

Extract from Part I Minute to 48th COS Meeting/03 dated 17 April 2003

“CDS’ intention was that, for internal planning purposes, Phase 3 would complete on 19 Apr 03 when the transition to Phase 4A force levels and structures would begin. This date could be moved slightly to coincide with the anticipated US decision. COS agreed that this would mark the end of war-fighting and a formal transition to stabilization operations.”

“The US drawdown of forces from theatre was being driven by events rather than the transition from Phase 3 to Phase 4.”