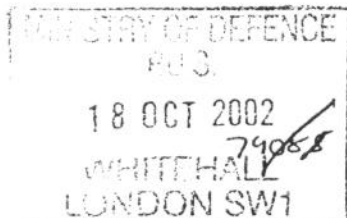


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SECRETARY OF STATE

MO 6/17/15H

17 October 2002

DG Op Pol

Copy to:
PS/Minister(AF)
PSO/CDS
PS/PUS
MA/DCDS(C)
Policy Director
ACDS(Ops)
DGCC
Head Sec (Iraq)

IRAQ: UK MILITARY OPTIONS

1. As you know, the Prime Minister held a meeting with the Foreign Secretary, the Secretary of State and CDS this morning to address the issues set out in Mr Hoon's minute of 15 October.
2. Mr Hoon has told me that the following conclusions emerged:
 - The Prime Minister did not wish to rule out Package 3 at this stage, but wished to give the matter further consideration.
 - There should to be no public announcements of preparatory steps (eg warnings to Reserves) until after the first UNSCR has been passed and a further discussion has been held with the Prime Minister.

In terms of our internal MOD planning, the position therefore remains essentially unchanged.

Signed on Original
P D WATKINS
PS/Secretary of State

CHOTS: SOFS-Private Office
SOFS-Private Office-S

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