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Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

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#### UNMOVIC COMMISSIONERS' MEETING: 'CLUSTERS DOCUMENT'

1. We spoke about your discussion with John Wolf today on handling of the UNMOVIC "clusters document" which Blix intends to present to the College of Commissioners next week. Your joint conclusion was that the document could be played into the long grass: it was no more than an internal piece of UNMOVIC work-in-progress intended to inform development of the work programme which, under SCR1284 Blix is supposed to present to the Security Council at the end of March. As such there should be no question of it being presented to the Security Council.
2. Since then, we are aware of disturbing suggestions that others may also have latched onto the clusters document, and may be planning to exploit it exactly as we would not want: ie presenting it as a set of benchmarks of Iraqi cooperation, and using it to focus the Council's attention on the middle distance – well past the mid-March date we and the US are looking at for a decision on a second resolution. This means that your handling of the document in the College of Commissioners next week will be doubly sensitive.
3. I understand that the Commissioners will not be asked to approve or reject the paper: it is being presented to them simply for comment, and its development thereafter is UNMOVIC's responsibility. But in your interventions next week it is very important that you do nothing which suggests that the UK endorses the document, or even accepts the validity of proceeding with work against the SCR1284 timetable in present circumstances. That is not to say that we regard SCR1284 as invalid. But it must now be viewed in the light of SCR1441, which requires Iraq to co-operate

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"immediately, unconditionally and actively" with the inspectors. We see no point in proceeding with work mandated by SCR1284 so long as such co-operation is lacking.

4. We realise that this will not be an easy line to take. It may in the event be best simply to say that the paper appears irrelevant in present circumstances of Iraqi non-cooperation, and then decline to engage on the substance.

5. **For UKMis New York.** We realise that the above line may annoy Blix. It would be helpful if you could find a opportunity to forewarn him of our likely approach, and explain our concern that the clusters document may be exploited by some countries as an excuse to postpone further a decision on the fundamental issue of Iraqi co-operation under SCR1441 – thereby undermining the pressure on Baghdad.

6. **For Washington.** It is important that the UK and US speak with one voice next week. Please take Wolf through the issue again, explaining that we have thought further in the light of information received since his discussion with Bryan Wells. Please take Wolf through the issue again explaining that we (UK) have thought further in the light of information received, since his discussion with Bryan wells [Wolf might have the same information.]

**Tim Dowse**  
**Head, Non-Proliferation Department**

cc: Adam Bye, UKMis New York  
Peter Gooderham, Washington

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