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DAVID MANNING

cc John Scarlett
Tom McKane
Jane Hamilton Eddy

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WMD: PUBLIC PAPER

1. You asked that we should look hard at the facts on Iraq, which would come in for tough scrutiny. I held a meeting today with DIS and **SIS** experts to go through the draft. *redacted*
2. You asked particularly about the missile programmes. The experts confirmed that they are confident Iraq retains and could use 650 km Al Hussein missiles. They date from before the Gulf War and may be seen as old news. But they are in breach of UNSCRs; and could still be effective. (Similar missiles have been used by the Russians in Chechnya.) We have also checked, and tightened up the language, on other missile programmes.
3. [As you know, there is not much new intelligence in the paper. It is open to the question: so what's changed? We have included information not (so far as we know) previously published on the recall in 1998 of scientists to work on a nuclear weapons programme. And there is recent intelligence on attempts to acquire controlled aluminium. This might have a nuclear application; but it could be required for non-WMD weapons programmes.] *redacted*
4. Separately, Alastair Campbell had a first run through the draft this morning. He seemed to think it was on the right lines; but suggested a number of areas where more details could be included, eg background on missiles and on the effects of WMD. We are working these up now, and will circulate a revised text shortly. Alastair also commissioned an unclassified paper on the world trade in WMD. We are starting the ball rolling on this.

Bu ~~~~~

JULIAN MILLER

11 March 2002

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