

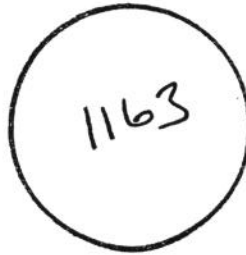
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Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

London SW1A 2AH

12 March 2003



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Dear David, 12/3 fupre

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

Colin Powell telephoned the Foreign Secretary at 9pm on 11 March on an open line (their fourth conversation of the day).

Powell thought that the US/UK had just about convinced Lagos and Fox. Their objections were fading away. The Foreign Secretary said that Lagos seemed to be biting.

The Foreign Secretary said that the Prime Minister was coming round to the view that if the nine votes weren't there, then we should not push it to a vote. Powell said that "his man" was on the same wave-length.

The Foreign Secretary said the situation was less clear if we had nine votes, but faced a veto. Powell asked how we would explain pulling out of a vote in that situation. His answer was to "blame Paris and leave". The Foreign Secretary agreed. We could point to France signing 1441. That resolution had demanded "immediate" cooperation, but here we were four months later. The resolution had demanded "active" cooperation, but Blix could not confirm that. And, in four successive meetings at the UN, not one of the 15 UNSC members had said that Iraq had fully complied. Iraq was therefore in material breach.

Powell added that we could use the line that the US/UK had worked hard to obtain a second resolution, but Chirac had clearly said on 10 March that he would veto a resolution in any circumstances. The Foreign Secretary said that we could also point to Kofi Annan's statement of 10 March.

The Foreign Secretary and Powell agreed to speak later on a secure line.

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

*Yours ever,
Jonathan*

(Jonathan Sinclair)
Private Secretary

Sir David Manning KCMG
10 Downing Street

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