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FROM: P F Ricketts
Political Director

DATE: 4 February 2003

cc: PS/PUS
Mr Ehrman
Mr Charlton

Mr Chaplin

IRAQ: DAY AFTER PLANNING

1. You will have seen William Ehrman's minute of 3 February recording discussion at the "Pigott Group". This included discussion of the need for a step up in Whitehall work on planning for the aftermath of a conflict.
2. William and I discussed this issue, and I have now been over the ground with the PUS. We all think that it is right that the FCO should consolidate the lead we have already taken in this area with the work that Dominick Chilcott has been doing under your supervision.
3. I am sure that this work will now grow fast, particularly with the prospect of the UK inheriting responsibility for a good slice of Southern Iraq following a military conflict.
4. Subject to your views, I think we should be taking the lead in putting together a cross-Whitehall team to work on these issues and to ensure that the military have the necessary guidance. Dominick Chilcott is ideally placed to do this for as long as he is available. I suggest that he now devote himself to this full-time. I would also like to bring Patrick Davies in to work with him.
5. We also need to be thinking about finding a senior figure to replace Dominick (who will presumably have to move on to his new job by about the end of March). Ideally this person would be available to run in parallel for Dominick for some time, and then take on the role. It could develop a bit in the direction of Robert Cooper's Special Representative role over Afghanistan. I would see this work as remaining under your supervision, but I expect that it will grow to the point where you will need at least a couple of FCO people working full-time on it. Simon Webb has offered us Oona Muirhead (Director-level from MOD, ex-Head of News and PJHQ) to work with our team – and potentially to deploy forward into Southern Iraq with the UK General.

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12

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6. Let us discuss when I am back later in the week. Grateful in the meantime if Alan Charlton could begin to think of possible Director-level individuals to whom we could give this role.

Peter Ricketts

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