

LI *Declassified* *DWP 19/1* ER
Admiral Sir Michael Boyce GCB OBE ADC

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4051



Ministry of Defence
Old War Office Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2EU
United Kingdom

Telephone:
Facsimile:

Chief of Defence Staff

D/CDS/6/2 (2/021)

General Richard B Myers United States Air Force
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

United States of America

4 July 2002

Dear Sir,

We spoke yesterday about the UK's decision to take up your invitation to join your planning effort on Iraq. We propose to send a small team of military planners to CENTCOM to take this forward and I have instructed my Liaison Officer in the Pentagon, Brigadier Cooper, to be my contact in the Joint Staff.

My Defence Secretary wishes me to record that our involvement in planning is on the basis that no political decisions have been taken in the UK on our participation in an operation against Iraq. You will recall that we agreed on this point and on the understanding that part of my purpose was, of course, to help inform UK decision-making. That said, the deployment of my team to Tampa is a tangible demonstration of the excellent relations between our two militaries and we are most grateful to have been included in the planning process at this stage.

As we discussed, I am copying this letter to General Tommy Franks.

Yours ever
Nike

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