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Legal AdviserAttorney General

The Attorney General called on the Foreign Secretary on 23 September for 20 minutes (the call being slightly truncated by a summons to No 10).

Iraq

Lord Goldsmith said that he admired what the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary had achieved in persuading the US back to the UN route. He said he would have to see the final shape of any Resolution. Too much emphasis on a second Resolution would cause him problems (about whether or not the first Resolution allowed the use of force ...). It seemed to him unarguable that threatening the use of force had got Saddam Hussein to move.

Lord Goldsmith stressed the importance of the purpose for which force was used. Although regime change could not be the objective, it could possibly be the means by which an objective was achieved (if the only way to disarm Iraq of its WMD was to change the regime ...).

Lord Goldsmith confirmed that he was satisfied with existing arrangements for the exchange of information with FCO Legal Advisers. The Foreign Secretary stressed that you had his full authority to talk to Lord Goldsmith.

Redacted as not relevant to Iraq

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Simon McDonald". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "S" and a distinct "M" and "D".

24 September 2002

(Simon McDonald)

cc: PS
PS/PUS
Kim Darroch
Edward Chaplin
Heads: MED
EUD(I)
Sp.Ads

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