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Neil Crompton / Edward Chaplin

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The Foreign Secretary was grateful for the submission with which he is generally content. He does ask however whether it is fair to have

From:

Date:

16 February 2005

cc:

PS/Baroness Symons

John Sawers

Dickie Stagg

David Richmond

Edward Chaplin, Baghdad

Simon Collis, Basra

Charles de Chassiron

Joan Link, CIG

John Williams, Press Office

Honours Secretary

a blanket exception for a
of employees?

1/2 - Fiddle
24/2.

Neil Crompton, Iraq D

PS/PJS

PS

I agree. We should stick to service
in Iraq as a key requirement.

Dickie Stagg
22/ii

IRAQ CIVILIAN MEDAL

ISSUE

1. Who should be eligible for the new Iraq civilian medal?

TIMING

2. Routine.

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PREFERRED OPTIONS

3. That the draft criteria attached at Annex A be forwarded to the Cabinet Office Honours and Decorations Committee (HD) for approval.
4. Honours Secretariat, Protocol Division agree. CIG believe that there is a case for enlarging the criteria to include a limited number of police officers involved in establishing the training centre in Jordan (Annex B).

ARGUMENT

5. It has been agreed that a medal should be awarded to civilians who have worked on behalf of HMG in Iraq since the end of hostilities in 2003. The medal will be an approximate civilian equivalent to the military Iraq Campaign Medal. The attached draft criteria define those who would be eligible to receive it. In essence the medal would be awarded to all those who have served in Iraq, both during and after the period of the Coalition Provisional Authority, including not only officials but also consultants, police, and those contracted directly by HMG. Sub-contractors not directly employed by HMG would also be eligible, which would include the guards employed by Control Risks Group and Armor Group. Although these guards are well paid for their work, we believe that the risks that they undertake merit their inclusion. They are an essential part of our operation. Posts argue strongly that to exclude them would damage morale and create divisions. Foreign nationals in these categories would also be eligible, but not Iraqi nationals. Short term or occasional visitors would not be included.

6. CIG have received representations on behalf of UK police officers employed at the Jordan International Police Training Centre. Current conditions in Jordan do not compare to those in Iraq, and awarding the medal as a matter of course to all such officers would risk devaluing its value for those serving in Iraq. It might also be difficult to exclude FCO and other support staff in neighbouring countries. However, those police officers who originally set up the centre volunteered for service in Iraq, were expecting to be deployed there, and worked initially in physically difficult conditions. CIG argue that there is an argument for including a clearly defined group of officers involved in this initial set-up period. This would involve additional criteria, such as those set out in Annex B. Around 90 officers would fall under those criteria. The officers involved have suggested that complete exclusion of those who have served in Jordan would have a significant effect on morale – including of those officers from the set-up phase now returning for a second tour of duty. They understand that the Home Office is likely to make strong representations if the Jordan contingent is excluded

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from the medal criteria, and have already received a number of letters on eligibility for the medal from MPs representing the officers. Iraq Directorate believe that although the Jordan contingent might deserve some separate commendation for their efforts, service in Iraq has carried an entirely different level of risk. The Iraq medal should therefore be limited to those that have borne that risk.

BACKGROUND

7. In late June 2004, the Prime Minister announced in the Commons that The Queen had agreed that a special civilian medal should be awarded to certain civilians who had played a crucial role in helping the Iraqi people rebuild their lives.

8. When agreed by the Secretary of State, the draft criteria will be passed to the Cabinet Office Honours and Decorations Committee (HD) for approval. The agreed criteria will then be submitted by the HD Committee Secretariat to The Queen for Her formal approval

9. Separately, The Honours Secretariat is working on the design and production of the Medal. Responses to invitations to competitive tender have just been received.

10. Apart from recognition by the Iraq Civilian medal, some of those who have given service in Iraq have been recognised by awards on two Special Iraq Honours Lists; in October 2003 and December 2004.

PARLIAMENTARY AND MEDIA

11. There will be some Parliamentary and Media interest, but this is likely to focus more on the political aspects of the decision to award a medal, than on the individual recipients.

RISKS

12. The award of the medal might be regarded as divisive by those excluded, but its overall effect should be, as intended, to officially recognise the service of those who have worked in Iraq as well as to boost staff morale.

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RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

13. The estimated cost of providing medals for all those under the eligibility criteria as currently envisaged is between £50,000 and £60,000. This amount would be required in the FY 2005-2006, although there may be a requirement for additional funds in the following FY if the medal continues to be issued after March 2006. There will also be continuing human resource implications in the modalities of establishing eligibility for the medal, as well as in the approval, production and disbursement of the medal.

Iraq Directorate
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