

Extract from I D/Min(DP)/WB/14/6/3/1 IRAQ: Op TELIC - UORs PS/MinDP to Stirrup dated 17 February 2003

“...concerns remain about the availability of various NBC consumables, on which advice will be submitted next week. Aside from operational implications, the Minister believes that we need very carefully to handle presentational aspects of this. He was particularly concerned to hear that stocks of time expired COMBOPENS have recently be re-lifed (following testing at Porton Down) and are being issued with revised documentation making clear that they are now assessed as being useable up until 2004. **Lord Bach would like urgent advice on the background to and presentation of this [sic]**”

“Finally, Lord Bach understands that the question of whether we should provide for the direct chain for reporting on equipment-related issues from theatre on which I sought advice in last week’s minute remains to be resolved. The Minister attached real importance to this and would like advice on what mechanism might be devised – presumably through the ECC organisation – for making it happen.”