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11 March 2003

Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

London SW1A 2AH

from The Foreign Secretary

Ms file

Dear David



Foreign Secretary's Conversation with
US Secretary of State, 11 March

Colin Powell telephoned the Foreign Secretary on an open line at 4.10 pm today. He said that Ana Palacio had reported her conversations with Derbez and Alvear. Derbez had mumbled: "there was no there, there". Alvear had said that Lagos had gone for the day (it was a school holiday in Chile); he had not called Chirac and there was no prospect of his doing any business before 6pm Chile time (ie the middle of the night in Europe).

Powell said that Condi had told him that you had told her that Lagos had said that he liked the Prime Minister's latest ideas and was "going to take off with this as his own, and negotiate". Bush was going to talk to Fox at 5.50 pm UK time. Powell would talk to Derbez first. He said that he would have no truck with Derbez' "red bull cape diversions"; Bush would tell Fox that the Blair offer was all he was going to get. We were not interested in another series of negotiations. Any modifications would have to be made tomorrow for a vote on Thursday.

Powell said that Condi was showing some interest in ditching OP3 but he had pointed out that Chirac would veto anything explaining that the simplest language was being used as a pretext for war.

I am copying this letter to Sir Jeremy Greenstock (New York), Tony Brenton (Washington), Sir Michael Jay and Peter Ricketts.

Yours ever
Simon

(Simon McDonald)
Principal Private Secretary

Sir David Manning KCMG
10 Downing Street

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