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Sofs

*Doctrinally poor advice
on involving DFID SofS.
Are you happy for me to
consult No 10?*

LOOSE MINUTE

DG Op Pol/4/6/1/1 (24/03)

5 February 2003

PS/Secretary of State

Copy to:

PSO/CDS

PS/PUS

DCDS(C)

ACDS(Ops)

Legal Adviser

DTIO

Hd Sec(Iraq)

Sec(O)1

*Agreed
6/2*

IRAQ: BRIEFING THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

Issue

1. Briefing Clare Short on the Military Campaign.

Recommendation

2. That the Secretary of State:
 - a) agrees that the International Development Secretary should be briefed along the lines set out in paragraph 6 of this submission; and
 - b) you speak to No 10 to confirm their agreement.

Timing

3. Priority. Ms Short wishes to be briefed as soon as possible.

Background

4. The International Development Secretary has asked to be briefed by MOD officials on the planned military campaign in the event of military action against Iraq. She is aware of the briefings we have given to the Foreign Secretary and the Attorney General and wishes to be briefed on similar lines. No.10 have asked to be consulted on the terms of any briefing.

5. Clearly there is a spectrum of briefing we could potentially offer, from a detailed description of the US military plan including specific targeting issues, to a broad brush description of military objectives and procedures focusing, for example, on UK capabilities and their inherent flexibility. Prima facie, Ms Short's responsibilities suggest that briefing should be focused on aftermath.

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Issues. A consistent theme from DFID officials has been the need to tailor the military plan in order to take into account aftermath management. Indeed, we ourselves take a similar view, given that the initial phase of aftermath will inevitably involve the military on the ground. Specific issues raised include:

- targeting – the need, where possible, to avoid collateral damage which would exacerbate humanitarian problems or hinder reconstruction;
- civilian casualties – at the behest of DFID officials DSTL have been tasked to take forward work on the consequences of Iraqi use of CBW;
- refugees – the need for military action to avoid, as far as possible, precipitating a large-scale refugee issue.

DfID will need to plan their efforts now and need to understand both the issues and some of the geographical factors.

6. Against this background, I recommend we should offer Ms Short a briefing along the following lines.

- the overall **strategic campaign design** and how this involves:
 - simultaneous axes of approach, information operations, sudden decisive effect
 - bringing offensive military action to a conclusion as quickly as possible
- **targeting policy** – the care we take to avoid civilian casualties and collateral damage in compliance with international law
 - minimising the damage to national infrastructure
- **aftermath planning** – current US thinking and the need to involve DFID more closely in further work, in the coming weeks.

The first part of this would be similar to that provided for the Foreign Secretary but with less detail on numbers and types of target and on the operational detail of the campaign plan. As before, the briefing team could be DCDS(C), Legal Adviser, DTIO and me.

7. As aftermath planning is taken forward in the next few weeks it will become increasingly important to achieve cross-Whitehall team-work. DFID has a key role in responding to immediate humanitarian crises and the majority of the tools required for the UK's contribution to post-conflict reconstruction, in particular working with NGOs, come under DFID's responsibility. As full and frank a briefing within the constraints of operational

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security will be key element in achieving a joined up approach and help build on the good relationships we have set up over the last few weeks.

Ian Lee

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