

Declassified 17/1 DWP

UK EYES ONLY



FILED

file

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

S 323 /02

From the Private Secretary

31 October 2002

Dear Peter,

IRAQ: MILITARY OPTIONS

The Prime Minister held a meeting with the Defence Secretary, Foreign Secretary and CDS this morning to consider the issues set out in your letter of 29 October to David Manning.

CDS concluded that if the UK wanted to keep open the option of a land contribution and be able to influence the planning process, we needed to tell the US now that for planning purposes they could assume a possible UK land contribution (Package 3) on the same basis as a possible air, maritime and Special Forces contribution (Package 2). This would not be a final commitment to a UK land contribution.

The Prime Minister asked about the additional costs of Package 3 compared with Package 2. Had they been discussed with the Treasury? CDS

Declassified
~~SECRET PERSONAL~~

~~SECRET PERSONAL~~

UK EYES ONLY

Declassified

- 2 -

said he believed that if we made a major financial contribution to the campaign through Package 3, we would be under less pressure to finance a big share of the post-conflict reconstruction effort.

The Prime Minister concluded that the MOD should now tell the US that we were prepared to put Package 3 on the same basis as Package 2 for planning purposes, in order to keep the option open; but that no warning should be issued to the Reservists at this stage; and the Prime Minister should be consulted again before any such warning was issued.

Yours,
Anna.

ANNA WECHSBERG

Peter Watkins
MOD

Declassified

~~SECRET PERSONAL~~

UK EYES ONLY