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MR POWELL

The fewer the people
who know the better. We have

Gulf Business Note had experience of
Secret papers leaking. mt

This note, which has been prepared in consultation with FCO and MoD, summarises the work in preparation on Gulf issues and proposes the agenda for the work of OD(G) in the four weeks between now and the completion of military preparations, if the Prime Minister agrees.

Iraqi Use of CW/BW

2. The Cabinet Office has prepared the attached paper, cleared with FCO, MoD and Assessments Staff, which, if the Prime Minister agrees, could be considered at OD(G) on Thursday, on ways of detering Saddam Hussain from using CW/BW and responses if, despite our warnings, the Iraqis went ahead with a CW/BW attack in the Gulf.

British and American Military Objectives

3. The MoD is working on a paper on Operation Granby: Operational Philosophy. The paper essentially covers targeting policy, based principally on the Security Council Resolutions and the means necessary to secure Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and deter further Iraqi aggression.

4. If the Prime Minister wishes, two further papers could be prepared. First, an MoD/FCO assessment of US military objectives and priorities. The paper could be produced after the visit of the Joint Commander to the Gulf theatre next week.

For MoD & PM only.

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5. Second, an MoD/FCO paper on the implications of a wider range of allied objectives, to include the destruction of Iraq's NBC facilities and production capacity and the overthrow of Saddam.

Military Planning

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6. OD(G) might find it helpful to have a full military presentation by MoD on the basic scenarios for hostilities against Iraq, should these be necessary, possibly against the background of the proposed paper on US military objectives and priorities.

7. This discussion would enable Ministers to look at the presentation of UK policy in the light of the projected timescale and rates of attrition. Ministers could also consider what further background briefing might be needed for MPs, the Opposition and the press. The Cabinet Office could be tasked to prepare a note on these aspects.

Diplomatic objectives post-Saddam Hussain

8. The FCO is preparing a paper on the political and diplomatic endgame including the requirement for a regional security structure and a rigorous NPT regime which would maintain stability and peace in the Gulf after Saddam Hussain has been dislodged.

9. The Prime Minister may wish to ask the FCO to prepare a further paper on how in practice the search for an Arab/Israel settlement can be taken forward after Iraq has been removed from Kuwait. The US attitude would of course be crucial, and it is open to debate how strongly the UK should press.

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Media Handling

10. MoD is finalising a paper on media handling in a period of heightened tension or conflict in consultation with Number 10 Press Office, FCO, COI and the Cabinet Office. The paper will cover US and UK arrangements for controlling media access to the battlefield, for preventing the media from giving away allied military deployments and plans (e.g. an allied first strike by air), and for ensuring that the media are given facilities in the aftermath of action and not ahead or in parallel with them. It will cover media handling in London and in-theatre, including the role of Ministers in defining the Government's line and dealing with the press.

Other papers which could be considered in OD(G)

- Too vague*
- i. Officials will be submitting on the next steps of the UK strategy in the United Nations in the light of earlier discussions and will be reporting further on compensation/personal responsibility. *We have already been told that this would not go through d-present.*
- ii. The FCO is preparing a note on the timing and modalities of the withdrawal of the British and American Embassies in Kuwait, taking account of the logistic situation in the Embassies, the timing of hostilities, the advice to the British community and the likely conduct of Iraqi troops during a conflict.
- iii. The Cabinet Office, in consultation with the Treasury and FCO, will prepare a note to bring OD(G) up to date on the burdensharing exercise, which is currently being concluded under US chairmanship, after the next round of meetings.

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Conclusion

No 12. I should be glad to know whether the Prime Minister is content with this programme of work; and, immediately, whether she is content for the paper on Iraqi use of CW/BW to be circulated for consideration at OD(G) this Thursday. If the programme of work is approved, I will propose a timetable for finalisation of the papers and Ministerial discussions.

R.R.B.

ROBIN BUTLER

Cabinet Office
16 October 1990

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