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| CABINET |
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FROM: P F Ricketts
Political Director

Tom McLade cc Peter Ricketts FLO
David Manning O/L

DATE: 22 March 2002 rec'd 25/3

We discussed on Friday. David agrees that
a Cabinet Office group chaired by you
could usefully meet after Easter on the
substance of the public dossier; Hutton's
analysis should retain the lead role on
the timing/form of its release.

cc: PS
PS/PUS
Mr Wright
Mr Ehrman
Mr Dowse, NPD
Mr Barrow, CFSPD
Mr Williams, News Dept
Mr Crooks, News Dept
Mr Noble, RA
Mr Miller, Assessments Staff
Mr Rycroft, No.10 cc JPO
Mr Webb, MOD AW
Mr Wood, Washington Res
Mr Eldon, UKMIS New York

Mr Rycroft No.10
25/3

Mr Patey, MED

IRAQ: PREPARING MATERIAL FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

1. We now have a bit more time to prepare the public dossier of material on Iraq. We need to use it to ensure that the material is accurate and meets the presentational needs of Ministers.
2. I have asked No.10 to consider asking a Cabinet Office group to take forward work inter-Departmentally. Before this gets going, grateful if we could do the following specific things:

Tim Dowse to take work forward with the Assessments Staff on the new figures from DIS about the Iraqi stocks of CW precursors and munitions. We need to establish robust figures or ranges, if possible the same as those being used by the Americans, and then camp on them. We will need to advise Ministers how best to get them into the public domain before any comprehensive paper is published: probably by inspired PQ as soon as Parliament re-assembles, making clear that these are revised estimates.

you or NPD to get hold of the US dossier of material which they are using bilaterally with Security Council members. Again, we will need to check this carefully against our own material;

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MED and Research Analysts to look at the News Dept material and consider whether there is anything else we can add on aspects of Iraqi policy.

We have
not yet
given our
agreement
to this.

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3. One point for the Cabinet Office group will be to ensure that the US policy community gets enough time to consider our draft paper and comment on it. Ideally, David Manning would send it to Condi Rice soon as work in progress, and invite her to get inter-Agency comments for us. We will need to keep the Embassy in Washington and UKMIS New York in the loop.

4. Finally, when we have a revised timing for publication, we should, in my view, pass copies of the dossier in advance to the main Europeans (France, Germany, Italy and Spain). We can consider the details nearer the time.



Peter Ricketts

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