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CABINET OFFICE

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Tom McKane

Defence and Overseas Secretariat

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Amanda Tanfield
MED
FCO

12 April 2002

Dear Amanda.

IRAQ

Many thanks to you and other colleagues for attending this morning's meeting. We agreed the following actions:

Iraqi WMD

- a. We agreed that in terms of public presentation, it would be desirable to stick with the chemical weapons numbers used by Ministers in Parliament. If the number of tonnes of declared precursor chemicals was in fact seriously out of line with latest DIS assessments and US assessments, then we should recommend use of the new numbers. Jane Hamilton-Eddy agreed to write following receipt of further input from Sebastian Wood in Washington. Thereafter would submit advice to the Foreign Secretary in the course of next week. The numbers in the paper can then be finalised on the basis of the outcome of that submission.
- b. There was a possible problem over the source of the photographs of Iraqi missiles in the document. Jane Hamilton-Eddy undertook to check further with the DIS whether the photos had come from publicly available sources (which could include the UNSCOM website) or were from some more privileged source. We agreed on the desirability of retaining photographs in the document.
- c. We agreed to amend the reference to the number of people killed at Halabja to bring it into line with the number quoted in the Human Rights Abuses paper and to incorporate a reference to the source – ie various humanitarian agencies, including Human Rights Watch.

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Iraqi Regime Crimes and Human Rights Abuses

- d. It was agreed that and would aim to provide sanitised language relating to two recent pieces of intelligence.
- e. FCO News Department and the CIC would run a search for photographs, including as many recent ones as possible, to support the text. agreed to follow-up the same point with and to provide a "rogues gallery" of prominent Iraqis still in positions of authority who had been responsible for humanitarian abuses.
- f. You agreed to pull together a list of sources for the material used in the paper. (It was agreed to incorporate a caveat about sources in the FCO News Department covering paper.
- g. agreed to hold a meeting to subject the material contained within the paper to a close scrutiny, with a view to advising on any passages which it would be unsafe to retain.
- h. All present would provide any detailed comments and suggestions to you by Wednesday 17 April.
- i. In parallel you would revise the paper, incorporating any further material which became available and including boxes to highlight particularly vivid and detailed pieces which illustrated the nature of the regime.

We agreed to meet again in the week commencing 22 April to review revised versions of the two papers. In the same time scale News Department and you agreed to produce a consolidated Q&A pack. I undertook to discuss with David Manning the question of further consultation with the US on the texts.

I am copying this to Charles Gray and Sophia Willitts-King (FCO – MED), John Williams and Mark Mathews (FCO – News Department), Jim Poston (Coalition Information Centre), Tim Dowse and (FCO – NPD), (DIS), and (Box 850) and to David Manning, John Scarlett, Julian Miller and Jim Drummond here.

TOM MCKANE

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