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DAVID MANNING

11 February 2003

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IRAQ: MILITARY CAMPAIGN OBJECTIVES

I put forward a draft on 29 January, before the Prime Minister's visit to Washington, and have now had comments from Departments which include Ministerial views. A revised version is attached, which has been the subject of discussion between officials to reconcile outstanding differences.

2. These military campaign objectives remain in draft form for the time being. They may need adjustment in the light of developments, not least as we clarify the way forward on the management of the post-conflict phase. There is no question of making these objectives public until such time as a decision is made to take military action. Once that decision is made, we may need to finalise a text rapidly.

3. Mr Hoon will be meeting Mr Rumsfeld in Washington tomorrow and, amongst other things, he will share this text to encourage the greatest possible alignment of our objectives. You may also wish to inform Condi Rice of our current thinking.

[Signature]

DESMOND BOWEN

cc PS/Secretary of State for Foreign & Commonwealth Affairs
PS/Secretary of State for Defence
PS/Secretary of State for International Development
Sir Andrew Turnbull
John Scarlett

ACTION

additives

democracy?

reform of press/judiciary?

UN T.A.?

Head, MED

cc PS+2

PS/PUS

PS/Asst Sec

Mr Scarlett

Mr Hoon

Mr Chaplin

Mr Clarke

Head: Press, UN Legal Advising

The Foreign Secretary
agreed to this
draft being passed
over.

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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. 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 and remains so disarmed in the long term. Tasks which flow from this objective are set out below.
5. In aiming to achieve this objective as swiftly as possible, every effort will be made to minimise civilian casualties and damage to essential economic infrastructure, and to minimise and address adverse humanitarian consequences. The main tasks of the coalition are to:

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- a. overcome the resistance of Iraqi security forces;
- b. deny the Iraqi regime the use of weapons of mass destruction now and in the future;
- c. remove the Iraqi regime, given its clear and unyielding refusal to comply with the UN Security Council's demands;
- d. identify and secure the sites where weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery are located;
- e. secure essential economic infrastructure, including for utilities and transport, from sabotage and wilful destruction by Iraqis; and
- f. 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.

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

- a. demonstrate to the Iraqi people that our quarrel is not with them and that their security and well-being is our concern;
- b. work with the United Nations to lift sanctions affecting the supply of humanitarian and reconstruction goods, and to enable Iraq's own resources, including oil, to be available to meet the needs of the Iraqi people;

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- c. sustain the widest possible international and regional coalition in support of military action;
- d. 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;
- e. help create conditions for a future, stable and law-abiding government of Iraqis; and | NB
- f. further our policy of eliminating terrorism as a force in international affairs.

7. In the wake 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 in support of humanitarian organisations to mitigate the consequences of hostilities and, in the absence of such civilian humanitarian capacity, provide relief where it is needed;
- d. work with UNMOVIC/IAEA to rid Iraq of its weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery;
- e. facilitate remedial action where environmental damage has occurred;

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- 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; and
- g. lay plans for the reform of Iraq's security forces.

Wherever possible, these tasks will be carried out in co-operation with the United Nations.

8. British military forces will withdraw as soon as possible. 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.

with
no UN

9. 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.

Cabinet Office
February 2003

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