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*I agree with this  
entirely.*

From: Jonathan Powell

Date: 19 July 2002

S 187/02

PRIME MINISTER

cc: David Manning

IRAQ

We need to give GWB a context for Iraq before he gets his military plan on 4 August. I recommend a phonecall and one of your notes after our meeting next week and before you go on holiday.

I think we need a road map to getting rid of Saddam, drawing parallels as far as possible with his success in Afghanistan, including the following elements:

- a) We will be there when the US takes the decision to act, but...
- b) We need to set an ultimatum as we did to the Taleban in Afghanistan. At a certain point we need to make it clear that unless Saddam agrees to inspectors on our terms - anyone, anytime, anywhere - by a certain date we will act,
- c) We need to establish a legal base. More difficult for us than for them. It needs to be based on WMD rather than terrorism or regime change.
- d) We need at least neutrality in the region before we can act, c.f. the effort we put into Pakistan and the Stans before acting in Afghanistan. If we want to base out troops in the region this will mean a real effort on the MEPP (for example difficult to believe Jordan could allow basing without progress).

We need to devote attention to Turkey - Cyprus, enlargement, political crisis all coming to a head at the same time this autumn.

- e) We need to make the case. We need a plan and a timetable for releasing the papers we have prepared on human rights abuses, WMD etc. We need to have the sort of Rolls Royce information campaign we had at the end of Afghanistan before we start in Iraq.

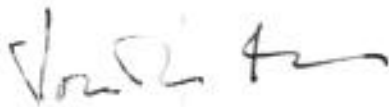
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- f) We need a convincing military plan. What we know about so far is not convincing. Put the questions our military have.
- g) And we need a plan for the day after. Loya Jirga and peacekeeping in Afghanistan have worked well but we had to scramble to get them ready in time. We need to be working on this now for Iraq

Lastly, we should not rush this. We must do it right. If we are not ready in January 2003 then we may need to wait for autumn 2003. Of course Saddam may give us a break before then that we can exploit, but slow deliberate planning like your father in the Gulf War is the best bet.



JONATHAN POWELL

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