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From: Jonathan Powell
Sent: 17 September 2002 19:41
To: Scarlett John - SEC - A
Cc: Alastair Campbell; David Manning
Subject: Dossier

The dossier is good and convincing for those who are prepared to be convinced

I have only three points, none of which affect the way the document is drafted or presented

First the document does nothing to demonstrate a threat, let alone an imminent threat from Saddam. In other words it shows he has the means but it does not demonstrate he has the motive to attack his neighbours let alone the west.

We will need to make it clear in launching the document that we do not claim that we have evidence that he is an imminent threat. The case we are making is that he has continued to develop WMD since 1998, and is in breach of UN resolutions. The international community has to enforce those resolutions if the UN is to be taken seriously.

Second we will be asked about the connections with Al Qaeda. The document says nothing about those and TB will need to be prepared to answer the question. The document also says nothing about the fact that the US has evidence of a link between Saddam and Al Qaeda. The document also says nothing about the fact that the US has evidence of a link between Saddam and Al Qaeda.

Third, if I was Saddam I would take a party of western journalists to the Ibn Sina factory or one of the others pictured in the document to demonstrate there is nothing there. How do we close off that avenue to him in advance?

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