

DECLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED



CABINET OFFICE

70 Whitehall London SW1A 2AS Telephone
E-mail:

NO. 0127

Charles Gray
MED
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

26 April 2002

IRAQ

You attended a meeting today chaired by Tom McKane to discuss progress with the various draft public documents on Iraq. He explained that a decision had been taken not to release the documents to co-incide with the UNSCR introducing the Goods Review List expected next week. We agreed the following actions:

- FCO are working on press briefing on the **GRL resolution**, now likely to be delayed a few days, explaining how the introduction of the GRL will help the Iraqi people and detailing British humanitarian assistance to Iraq. This would be circulated in draft to the group. FCO should liaise with DFID on humanitarian aspects. **Action FCO;**
- the FCO paper on the **history of weapons inspections** should be finished by 3 May;
- the **WMD paper** is now ready, although as a living document it will need a few days notice to prepare before issue. The Foreign Secretary has received a submission proposing an inspired PQ to bring our public statements on chemical weapons numbers into line with the latest DIS estimates. If approved, the PQ will be tabled next week. The sourcing of the photos has been cleared. Both the WMD and Human rights papers will now refer to the Human Rights Watch figures of 3,500-5,000 killed at Halabja;
- the FCO are finishing off the **human rights abuses paper**. Suitable photographic illustration, including a 'rogue's gallery' has been identified and should be included in the next iteration. The intelligence agencies have now checked the document but one or two points are outstanding. **SIS to liaise with FCO.**

DECLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED

~~RESTRICTED~~
DECLASSIFIED

Any further comments of detail should be referred to the FCO. They aim to finalise the document by 3 May;

- the package of documents will need to be cleared with **Washington**. Passing on both the Rice/Manning channel and through BE Washington would be the most effective routes. We should also consider alerting reliable officials in the IAEA, UNMOVIC and UN headquarters shortly prior to the launch; and
- the CIC and FCO News Dept. are preparing Q and A material. They would modulate follow-up material to best effect in the Arab world. News Dept. are writing a covering piece. Tom McKane will check with No 10 on the desirable extent of ministerial involvement in launching the package of documents.

2. We will next meet in **the week of 6 May**. I am copying this to David Manning, John Scarlett, Julian Miller, Jim Drummond, Jane Hamilton-Eddy and Philip James here; John Andrews and (DIS); Amanda Tanfield and , MED, James Paver, News Dept, and Tim Dowse and NPD, FCO; Jim Poston, CIC; and and (Box 850).

TOM DODD

~~RESTRICTED~~
DECLASSIFIED