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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Under Saddam Hussein, Iraq has developed chemical and biological weapons, acquired missiles allowing it to attack neighbouring countries with these weapons, and tried hard to develop a nuclear bomb. Iraq has admitted to all these programmes to acquire weapons of mass destruction. And Saddam has used chemical weapons, both against Iran and against his own people.
2. Information about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction is already in the public domain from UN reports and from Iraqi defectors. A valuable assessment was provided by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) on 9 September. The publicly available evidence points clearly to Iraq's continued possession of chemical and biological agents and weapons from before the Gulf War. It shows that Iraq has refurbished sites formerly associated with the production of chemical and biological agents. And it indicates a continuing Iraqi ability to manufacture these agents, and to use bombs, shells, artillery rockets and ballistic missiles to deliver them. The IISS report also judges that Iraq could assemble nuclear weapons within months of obtaining fissile material from foreign sources.
3. We endorse much of this analysis, which is largely based on information available prior to the de facto expulsion of UN inspectors in 1998. But significant additional information is available to the government from secret intelligence sources, described in more detail in this paper. This intelligence cannot tell us about everything. But it provides a fuller picture of Iraqi plans and capabilities. It shows that Saddam Hussein attaches great importance to possessing weapons of mass destruction which he regards as the basis for Iraq's regional power. It shows that he does not regard them only as weapons of last resort. He is ready to use them, including against his own population, and is determined to retain them. Intelligence also shows that Iraq is preparing plans to conceal evidence of these weapons from any renewed inspection, including by dispersing incriminating documents. And it allows us to judge that Iraq

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