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From: Matthew Rycroft
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PRIME MINISTER

cc: Jonathan Powell
David Manning
Clare Sumner
Sally Morgan
Godric Smith
Nick Cannon

IRAQ: WMD

As background, the following are attached:

- An update from Nick on the Iraq Survey Group which is the US-led organisation overseeing the Coalition's efforts to find WMD in Iraq. To US Administration annoyance, the ISG has taken far too long to set up, but it is now ready.
- An FCO note on our plans for third party verification. UNMOVIC would be the most credible here, but the US will not permit that, at least not without a new leadership/mandate/organisation.
- A Washington telegram on US attitudes. There will now be two lines of Congressional enquiry. Neither is an independent enquiry; rather they are both part of the normal Congressional oversight of the Administration:
 - (a) First, there will be a Congressional enquiry into the Administration's pre-conflict use of intelligence, run jointly by the Senate Armed Services Committee (under Warner) and the Senate Intelligence Committee (under

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- 2 -

Roberts). The telegram says this will not begin for 6-8 months, but this has been overtaken: Warner has said that the first hearing will be later this month.

- (b) Second, according to the press, the CIA will provide shortly to Congress the "underlying intelligence which was the basis" for Powell's UN presentation. This is in response to a request from the House Intelligence Committee. Congressional Committees do not normally have access to raw intelligence, but they have done occasionally in the past:

- A transcript of Graham Allen MP, calling for Parliament to set a deadline of 110 days for the Coalition to find WMD, since we gave Blix 110 days before the conflict. If there is no internationally verified discovery of WMD by 20 August, there should be an independent enquiry.
- A note from the FCO on the Franks enquiry after the Falklands. The circumstances were entirely different then, since the Government had implicitly acknowledged failure through the resignation of the then Foreign Secretary and FCO Minister of State.

Notes from John Scarlett on BW and the 45 minutes claim are on their way, plus in slower time a note on the process leading to the publication of the dossier.

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