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25 April 2002

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Office

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Iraq: Adoption of the Goods Review List

I understand that the meeting you held on 23 April agreed that the launch of the Iraq dossier must not convey a misleading impression of imminent military action and therefore decided that new material should be added to cover the record of inspections, humanitarian issues and the GRL.

You also discussed the possibility of timing the release to coincide with the passage of the UNSCR and GRL/OFF, which might be next week but probably later. We would prefer to treat the GRL story separately. The WMD dossier would eclipse the humanitarian message of the GRL/OFF resolution. We are also concerned about the regional impact of an early announcement – the Arab world is particularly unreceptive at present. The best bet might be to coincide publication with a renewed effort to get weapons inspections readmitted after the GRL resolution is on the books.

We also need to co-ordinate the release of the WMD dossier with the US and draw on it to brief governments, notably in the Arab world, in greater detail than is possible in a public document.

I am copying this letter to Peter Watkins (MoD), Sir David Manning (No 10) and to Tom McKane and John Scarlett (Cabinet Office).

*Yours aye,
John*

(Mark Sedwill)
Private Secretary

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