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From: Nicholas Cannon  
Date: 5 March 2003

**PRIME MINISTER**

cc: Jonathan Powell  
Alastair Campbell  
David Manning  
Stephen Wall  
Matthew Rycroft

### **IRAQ: POST-CONFLICT ISSUES**

You are due to meet Gordon Brown, Geoff Hoon, Clare Short, Liz Symons and Michael Jay (Jack Straw will be overseas), plus officials, at 1100 on 6 March to discuss Iraq post-conflict issues.

#### **Background**

The purpose of the meeting is to make progress on three inter-linked issues:

**Humanitarian issues:** Clare has linked DFID involvement in humanitarian operations in Iraq to (a) the second UNSCR (b) a UN mandate for humanitarian action through a so-called "third resolution" and (c) additional funding (at least £100 million). The attached letters set out Clare's position and what DFID could or could not do in the permutations of these. The military are concerned that their job of securing Basra and the surrounding area could be compromised by lack of DFID advance planning for humanitarian contingencies.

**UN mandate:** the Americans were initially resistant to UN involvement in post-Saddam administration. However, latest reports from Washington indicate that they have moved a long way: they now envisage a Security Council mandate for the successor administration, and an international figure (a la Brahimi in Afghanistan), perhaps with the title of UN Special Coordinator.

**"Sectorisation":** should we take over control of one of the seven sectors (six regional + Baghdad) envisaged by the Americans? If so, Basra area, where UK forces will be operating, is the obvious choice.

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### Issues

The attached paper, prepared by Iraq Planning Unit, asks Ministers:

- Whether they agree that the UK does not have the resources for an "exemplary" effort in providing for humanitarian needs in the area controlled by the UK Division. [*Comment: This rather begs the question of the definition of "exemplary". So far, it has implied a high-cost, hands-on humanitarian exercise. We could, however, also define it as an "exemplary" cooperation between the military and DFID as an example to eg the Americans of integrated civil-military operations*].
- To choose between options for a post-conflict medium term military presence.
- Whether they agree to go along with US plans for a centralised administration rather than take responsibility for a UK-administered zone.
- To agree that UK involvement in the medium-term post-conflict administration should be conditional on a UN mandate. [*Comment: If so, what further action, if any, should we take with the Americans to meet our requirements*].
- To agree a set of objectives for a successor regime.
- To agree a set of principles for our involvement in the post-conflict occupation.

### **Running order**

You could begin by asking:

- Clare to update the meeting on humanitarian planning.
- Gordon to report on the resources issues.
- Geoff to set out the latest military plan post-conflict, including whether we should have our own sector.



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