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SECRETARY OF STATE

MSU 4/5/2C
MSU 4/5/3

12 September 2005

PSO/CDS

IRAQ/AFGHANISTAN COMMITMENTS

1. The Secretary of State recalls that during his meeting with CDS, for an operational update on 1 September 2005, he queried whether in the event of a slower than expected drawdown of UK forces in Iraq our planning assumptions for deployment in Afghanistan would be achievable. His recollection is that CDS confirmed to him that our current commitment in Iraq would be sustainable when set against a deployment to Afghanistan (as presented to the DOP on 22 July 2005).

2. I would be grateful for your confirmation that CDS would be content for this to be recorded as the formal position as at the meeting in September.

[REDACTED]

M.P. Naworynsky

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