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TO 0016

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29 January 2003

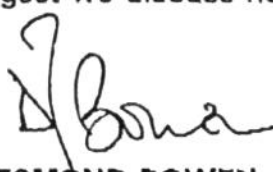
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### IRAQ: MILITARY CAMPAIGN OBJECTIVES

I attach a copy of the latest draft of our objectives for a military campaign. These flow from our policy objectives published on 7 January, which remain valid. These military campaign objectives are not yet agreed by Departments, although Ministers have, I understand, seen them and been generally content.

2. We see a need for further objectives to cover the transitional period between the end of hostilities and the establishment of a new Iraqi government: these would need to go a lot wider in terms of civil administration (involving the UN) and a process for arriving at representative government. Much of this latter area is nowhere near agreed between the US and the UK. Even in the attached document there are many open questions about the role of the UN and the place of UNMOVIC/IAEA; and no mention of how the Oil for Food (OFF) programme would be factored in.

3. It will be important before the coalition embarks on military action to ensure that we share the same military objectives with the US, otherwise the strategic direction of the campaign risks falling apart. After your return from the US I suggest we discuss how best to do this.



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

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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;

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- b. overcome the resistance of Iraqi security forces;
- c. deny the Iraqi regime the use of weapons of mass destruction;
- d. identify and secure the sites where weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery are located; and
- e. secure essential economic infrastructure, including for utilities and transport, from sabotage and wilful destruction by Iraqis.

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
- d. help create conditions for a future, stable and law-abiding government of Iraq.

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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 UNMOVIC/IAEA 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.

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 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.

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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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