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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue, London WC2N 5BP

Ian Lee

Director General Operational Policy

DG Op Pol/4/6/1 (20/03)

Desmond Bowen Esq.
Defence & Overseas Secretariat
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
London SW1A 2AS

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Dear Desmond,

IRAQ: MILITARY CAMPAIGN OBJECTIVES

1. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the latest draft Military Campaign Objectives. We have now been able to look at the Objectives from the perspective of whether they give the Department enough top cover to derive appropriate CDS and targeting directives to enable us to work in coalition with the US. On the whole, this is the case, but the following issues have been raised:

- US JCS objectives refer to International Terrorism: although we do not expect UK forces to encounter international terrorist groups such as AQ on the ground in Southern Iraq, it would be useful if reference were made to the ongoing campaign, to give cover for any co-operation in this field;
- The wording on WMD is potentially too prescriptive

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- It would be useful to obtain cover for operations specifically aimed at deterring either internal conflict in Iraq, or interference in the military campaign from Iraq's neighbours.
- 2. I attach an amended version of the objectives with our proposed amendment underlined. (Additional amendments should be self-explanatory).
- 3. I am copying this to William Ehrman, Edward Chaplin and Nicola Brewer (DfID).

Regards,

Ian

Enclosure: Amended version of Objectives

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IRAQ: MILITARY CAMPAIGN OBJECTIVES

Our policy objectives were set out in Parliament on 7 January 2003. The prime objective remains to rid Iraq of its weapons of mass destruction and their associated programmes and means of delivery, including prohibited ballistic missiles, as set out in United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs).

2. UNSCR 1441 gave Iraq a final opportunity to comply with its disarmament obligations and warned of the consequences of failing to do so, [and UNSCR XXXX authorises all necessary means to enforce compliance by Iraq with its international obligations.] **or** [and following discussion in the Security Council it is clear that Iraq has not taken this opportunity and must be compelled to comply.]

3. The obstacle to Iraq's compliance with UNSCRs is the current regime, supported by the Iraqi security forces under its control. The British Government has concluded that military action is necessary to enforce Iraqi compliance with UNSCRs. This requires the removal of the current Iraqi regime. The UK is contributing maritime, land and air forces as part of a US-led coalition.

4. **The UK's overall objective for the military campaign is to create the conditions in which Iraq disarms in accordance with its obligations under UNSCRs.** Tasks which flow from this objective are set out below. In aiming to achieve this objective as swiftly as possible, every effort will be made to minimise civilian casualties, damage to essential economic infrastructure and adverse humanitarian consequences. The main tasks of the coalition are to:

- a. remove the current Iraqi regime;
- b. overcome the resistance of Iraqi security forces;

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- c. deny the Iraqi regime the use of weapons of mass destruction;
- d. support international efforts to find and eliminate Iraqi WMD capacity, its means of delivery and infrastructure;
- e. secure essential economic infrastructure, including for utilities and transport, from sabotage and wilful destruction by Iraqis;
- f. work in support of our existing objectives of combating international terrorism; and
- g. deter wider conflict, both inside Iraq and in the region.

Military action will be conducted in conformity with international law, including the UN Charter and international humanitarian law.

5. Our wider political objectives in support of the military campaign are to:

- a. reassure the Iraqi people that our quarrel is not with them and that their security and well-being is our concern;
- b. sustain the widest possible international and regional coalition in support of military action;
- c. preserve wider regional security, including by maintaining the territorial integrity of Iraq and mitigating the humanitarian and other consequences of conflict for Iraq's neighbours; and

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- d. help create conditions for a future, stable and law-abiding government of Iraq.
- e. create conditions that further the UK Government's objective to eliminate international terrorism as a force for change in the world.

6. In the aftermath of hostilities, the immediate military priorities for the coalition are to:

- a. provide for the security of friendly forces;
- b. contribute to the creation of a secure environment so that normal life can be restored;
- c. work with the international community to rid Iraq of its weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery;
- d. work in support of humanitarian organisations to mitigate the consequences of hostilities and, in the absence of such bodies, provide relief where it is needed;
- e. facilitate remedial action where environmental damage has occurred;
- f. enable the reconstruction and recommissioning of essential infrastructure for the political and economic development of Iraq, and the immediate benefit of the Iraqi people;
- g. lay plans for the reform of Iraq's security forces

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Wherever possible, these tasks will be carried out in co-operation with the United Nations [role of the UN in aftermath to be determined].

7. British military forces will withdraw as soon as feasible. We hope to see the early establishment of a transitional civilian administration. We will work with the international community to build the widest possible international and regional support for the reconstruction of Iraq and the move to representative government.

8. It remains our wish to see Iraq become a stable, united and law abiding state, within its present borders, co-operating with the international community, no longer posing a threat to its neighbours or to international security, abiding by all its international obligations and providing effective representative government for its own people.

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