

## **1. GENERAL**

### **Why are you presenting this dossier?**

To share with the British people, and the wider world, the information available to the government on Saddam's persistent efforts to obtain weapons of mass destruction. The dossier shows why we need UN weapons inspectors back in Iraq.

### **Why now?**

The Prime Minister has consistently said, before and after 11 September, that the issue of Saddam's WMD needed urgent attention. The dossier shows that Saddam has aggressively pursued his WMD programme. In the 4 years since the departure of the inspectors things have got worse, not better. It would be irresponsible to ignore these facts. So the international community has to act.

### **What do you want to happen next?**

The inspectors must be allowed back in to do their job properly – this means full and unfettered access.

### **What about the Iraqi offer to allow inspectors back in?**

Hans Blix is pursuing this. But Saddam's record – where he has persistently flouted the weekend for over a decade - means we must be sceptical that this offer will lead to the full and unfettered access the UN wants.

### **What is happening on the UN resolution?**

Discussions continue apace in the UN. Aim is to take this forward as swiftly as possible.

### **What is new in this report?**

Material based on secret intelligence which has never been released before. The Executive Summary spells out (paras 4 and 5) the most important areas which go beyond previously published material.

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