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Reference

Private Office

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FROM:

Ext:

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CC:

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Special Advisers

To: PS/Secretary of State

IRAQ: HUMANITARIAN AGENCIES PREPAREDNESS FUNDING NEEDSIssue

1. Whether to provide a further UK contribution towards humanitarian agencies' preparedness measures?

Recommendation

2. That DFID commit, from available 2002/03 resources, an additional £6.5 million towards humanitarian agencies' preparedness efforts; £3.5 million to UN agencies and £3.0^{million} to NGOs as proposed in paragraphs 7 & 10.

Timing

3. The Secretary of State may wish to announce this at the Ministerial meeting on 6 March.

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Publicity

4. Initially through response to a Parliamentary Question.

Background

5. We have committed £3.5 million towards UN Contingency Planning. This support is being provided to WFP (£1m), UNICEF (£1m), UNHCR (0.75m), WHO (0.5m), OCHA (0.15m) and UNSECOORD (0.1m). The UK commitment was based on a proportionate contribution to the then overall UN preparedness funding needs of around \$93 million.

6. On 14 February, the UN updated its funding requirements for humanitarian preparedness measures to \$123.5 million. This reflected revisions to the estimated budget requirements for the key UN humanitarian agencies' preparedness measures for the period December 2002 - March 2003. At that point, the UN had received pledges of \$36.8 million, including the UK commitment, to their original appeal. They reported a funding gap to the updated revised requirement of some \$86.7 million. Since then very little additional support has been pledged.

7. From our continuing discussions with the UN humanitarian agencies and through our scoping visits to the region, we consider that UN contingency planning is sensible and progressing but remains constrained through lack of donor support. Our initial commitment has been well received. The agencies supported have enquired whether there is any further support that we could provide, either financial or in-kind. They are particularly keen for help in sourcing and funding personnel, the provision of relief items (tents, blankets, medical kits, emergency food rations) and the costs of delivery. Although US contingency planning also covers similar preparatory measures USAid are relying on the UN agencies and NGOs to play significant relief roles. We have been pushing up the UN role with the US Government. There is therefore a

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case for the UK to provide further support to key UN agencies requirements, whilst continuing to urge other donors to burden share. Increasing our level of preparedness support to the UN would strengthen our position to argue for more burden sharing and further support our case to the US Government for a UN role. **A similar contribution, of £3.5 million, would be appropriate.** This would increase our overall share of support to 8.5% of requirements. The UN agencies most in need of immediate support are UNICEF, WFP, UNHCR and WHO. On the basis of their current funding gaps, **I would recommend the following additional contributions:**

UNICEF	£1.0 million
WFP	£1.0 million
UNHCR	£1.0 million
WHO	£0.5 million

8. NGO contingency planning and preparedness is also important. Some of our existing partners have preparedness measures underway and indicate they would welcome DFID support. Although we see their role in any humanitarian response as limited, some will have key implementing partner responsibilities to UN agencies and some, for example Oxfam, in filling vital gaps in provision that otherwise may be unmet. Some also support national systems through their own Iraqi implementing partners.

9. Of the NGOs with whom we have been in more regular contact of late some have programme interventions planned whilst others are still formulating their planning. They have each shared their planning concepts with us but have not submitted formal proposals as we have previously implied that DFID support for preparedness was not available. Their planning is credible. They are not trying to exceed their capabilities beyond modest expansion of existing programmes and drawing on their respective strengths and experience. Their plans are also properly coordinated, complement UN contingency planning and cover both the north and centre/south.

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10. The Secretary of State has already approved, in principle, an allocation for NGO partners, of £5 million from next year's Contingency Reserve, for humanitarian response following conflict. We should now be willing to commit DFID funding in support of NGO preparedness for initial response. This would go to the same agencies we would expect our humanitarian response funds to support. This may include CARE, Christian Aid, CAFOD, Islamic Relief, and SCF. Oxfam have stated that they would not wish to receive DFID funds. **An allocation of up to £3 million set aside for NGOs would enable us to support a range of NGO preparedness measures for the north and centre/south.** We would need to look at specific detailed proposals before agreeing grants, approval of which would be at Director level. We next meet with the NGOs on 7 March.

11. The Prime Minister said in his speech in Swansea last week "let us put as much resource and commitment into the humanitarian plight of the Iraqi people as we do into any conflict". To support an effective international humanitarian response, following hostilities, support to contingency planning and humanitarian agencies preparedness is crucial. The Ministerial meeting on Thursday offers a further opportunity to explain what DFID is doing to support this.

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12. The FINSTATS 3 exercise has shown a significant underspend, against allocations in International Division, some of which could be made available to fund these proposed commitments this financial year. Funds from this underspend will also be used to meet the earlier commitment of £3.5 million to UN agencies. Finance Department are content.

Humanitarian Programmes Manager
Conflict & Humanitarian Affairs Department

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meeting tomorrow on
Iraq if you wish to discuss
B4/3

From: Carolyn Miller (Anna Bewes)
To: Bewes, Anna
Date: 3/4/03 6:10pm
Subject: Iraq submission

PS/Secretary of State

I have seen this submission, and agree with the recommendations in it. It reflects the importance of showing support for the UN particularly at a point when our arguments are achieving some success

Carolyn Miller

I am happy
to approve this
but don't
give the quotes like
para 11 when
* we know there
is a nothing behind
at least fear again
meeting to begin
clearly about
importance of
this

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