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Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

London SW1A 2AH

Foreign Secretary's Conversation with
US Secretary of State 12 March

Colin Powell spoke to the Foreign Secretary on a secure line at 6.00pm, their third - and second secure - conversation of the day. He wanted to make sure they were not talking past each other. He knew that Greenstock was talking to different people in New York. Ana Palacio had asked if we were tabling a new resolution. Powell had said no - but the British were touting a new draft without OP3. He was now concerned that if Greenstock tabled he would get the world excited; people would think a new solution was on offer. But "my boss has told yours that this process has failed". Bush had in mind that people would spend the next two days "chatting in the corridors"; he was no longer really trying to get a resolution.

Powell said that it would be awkward if people thought a real effort was underway over the weekend and then on Monday Greenstock "brought it all down" while people were still digesting his ideas. The Foreign Secretary said that since their first conversation I had spoken to Jeremy to ask him to push but not too hard. Powell said that he would just as soon that Jeremy did not change the language right now. The Foreign Secretary repeated that there was only a 1% chance of success but it gave us room to make the case here.

Powell then spoke to Negroponte on another line who told him that Greenstock had instructions to submit the resolution in blue this afternoon. The Foreign Secretary separately spoke to Jeremy who was in Negroponte's office. He asked Jeremy not formally to introduce anything this afternoon but to say that we were consulting about the six tests which had already been made public.

I am copying this letter to Sir Jeremy Greenstock (UKMIS New York), Tony Brenton (Washington), Sir Michael Jay and Peter Ricketts.

Yours ever
Simon

(Simon McDonald)
Principal Private Secretary

Sir David Manning KCMG
10 Downing Street

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