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IRAQ CO-ORDINATION

I am writing to advise you of the co-ordination arrangements that are being put in place for Iraq.

2. Desmond Bowen here will be chairing a new committee, known as the Ad Hoc Group on Iraq (AHGI), which will pull together wider issues (both overseas and domestic), and some elements of contingency planning. The Group will have to consider both the inspection route, and the implications if that route fails and military action follows. I will be Desmond's alternate with Tom Dodd as Secretary. The Group will comprise representatives of the FCO, MOD, Treasury, Home Office, DfT, Intelligence Agencies, Cabinet Office, DTI, DFID and ACPO. Other Departments will be invited as and when they have an interest in the agenda. We will be looking to have a fairly settled membership at Head of Department level or above as much of the work will need to be conducted in a discreet manner. At this stage, we envisage AHGI meeting on a weekly basis, with the first meeting later this week. Detailed pol/mil co-ordination will be handled separately.

3. In parallel, the (Cabinet Office) Information Strategy Group (ISG) will be considering the information aspects. This will focus very much on the co-ordination of cross-government strategic messages relating to Iraq, rather than day-to-day media handling. It will meet on an ad hoc basis, and will be chaired by Alastair Campbell or, in his absence, Desmond Bowen.

4. Copies of this go David Manning, Simon Webb (MOD), Bob Whalley (Home Office), Barrie Ireton (DFID), Jonathan Stephens (HMT), Joan McNaughton (DTI), Niki Tompkinson (DfT), David Veness (Metropolitan Police), Julian Miller, Desmond Bowen, Nick Gibbons and Mike Granatt (Cabinet Office), and representatives of each of the Intelligence Agencies.

JIM DRUMMOND

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AD HOC GROUP ON IRAQ (AHGI)

DRAFT AGENDA FOR FIRST MEETING

1. Role and composition of Group
2. Update (Dossier, UNSCR, Inspectors etc)
3. Inspection Route
4. If military action necessary:
 - diplomatic
 - Iraq after military intervention
 - managing the wider effects (world economy, air travel, environment etc)
 - effects on UK (economy, ethnic tensions etc)
5. Follow up and AOB

**OD Secretariat
Cabinet Office
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