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EXTRACT FROM LETTER OF 30 MARCH 2003

FROM TONY BRENTON TO PETER RICKETTS

d. We in the UK by contrast will be (and are being) listened to attentively on all issues concerning the future of Iraq and some wider issues as well (the Middle East). On the future of Iraq we have a clear shared interest with the US in getting this right and getting out. We should take full advantage of our standing as the key partner to feed our views in – and should not dilute that standing by seeking to associate with our views countries (such as France) whose invocation is currently massively counterproductive in Washington.

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