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TO FLASH FCO
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OF 121335Z MARCH 03
AND TO FLASH CABINET OFFICE
INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON,

FLASH FOR MANNING, NO 10 AND RICKETTS/PS, FCO

SUBJECT: NOSEC: IRAQ: SECOND RESOLUTION

1. My proposal for today's activity in the Security Council is as follows:

- In informal consultations (approximately 1630Z), I table an amended draft resolution in blue dropping OP 3 of our 7 March draft, ie retaining OP paras 1, 2 and 4. I explain that we are setting aside the ultimatum concept because it has not attracted Council support. At the same time, I distribute our side statement text setting out the tests for Saddam, explaining that this is a national position to which we want as many Council Members as possible to adhere to maintain the pressure on Saddam. I will not put a date against it, but say that the 17 March date is being reviewed;

- In advance of, and around this pitch in the Council I do the maximum amount of bilateral diplomacy with the U-6 and other Members of the Council as appropriate;

- As a further option, which at present I favour, I use the open debate on Iraq in the Council Chamber (full publicity), which resumes at 2000Z, to explain this UK move and to appeal for UN support for this last opportunity;

- At no point will I signal, in public or in private, that there is any UK fallback from putting this new text to a vote within 24-36 hours.

2. I have explained the gist of this to Negroponte, who is briefing Powell for a conversation with the President at 1345Z. I have told him that the PM is due to speak to the President at 1500Z approx. Negroponte, understandably, is very keen that the US should be in lock step with us on all this if possible. We will send him the text of our side statement asap when I have finally cleared it with the FCO.

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