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D/DG Op Pol/4/6/1(92/02)

7 October 02

PS/Secretary of State

Copy to  
PS/PUS  
PSO/CDS  
Policy Director  
DCDS(C)  
ACDS (Ops)  
Sec(O)-Iraq

IRAQ: STRATEGIC POLICY OBJECTIVES

- 1 I attach a copy of the most recent Cabinet Office draft strategic policy objectives for Iraq. They have been put to the Prime Minister. As Desmond Bowen points out in his covering minute, the objectives cover the present phase of activity and were drafted in order to help us formulate an information strategy. Although the text is helpful in acknowledging the need to make military plans and preparations in case military action is required it does not, from our point of view, go far enough in providing direction for current military activity and an information strategy.
- 2 It is unlikely to move forward until there is a clear UN position
- 3 The Cabinet office and No.10 accept that these objectives will need to evolve. They are not intended for publication at this stage.



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DG Op Pol

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IRAQ: STRATEGIC POLICY OBJECTIVES

Our prime objective is to rid Iraq of its weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their associated programmes and means of delivery, including prohibited ballistic missiles (BM), in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolutions. ] This would reduce Iraq's ability to threaten its neighbours and the region, and prevent Iraq using WMD its people. UNSCRs also require Iraq to renounce terrorism, and return captured Kuwaitis and property taken from Kuwait. These UNSCRs are an expression of the will of the international community, with which Iraq has persistently failed to comply, thereby perpetuating the threat to international peace and security.

As rapidly as possible, we would like Iraq to become a stable, united and law abiding state, within its present borders, co-operating with the international community, no longer posing a threat to its neighbours or to international security, abiding by all its international obligations and providing effective and representative government for its own people.

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A further objective is to restore the authority of the United Nations by demonstrating the Security Council's effective response to the challenge posed by Iraq's non-compliance. Success in achieving our prime objective should help deter the proliferation of WMD and BM more generally.

Our immediate priorities are to:

- a) achieve a tough new UNSCR;
- b) return UNMOVIC/IAEA inspectors to Iraq under conditions which enable them to identify and eliminate prohibited WMD/BM material, associated equipment and activity;
- c) enable UNMOVIC/IAEA to institute long-term measures to ensure compliance as part of their Ongoing Monitoring and Verification regime;
- d) maintain international solidarity behind the UN Security Council and support for effective UNMOVIC/IAEA action;
- e) preserve regional stability;
- f) continue to make military plans and preparations in case military action is required to force compliance with UNSCRs.

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