

Ja.202

DECLASSIFIED



CABINET OFFICE

70 Whitehall London SW1A 2AS Telephone 6

Julian Miller

Chief of the Assessments Staff

10

Stephen Wright CMG
DUS
Room
FCO

30 November 2001

*Dear Stephen,***IRAQI WMD CAPABILITY IN THE EVENT OF A US ATTACK**

1. The JIC has considered a paper on the terrorist threat from Iraq, but it was also agreed at FCO request that the Assessments Staff would put together a short note on Iraq's WMD and ballistic missile capability. This is attached. (now held by Iraqis)
2. The note draws heavily on JIC(01)093 dated 10 May 2001, which assessed Iraq's WMD and ballistic missile programmes and their vulnerability to military strikes. The main points are that:
 - in an emergency Iraq probably has a capability to target a limited number of ballistic missiles against other countries in the Middle East and Gulf regions, particularly Israel;
 - it is possible that such missiles could be armed with chemical or biological warheads, although other conventional delivery options for these weapons, such as aircraft or artillery, are available;
 - while Iraq is judged unlikely to be able to acquire any nuclear capability in the short term, the construction of a radiological dispersal device is technically possible.

TOP SECRET STRAT / DELICATE SOURCE UK EYES ONLY
DECLASSIFIED

3. According to imagery, Iraq began to disperse their WMD and ballistic missile related equipment and personnel soon after 11 September to guard against a US attack, a procedure they are well versed in. It is likely that in the short term, any US strikes would have little effect on Iraq's immediate capability to use ballistic missiles armed with WMD.
4. I am copying this to other JIC members.

hm my

Julian

JULIAN MILLER

(Copy to ...)

TOP SECRET STRAT / DELICATE SOURCE UK EYES ONLY
DECLASSIFIED