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cc. Send.

John

Iraq : WMD

1. Paper cleared with Agencies sent to David Manning to Thursday lunchtime.
2. P. Nicholls held a meeting of all concerned Thursday PM. Subsequently, and for unrelated reasons, No 10 decided to delay publication till a decent interval after Coamford.
3. There are nonetheless some points for us to consider:
 - a) P. Nicholls' meeting was very concerned that our first paragraph on CBW (x) uses general figures, not the specific numbers used recently (at the same time) by the FCS. I explained that the US had asked for the change, not recognizing the old figures, and that the FCS had in any case recently amended their

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JULIAN MILLER

21 March 2002

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estimates. Pitzer planned to refer this to Mr. Starn's attention. His Public Office (Richard Davis) thought the paper should be delayed while the figures were amended and submit via a P.O. We need to pass the bill to someone they should be to new figures. Perhaps. Some could do so, and such something the bill to new figures. (Not to submit, new)

b) The FCO envisaged releasing our paper on Annex B to a part of papers. Other details are attached. The chairman, but we will need to check.

c) There was also rapid discussion of a draft FCS statement to Parliament - which I saw only at the meeting. It raised a number of issues (including retention, use of business & foreign intelligence). The FCO will be producing & circulating a revised draft. But there may now be overstatement.

d) John Pennington has given us some comments. (1) which are largely policy and intelligence. I have not adjusted our text, but have passed them to the FCO. David Manning reported will show our paper to C. Rice and when he has approved it - presumably now there is less concern.

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