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TO 0045

Edward Chaplin
Director, Middle East Department
Room
FCO

25 March 2003

Dear Edward,

IRAQ: POST CONFLICT OBJECTIVES

Thank you for your comments on the draft objectives paper I circulated on 19 March; thanks also to copy addressees who commented. I have tried to accommodate most of the various comments in the attached draft.

2. I have left in paragraph 9c on which you may wish to reflect, noting Carolyn's suggestion that it should be deleted. I am inclined to retain it.

3. I suggest this is the stage, if you have not already done so, to show the attachment to your respective Ministers. We will then see the outcome of the Prime Ministerial visit to Camp David and consider formal submission early next week. Meanwhile I would be grateful for any further comments.

4. I am sending copies of this letter to Carolyn Miller (DFID), Ian Lee (MOD), Dominick Chilcot (FCO) and Jim Drummond here.

Yours truly
Desmond Bowen

DESMOND BOWEN

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DECLASSIFIED**IRAQ: BRITISH POST-CONFLICT OBJECTIVES**

Our military campaign objectives were set out in Parliament on 20 March 2003. The prime objective remains to rid Iraq of its weapons of mass destruction and their associated programmes and means of delivery, including prohibited ballistic missiles, as set out in relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs).

2. The Government concluded that it was necessary to enforce Iraq's compliance with its disarmament obligations under these UNSCRs through military action. The obstacle to compliance posed by the regime of Saddam Hussein has now been removed and the resistance of his security forces overcome. The coalition military action was designed as far as possible to spare civilian casualties and avoid unnecessary damage. The security and well-being of the Iraqi people has always been our concern.
3. It remains our wish to see Iraq become a stable, united and law-abiding state, within its present borders, co-operating with the international community, no longer posing a threat to its neighbours or to international security, abiding by all its international obligations and providing effective representative government for its own people.
4. Our objective is to create conditions for a future Iraqi government which will act to make this aspiration a reality. We will work with the Iraqi people, the UN and other international organisations, and the wider international community to this end.
5. British forces will continue to contribute, for no longer than is necessary and at a sustainable level, to the US-led coalition military presence in the interests of promoting a secure environment in Iraq. This should enable:

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- a. normal life to be restored;
- b. the territorial integrity of Iraq to be upheld;
- c. humanitarian organisations to operate where they are needed;
- d. a transitional administration to operate;
- e. UNMOVIC/IAEA to work with coalition forces to rid Iraq of its weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery; and
- f. reconstruction and remedial infrastructure work to commence.

6. We have made plans with our international partners to assist the Iraqi people in the process of transition. With others, we will assist in the return to full Iraqi sovereignty by:

- a. seeking a UN mandate for the international community's continued presence in Iraq; ✓
- b. working to establish an Iraqi Interim Authority, mandated and facilitated by the UN, and supported by the coalition and the international community; and
- c. indicating a pathway to the restoration of a sovereign, accountable and representative Iraqi government and facilitating a political process, with UN involvement, whereby Iraqis can

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chose a new constitution for their country within its present borders.

7. With others, we will help revive the Iraqi economy and assist reform by:

- a. working with the UN to manage Iraq's oil revenues in order to achieve the maximum benefit for the Iraqi people in an accountable and transparent manner;
- b. supporting an international programme for the reconstruction and repair of Iraq's infrastructure for the economic and social development of Iraq;
- c. fostering economic reform to encourage a flourishing private sector and sustainable economic growth which benefit all Iraqi people, thereby removing Iraq's dependency on food aid;
- d. agreeing a comprehensive financial framework of transitional support for Iraq, including a fair and sustainable solution for Iraq's debt and reparations;
- e. helping reform Iraq's public administration, including delivery of key public services in an effective and accountable manner;
- f. supporting the observance of human rights, and legal and judicial reform, thereby facilitating Iraqi processes in dealing with the crimes of Saddam Hussein's regime; and
- g. helping Iraq generate reformed and accountable security forces acting in accordance with international human rights standards.

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8. With others, we will help to reintegrate Iraq into the community of nations by:

- a. assisting the return of refugees and displaced persons;
- b. working with the UN to lift sanctions as appropriate; and
- c. supporting Iraq's re-integration into the region and the international economy.

9. Our wider objectives in the region are to help:

- a. preserve security, including by maintaining the territorial integrity of Iraq and mitigating any remaining humanitarian and other consequences of conflict for Iraq's neighbours;
- b. promote a just and sustainable outcome for the MEPP in accordance with the Quartet's Road-Map;
- c. [encourage economic and political reform];
- d. further our policy of eliminating terrorism as a force in international affairs; and
- e. reduce the threat posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

10. Our actions will at all times be conducted in conformity with international law.

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