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From the Assistant Private Secretary

3 June 2003

Dear Simon,

**IRAQ: PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING, 3 JUNE**

The Prime Minister chaired a meeting on Iraq on 3 June. Also present were the Defence Secretary, Development Secretary, Sir Michael Jay and No 10 officials.

The Prime Minister said that he had returned from Iraq convinced that an enormous amount needed to be done:

- We should beef up UK involvement in CPA.
- John Sawers needed support and a high-calibre replacement when he left. We should insert a White House/No 10 team to work alongside Sawers/Bremer.
- There should be a strong civilian team in the south. In general, there needed to be a much stronger civilian grip.
- British companies needed to be energised to take up opportunities in Iraq eg the Umm Qasr port.
- The question of banknotes was an example of one that was holding up progress and irritating the Iraqi public, and should be dealt with rapidly.

In general, the Prime Minister believed that Whitehall should go back to a war footing for the next 2-3 months to avoid losing the peace in Iraq. Time was running against us. President Bush was seized of the problem: we should keep in contact with him and feed in our ideas. The Prime Minister would need a list of outstanding problems and issues to address.

The Prime Minister would be grateful for the following papers, to arrive here by close on 5 June, in advance of a further meeting on 6 June:

- (a) A list, coordinated by the FCO, of 10-15 outstanding practical issues for him to raise with Bush that would make a big difference to the people of Iraq if they are resolved.
- (b) A note from the FCO on what we want de Mello to do.
- (c) Advice on how to improve the Iraqi media, including the names of possible high level UK TV experts who could help in Iraq.
- (d) Advice on a judge/lawyer/interrogator to negotiate incentive/immunity packages for Iraqi WMD scientists and officials.
- (e) Considered advice on a high-calibre replacement for John Sawers.

I am copying this to Desmond Bowen and John Scarlett (Cabinet Office), Peter Watkins (MoD), and Anna Bewes (DfID).

Yours ever



NICHOLAS CANNON

Simon McDonald  
FCO