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To: MENAD - All Staff  
From: MENAD  
Subject: FW: LEAD: OO PRETO/FCOLN 42: SOUTH AFRICA/IRAQ: PAHAD  
RETURNS FROM BAGHDAD  
Sent: 18 February 2003 14:52:14 GMT

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From: Swift Incoming Telegrams (Machine 1)  
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2003 2:52:14 PM  
To: MENAD  
Subject: LEAD: OO PRETO/FCOLN 42: SOUTH AFRICA/IRAQ: PAHAD RETURNS FROM  
BAGHDAD

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OUR TELNO 34

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICA/IRAQ: PAHAD RETURNS FROM BAGHDAD

#### SUMMARY

1. Useful readout from Deputy Foreign Minister Aziz Pahad, on his return from Baghdad. South Africa to send team of apartheid-era scientists to advise Iraqis on disarmament. South Africa's attitude has not changed; Iraq must comply fully with 1441, and go "all the way".

#### DETAIL

2. Deputy Foreign Minister Aziz Pahad found time in probably the busiest week of the Parliamentary calendar to debrief me yesterday afternoon on his visit to Iraq from 9-13 February. Pahad was keen to reassure me that the message he had delivered was very much in line with that in TUR - that Iraq must comply fully with UNSCR 1441, and that time for compliance was running out. He had warned his interlocutors not to misread the weekend's anti-war demonstrations; even the protestors agreed on the need for Iraqi compliance with UN Resolutions.

3. Pahad's purpose in travelling to Iraq had been to listen, to gauge Iraqi attitudes, and to look for a locus for South African

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assistance in the dismantling of Iraq's WMD. He saw everyone he wanted to see, including the UN Inspectors. They had asked him to raise with Saddam three issues; free access to the scientists, U2 overflights and legislation to outlaw WMD. This he had done. Pahad's assessment from his meetings with Saddam Hussein, Tariq Aziz and others, was that Iraqi attitudes were slowly shifting. The inspectors themselves had noticed and reported this mood change to the UNSC. Those in favour of cooperation with the weapons inspectors might be winning out over those of a more belligerent and fatalistic persuasion. The resolution of the issue of U2 overflights was major progress. Here, Pahad's message had been a purely practical one: U2 flights would go ahead with or without Iraqi cooperation, so best to cooperate.

4. South Africa's objective was to prevent war by ensuring the success of the weapons inspections. To this end Pahad had urged Iraq towards full, rather than partial, cooperation with the inspectors - this was an 'all or nothing' decision. South Africa would send imminently a team of experts, mainly in chemical and biological weapons, and maybe one nuclear expert with experience of South Africa's own disarmament programme in the early 1990s, to work directly with Iraq in dismantling its WMD (led by the last head of South Africa's Atomic Energy Authority, Stumpf; the team were all Afrikaners). They would not have direct contact with the inspectors, but would be proactive in helping Iraq to cooperate, and to demonstrate this cooperation. The big plus for Iraq, which Pahad believed had been taken on board, was the possibility for a face-saving climb-down by opting to learn from South Africa's example, if Saddam seriously rushed to comply.

5. Pahad noted that the Prime Minister and President had had a full discussion on Iraq. Kofi Annan was also fully in the picture. Mbeki was planning a through discussion with Chirac at the forthcoming Franco-African Summit and would reinforce to Chirac, as he had to the Prime Minister, that South Africa remained 100% behind UNSCR 1441. This same message was a key theme of Pahad's contribution on 17 February to Parliament's State of the Nation Address, which focussed its criticism on the opposition parties rather than the international arena.

#### COMMENT

6. Pahad has returned from Baghdad feeling cautiously optimistic that South Africa will be able to help resolve the current stand-off in Iraq. Despite his up-beat readout of his discussions there, he remains realistic about the obstacles that remain to be negotiated, both with Iraq and with the UN. In a difficult time for bilateral relations, Pahad is keen to keep channels open and friendly.

#### GRANT

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