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SECRETARY OF STATE

MO 6/1715C

14 February 2003

Policy Director

Copy to:  
PS/Minister(AF)  
PSO/CDS  
PS/PUS  
MA/DCDS(C)

Policy Director  
DG Op Pol  
Head Sec(Iraq)  
Special Advisers

IRAQ: HUMANITARIAN ISSUES

1. The Secretary of State has now seen No 10's letter of 13 February *attended* recording yesterday morning's meeting on Iraq.
2. As he has discussed with CDS, PUS and you, the Secretary of State is clear that the MOD should act as the conduit for UK views into the US Post War Planning Office which has been established in the Pentagon. If the UK is to influence the Office's approach, it must present it with a consistent joined-up line: we cannot allow individual Whitehall Departments to transmit possibly disparate messages to their secondees in the Office. ✓
3. The underlying theme of yesterday's meeting was that all relevant Government Departments need to contribute to what will be a major undertaking. The role of pulling together the Whitehall line on this side of the Atlantic belongs naturally to the FCO. Mr Hoon presumes that the FCO will now move quickly to pull together the views of the relevant Departments on the specific issues (a) to (c) identified in No 10's letter. Mr Hoon's clear recollection is that all three Secretaries of State concerned were asked to provide the Prime Minister with co-ordinated advice on how the UK should structure its approach to post-conflict planning and what level of contribution it should be prepared to make (not just the narrow UN point in sub-para (a)). I have spoken to No 10 and the Foreign Secretary's office accordingly.
4. Mr Hoon would be grateful if you would speak to your counterparts in the FCO and DfID to ensure that this work is being taken forward in the right lines.

P D WATKINS  
PS/Secretary of State

CHOTS:

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