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COUNTDOWN

Now: Blix puts a series of questions/demands to Saddam.

14 February: Blix reports for second time

28 February: Blix reports for third time

Each time harder on non-cooperation, preferable with Blix judgement on 28 February that he sees no signs of Iraq fully cooperating and that inspectors cannot disarm unless there is full cooperation.

By 5 March new UN discussion and resolution: authorising action; or at least declaring Iraq in material breach.

Saudis then given 10 days to mobilise Arab opinion to try to force Saddam out.

15 March: military action begins.

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All this shortened if either dramatic find by Blix or 14 February report sufficiently hard; lengthened, but not beyond end March, if Resolution takes more time.

MILITARY QUESTIONS

Have we sound plans for the following:

1. Saddam use of WMD against US and/or his own people;
2. Saddam attack on Israel
3. Saddam destruction of oil wells;
4. keeping apart rival groups and tribes.
5. *Avoiding civilian casualties*

AFTERMATH QUESTIONS

1. What happens immediately: a new Iraqi government or US run?
2. What type of Iraqi government are we aiming for medium term?

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BLIX

- Very good intelligence given
- Close working
- Persuasion of doctrine of non-cooperation
- Tie-in with El Baradei
- To be seen by key coalition leaders including TB and GWB prior to

14 February

RELATED ISSUES

1. Afghanistan - renewed push; treat drugs eradication seriously; extend ISAF; boost Karzai; rein in Pakistan
2. MEPP - in context of a more stable Middle East and responsible Iraq, MEPP progress more possible and desirable in any event.
3. HIV/AIDS and Poverty
4. N. Korea

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5. US/EU relations - build on the joint letter and reach out to where majority of Europe wants to be.

6. Oil

DIPLOMACY

- Intensive work on all UNSC members.
- Russia to be courted and brought fully on board; ditto China.
- way down found for France.
- EU non-aligned brought to our position.
- Germany to be given extended Afghan role and some rapprochement.
- Iraqi Opposition given prominence.
- Arab world courted and alerted to their role post 2nd Resolution.

STRATEGY

- Proper communications operation.
- joint working for rest of the plans.
- regular updates between principals, with clear and set agenda.

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