

DECLASSIFIED

*Copy to Jonathan  
Matthew  
Nick*



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

London SW1A 2AH

Sir Michael Jay KCMG  
*The Permanent Under Secretary of State*

Telephone:  
Facsimile:  
e-mail:  
[www.fco.gov.uk](http://www.fco.gov.uk)

*John*  
Suma Chakrabarti  
Permanent Secretary  
Department for International Development  
1 Palace Street  
LONDON  
SW1E 5HE

13 May 2003

*Dear Suma,*

#### IRAQ: DEPLOYMENTS TO ORHA

1. Thank you for your letter of 13 May about security arrangements for ORHA. I agree with you that security is a key concern. We have discussed the issue with senior UK representatives in Baghdad, including General Tim Cross, John Sawers and , and have seen the security arrangements outlined in the UK-drafted brief for international partners.
2. As you note in your letter, the US military are committed to providing overall security and evacuation arrangements. They have established an extensive secure area around ORHA's living and working accommodation and established procedures for movement outside the secure area which provides protection against the threats from random violence and criminality. The view General Cross and his team is that the issue in Baghdad is protection rather than evacuation, and that the ORHA headquarters and working environment are secure.
3. I am willing to accept the judgement of those on the ground that the arrangements in place adequately provide security for the military and civilian secondees already in ORHA and the augmentees we will be deploying from today. In briefing UK secondees preparing for deployment we have stressed that Baghdad is an insecure environment and that the security guidelines laid down by the US military must be followed at all times, however constraining they may be. All secondees are deploying with a full suite of protective equipment including body armour, helmets and personal NBC suits, and have been trained in their use by MoD.

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED



4. I agree with you, however, that it would be helpful to have a more detailed plan in place, not least to meet the insurance requirements of contracted staff. I am grateful for your offer to deploy two DFID advisers to Baghdad from today. Depending on their conclusions, we may well wish to follow up your suggestion that their work could form the basis for a security plan covering all UK secondees. As you suggest, our Departments should continue to liaise closely.
5. I am copying this letter to Sir Andrew Turnbull, Sir David Manning (No 10), Sir Kevin Tebbit (MoD), Desmond Bowen (Cabinet Office) and Sir Robin Young (DTI); and, with yours, to Permanent Secretaries of other Departments (Dept of Health, HMT, ODPM, Customs and Excise, NIO, DTp, DCMS and the Lord Chancellor's Department) who are seconding staff to ORHA, and to David Green at the British Council.

*Yours sincerely,*

*Michael Jay*

Michael Jay

A large, elegant handwritten flourish or signature mark, consisting of a long, sweeping curve that starts under the name and extends to the right.

DECLASSIFIED