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To: Iraq Policy Unit
From: Swift Incoming Telegrams (Machine 2)
Subject: LEAD: RR FCOLN/BAGHD 41: IRAQ: PURSUING BRITISH
INTERESTS IN SOUTHERN IRAQ
Sent: 04 August 2003 17:43:45 GMT

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MDDPAN 3801 MAMIAN 9126

RESTRICTED

RR BAGHD

RR IRAQR KUWAI INTRA MIVID GULFF MODAD MODEV

DCCUK

FM FCOLN TO BAGHD

041114Z AUG

GRS 288

RESTRICTED

FM FCO

TO ROUTINE BO BAGHDAD

TELNO 41

OF 041114Z AUGUST 03

AND TO ROUTINE IRAQREP, KUWAIT, DTI, UKVISAS

INFO ROUTINE GULF POSTS, MODUK, DFID, , PJHQ UK

TEL FROM SIR HILARY SYNNOTT, CPA SOUTH

SUBJECT: IRAQ: PURSUING BRITISH INTERESTS IN SOUTHERN IRAQ

SUMMARY

1. Small UK bilateral cell needed in Basra in advance of any Consulate.

DETAIL

2. I understand that the FCO are rightly planning towards establishing a Consulate in Basra, looking at a December timescale. A recce team visited at the end of last week, although they were constrained by security requirements and availability of help.

3. I think that this is a sound objective. But it is not enough. It is not too soon to be looking at potential commercial opportunities in the South (a Dubai/Umm Qasr passenger ferry has just started; the international airport should start initial operations this month). And there are visa and consular demands from dual nationals, holders of British passports. As the situation eases, so we may expect a much increased flow of British visitors, including MPs etc. So there is a clear prospect of enhanced bilateral demands.

4. Much as the UK Nationals, including myself, in CPA (South) would like to help over this, as you know we do not have the capacity. Nor would it be right to do so. As the FCO agreed with Bremer before my arrival, we are part of the CPA and I am answerable to Bremer. Time spent on bilateral work is time lost for CPA work, which would be apparent to other team members. That said, I would of course be glad to offer moral support and advice on the pursuit of bilateral interests, as others are doing for their national interests.

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5. I have discussed this with Christopher Segar in Baghdad, who agrees.

STRAW

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IRAQ/KUWAIT 13

IRAQ POLICY UNIT 0

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PROTOCOL D//PALACE 0

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