material breach. Foreign Secretary restates view that Iraq is in material breach.

DETAIL

2. Russian Foreign Minister Ivanov telephoned the Foreign Secretary on the afternoon of 30 January.

3. The Foreign Secretary asked Ivanov for his view of the Blix report. Ivanov said it was necessary to address the problems in the report. But he saw no problems which could not be resolved by negotiations.

4. The Foreign Secretary agreed that most problems in the Blix report could be resolved if Iraq complied. But there could be no doubt that Iraq was in further material breach because of its non-compliance. It was important that Iraq got the message that time had almost run out. It would be stupid of them not to cooperate now. Ivanov wondered what the meaning was of time almost running out. Who set the time limits? It was up to the inspectors to say how much time they needed to complete their mission. If they needed 5-6 months, who were we to say they should not get it.

5. The Foreign Secretary accepted that there was nothing in UNSCR

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1441 on timing. It was a matter for the Security Council. But Iraq should have complied over the past two months, or even in the 1990s. Ivanov agreed that it was for the Security Council to decide on timing. But the Foreign Secretary should remember that the previous inspectors had worked for eight years and done a great job. El-Baradei had told Ivanov that he needed two more months. Blix needed more time too. The Security Council could give the inspectors time to finish their job.

6. Ivanov said that the Blix report had said nothing about material breach. The Foreign Secretary said that material breach was not a matter for the inspectors, but for the Security Council or for individual members. When one looked at OP4 of UNSCR 1441, it was very hard to see how Iraq was not now in further material breach. Ivanov agreed that it was for the Security Council to decide if there were a further material breach. But, looking at the Blix and El-Baradei reports, Russia saw no reason to declare that Iraq was in material breach. But there was a definite need to seek further cooperation from Iraq.

7. The Foreign Secretary said that, as he had previously commented, Iraq was cooperating on process but not on substance. In his view, Iraq continued to be in material breach.

8. The Foreign Secretary and Ivanov looked forward to seeing each other in New York on 5 February.

STRAW

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