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FROM:

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To: 1. Nicola Brewer
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IRAQ: REFINING THE MILITARY OPTIONS

Issue

1. How to take further forward our objective of refining the military planning options to ensure the humanitarian consequences of any conflict in Iraq are fully addressed?

Recommendation

2. As well as continuing to discuss these issues across Whitehall, we intensify our influencing through six proposed DFID secondments:

- 1 Civil/Military Humanitarian Adviser to the Office of Post War Planning, Washington.

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- Up to 4 Civil/Military Humanitarian Advisers to work with MOD in UK Headquarters, including potential for subsequent deployment overseas of 2/3 alongside UK military Field Formation units
- 1 Civil/Military Humanitarian Adviser to the Humanitarian Operations Centre, Kuwait (expected to be fully established later this month)

Timing

3. As soon as possible in order to (a) identify the right people to fill these roles and (b) - for those secondments that might subsequently involve deployment to the region - for them to undertake pre-deployment training, including necessary vaccinations, which takes 6 weeks.

Publicity

4. There should be no specific publicity of the secondments or related preparedness measures. It forms part of our declared position of maintaining contacts with the MOD and elsewhere on the humanitarian consequences of military action. Our continuing contacts with MOD, including reference to some secondments, should feature in our briefing and answers to Parliamentary Questions.

Background

5. We have been in regular contact with the MOD and the Permanent Joint Headquarters since the beginning of the year to discuss with them the very serious humanitarian consequences of possible conflict in Iraq.

... will submit a separate note later this week on how far we have got with influencing the MOD in their military planning to take full account of the humanitarian need. We are making reasonable progress: the MOD have invited us to participate in a two-day planning conference in Kuwait, this

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week, on post conflict planning for relief, recovery and stabilisation; this will be covered by our Director CHAD-Operations.

6. But now that we have got beyond initial contacts there is scope to extend our influence by contributing DFID civil/military expertise to UK and US units set up to take forward detailed military planning. This would involve having a constant presence in key UK and overseas locations through a number of secondments over the coming weeks and, if necessary, into any deployment phase.

7. We have already received a request, via MOD, to provide a Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator to the Office of Post War Planning (OPWP), just established under General Garner, in Washington. The OPWP reports to Commander-in-Chief Franks and is to cover humanitarian needs, reconstruction and recovery. The MoD will be seconding General Tim Cross (who had been going to be in charge of logistics based in Turkey) to the OPWP. The DFID post would work alongside a similar USAid appointee and focus on influencing US thinking on post conflict issues. Although we do not see eye-to-eye with the US on all post-conflict issues (particularly on the role of the UN), a secondee will give us better insights into US thinking and the best position from which to influence it.

8. We also anticipate requests from MOD to extend cooperation with us at Headquarters level to include Field Formation level liaison. We estimate that there might be up to 5 of these. With the OPWP request this indicates a potential need for DFID to identify up to six Civil/Military Humanitarian Advisers (CMHAs). This would include one who might be deployed at the Humanitarian Operations Centre in Kuwait, being set up by the US. USAid's DART team plan to establish a presence at the Centre later this month.

9. CHAD's CMHA, has been working closely with the MOD on influencing at the UK Headquarters level (MoD in London and PJHQ).

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There is a limit to how much more she can do as we intensify our effort. It will be necessary to bring in additional resources on short term contracts to meet the expected increased workload and, as such people are often in high demand and not readily available, we should seek to recruit them as soon as possible. It will also be essential that those selected with the potential for later deployment to the Region undertake pre-deployment training including NBC preparedness and vaccinations.

10. The Secretary of State asked for more information on the timelines for NBC preparedness. The lead-time to organise such preparedness is mainly driven by the vaccination cycle, which is a minimum of six weeks for the vaccines to provide adequate protection. There is a similar lead-time for arranging and delivering the specialist training. Thus, unless we recruit and train these people quickly, including taking account of the vaccination cycle, we will not be able to strategically intensify our civil/military planning work nor be in a position of readiness to deploy such expertise to the Region should this be required.

11. The costs of the above secondments and preparedness measures, estimated at about £150,000, can be met from CHAD's existing preparedness and response budget lines without diverting resources from current emergencies.

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