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SECRETARY OF STATE

Copy to:
 MAACDS(C)
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*Copy to (at)
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 S.P. Johnson
 (additional)*

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MO 6/17/15C

26 November 2002

Dear William, 082 / I / I / BK 1

When you called on me on Monday you kindly gave me a copy of your Talking Points covering your Government's request for UK support in respect of potential military action against Iraq. I attach the UK Government's response. *(overleaf)*

This issue has of course been the subject of bilateral work for some time now, and I have therefore not repeated in detail the nature of the potential UK contribution. I am very grateful for the excellent access that has been made available to UK military staff and officials in Washington and Tampa, and I am keen to maintain the close cooperation that has already been established.

Yours sincerely,
Geoff
GEOFFREY HOON

His Excellency The Honorable Mr William Farish
 Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
 Embassy of the United States of America
 24 Grosvenor Square
 W1A 1AE

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UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT TALKING POINTS DELIVERED ON 18 NOVEMBER 2002

The United Kingdom Government is pleased to acknowledge receipt of the United States Administration's Request for Support in respect of potential military action to disarm Iraq in the event that it fails to comply with the will of the international community. The UK Government takes this opportunity to assure the US Administration of its continued determination to see the disarmament of Iraq, by peaceful means if at all possible, but by force if necessary.

The UK Government applauds the leadership shown by the US Administration on this issue, and congratulates the US Administration on the successful negotiation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1441. The unanimity of the UN Security Council sends a powerful message from the international community to Iraq, and this will be strongly reinforced by the US Administration's initiative to build and sustain the widest possible support for any further action that may prove necessary.

We can confirm that the forces and facilities listed in the US request are available as a basis for planning and are those which we would expect to make available for action should such a decision become necessary. Our military staffs and officials remain ready to continue to engage fully in further detailed planning and development of military options, including refinement of the potential UK contribution within the broad scale of effort we have indicated, and will respond to any further specific questions or requests that the US Administration may wish to raise.