



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

S 17/03

15 January 2003

From the Private Secretary

Dear Peter,

IRAQ: MILITARY PLANNING

The Prime Minister was very grateful for the briefing he received from CDS and others on 15 January. He looks forward to receiving the formal advice on the UK land package on 16 January.

To follow up the briefing, the Prime Minister would be grateful for further advice on the following issues:

- (a) **Targeting.** Like the Defence Secretary, the Prime Minister is concerned to ensure that bombing targets are proportionate and chosen to minimise civilian casualties. He would like to see a list of the targets which UK air forces might be asked to attack, with a commentary of their military importance and risk of casualties.
- (b) **Predicting Saddam.** The Prime Minister would like the military planners to test further their predictions of Saddam's likely responses to attack, and how we would counter them. In particular, this should cover Saddam's possible pre-emptive use of WMD against allied forces in Kuwait, an attack on Israel, and attacks on the Kurds in the north.
- (c) **Baghdad.** The Prime Minister would welcome further advice on which coalition forces we expect to reach Baghdad and how quickly. He would also like a full analysis of the risk that Saddam would concentrate on "Fortress Baghdad" and an account of how the US plan to deal with this if it arises, and what they would do if there were inter-communal fighting in the city.
- (d) **Aftermath.** The Prime Minister agrees that much greater clarity about US intentions is required. He would be keen to see the outcome of the Whitehall visit to Washington next week.

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I am copying this letter to Simon McDonald (FCO) and John Scarlett and Desmond Bowen (Cabinet Office).

Yours,



MATTHEW RYCROFT

Peter Watkins
MOD

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