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From: COMCEN Gateway 1b
Subject: 1:00:CONF:NOSEC: IRAQ: FOREIGN SECRETARY'S CONFERENCE
CALL WITH US:FCOLN/WASHI 112:Id=0033252
Sent: 11 March 2003 21:51:55 GMT

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FROM PRIVATE SECRETARY

SUBJECT: NOSEC: IRAQ: FOREIGN SECRETARY'S CONFERENCE CALL WITH US
SECRETARY OF STATE AND SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTERS, 11 MARCH

SUMMARY

1. The three agree to make clear to Mexico and Chile that the language in the Side Statement is UK/US/Spain's bottom line.

DETAIL

2. The Foreign Secretary had a conference call with Colin Powell and Ana Palacio at 1400 on 11 March.

3. The Foreign Secretary kicked off by reporting the Prime Minister's telephone call with President Lagos of Chile. The Prime Minister thought Lagos had bought the language on tests (the Side Statement) But it seemed that Lagos might now try to share the language with Chirac. The Prime Minister had made plain to Lagos (twice) that the language in the Side Statement was our bottom line and also that there was no flexibility on timing of the deadline (beyond 24 hours or so). Neither the Prime Minister nor the Foreign Secretary expected any Lagos approach to the French to bring acceptable results. Powell and Palacio agreed. Palacio said that the French had so far been working on the assumption that we could not achieve nine votes. If they thought we were getting close to achieving nine, they would change tack and instead play for time they knew the UK, US and Spain did not have. The Chileans had convinced themselves that they could bridge the gap and so they were likely to come back to us with a French "offer". The French would probably try to persuade the

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Chileans (and the Mexicans) that they might be able to sign up to our approach, providing they had a little more time. But the French had absolutely no intention of signing up to anything we produced. Besides any French "offer" to Lagos was highly unlikely to be anything useful. The Foreign Secretary and Powell agreed.

4 The Foreign Secretary, Powell and Palacio agreed to call Derbez and Alvear to make clear that the new language and the Side Statement was the UK/US/Spain's bottom line and that there was very little flexibility on the deadline set. It was important that no-one gained the impression that the vote could slip past the end of this week.

STRAW

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