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CABINET OFFICE

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Amanda Tanfield
MED
FCO

9 April 2002

Dear Amanda,

IRAQ

I am convening a meeting on Friday 12 April at 10.30 am here at 70 Whitehall to discuss the paper prepared by the Assessments Staff on Iraqi WMD, your paper on Iraqi Human Rights Abuses and any further material which has been produced for use when these documents are published.

2. The only outstanding question in relation to the WMD paper of which I am aware is a discrepancy between certain numbers quoted by Ministers in Parliament and the latest assessment generated in the preparation of the paper for publication. The issue, as I understand it, is whether it is preferable to correct the previous answers to Parliament by means of an inspired PQ or to disguise the discrepancy in the new WMD document.

3. The purpose of my writing to you now is to ask if you would produce an expanded version of the paper on Iraqi Human Rights Abuses to cover Saddam's record from his accession in 1979. From what I have seen, it should be possible to cut and paste material from the document entitled "Crimes and Abuses committed under Saddam Hussein's regime" and the website material on human rights in order to expand the paper we provided for the Prime Minister's consideration before Easter. If there is any more recent intelligence available which could be drawn on, as you and I discussed, this too should be included. The intention would be to produce a clear picture of Saddam's record of human rights abuses throughout his career. If it is possible to give the document a clear structure along the lines of: career up to the invasion of Kuwait, invasion of Kuwait, period up to Desert Fox and lastly the recent period, so much

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the better. Could you let me have something in time for it to be circulated before close on Thursday 11 April?

4. I am copying this to Peter Ricketts, Alan Goulty, Charles Gray and John Williams (FCO), Desmond Bowen (MOD), (DIS), (SIS) and to David Manning, John Scarlett, Julian Miller, Jane Hamilton-Eddy and Jim Drummond here.

*Yours,
Tom*

TOM MCKANE

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