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IRAQ/KUWAIT

UK POSITION PAPERSTRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

1. Our strategic objectives are as follows:
 - a. To secure the unconditional withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait and the restoration of Kuwait's legitimate government.
 - b. To secure the release of all hostages held in Kuwait and Iraq.
 - c. To secure the payment of compensation by Iraq for losses arising from the invasion of Kuwait.
 - d. To bring to account those responsible for atrocities, by committing grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions.
 - e. To eliminate the threat posed by Iraq's Nuclear, Biological and Chemical and long range missile capability.
 - f. To establish a long term regional security structure that involves minimum Western participation.

- g. To avoid any Israeli involvement in the crisis.

It would not be a specific objective to bring about the downfall of the present Iraqi leadership (though that would be a desirable side effect); we should aim for Saddam Hussein to face the Iraqi people as a defeated leader.

2. The strategy currently selected to achieve the most immediate of these objectives is to secure full implementation of relevant UN Security Council Resolutions and to apply additional pressure on Iraq by demonstrating that military action is an available option in the event of non-compliance.

MILITARY OBJECTIVES

3. If Iraq fails to comply with UN Security Council Resolutions within a reasonable timeframe, the military option will come into play. In that event our military objectives are seen as:

- a. To secure the unconditional withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait;
- b. To rescue or secure the release of all hostages held in Kuwait and Iraq;
- c. To destroy Iraq's Nuclear, Biological and Chemical capability/potential and her long range missile capability;

4. No avoidable constraints should be placed on the conduct of military operations, if the duration of hostilities and associated casualties are to be minimised. Nevertheless, the means chosen to achieve the military objectives must be justifiable within the limits of the collective self-defence of Kuwait in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter. Moreover the impact of military operations on domestic, Arab/Islamic and world opinion will need to be kept in mind.

5. Air operations against targets in Iraq will be an essential element in military operations but we should avoid a 'scorched earth' policy.

6. Land operations in Iraq should be limited to those necessary to liberate Kuwait or to rescue hostages. There should be no intention to occupy any part of Iraqi territory.

GUIDANCE TO MILITARY COMMANDERS

7. Tactical military planning to meet these objectives will be the responsibility of the military commanders. Planning should conform to the following criteria

- a. the selection of targets to be attacked must be relevant to the achievement of agreed objectives;

- b. the force used should be no more than is necessary to achieve the objective;
- c. targets for attack may include facilities which provide direct or indirect support to Iraqi military operations or to the occupation of Kuwait (e.g. military research establishments and production facilities, oil refineries, power stations, transport systems, Government command centres);
- d. civil targets which have no military connections (e.g. desalination plants) should not be attacked;
- e. collateral damage and civilian casualties should be minimised so far as possible; e.g. by selecting the appropriate method of attack or giving prior warning;
- f. care must be taken to avoid damage to locations of religious or cultural significance or creating long term environmental damage;
- g. the risk to Western hostages must always be borne in mind but cannot finally override the selection of particular targets where their destruction is of major importance to the success of military operations. Where possible these concerns should be met by alternative methods of attack.

h. Although the first priority is to ensure the success of military operations, planning should include the need to protect and subsequently assist hostages (and other refugees).

i. while giving priority to achieving military aims, the importance of inflicting the minimum long term damage to Iraq's economic infrastructure should also be borne in mind.

CO-ORDINATION WITH ALLIES

8. The United States will play the predominant role in military operations. Co-operation with them and with the Saudis is fundamental and the role and tasks of UK forces in relation to both of them will need to be determined and agreed at political level. It will be important for the French and other principal Arab forces to be involved in any operation and to be brought into co-ordination and planning. The requirement for "joint decision" will entail consultation at the highest level with the Saudis.

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