

normal. It is important to realise that for example electricity and water supplies have never been to the fullest possible extent in places like that. In Baghdad there has been a serious security problem which I know the Americans are getting on top of, but don't let's ignore the fact that this country has freedom, that it is obviously a very difficult thing for people to adjust after decades of tyranny to the prospect of freedom, but I think certainly the reports that I get back is there is still a great deal of optimism about what can be achieved, and we are at the start of a process now, not at the finish of it. And now that we have got the UN resolution through, that will allow particularly the money from the oil revenues in Iraq to be used for the reconstruction of Iraq and for the benefit of the Iraqi people.

QUESTION:

On the delicate issue of WMD, it was suggested yesterday that the weapons might have been destroyed prior to the war. Do you believe that the weapons may well not be there because they were destroyed by the regime just before the war?

PRIME MINISTER:

.. and I just repeat to you, I have absolutely no doubt at all about the existence of weapons of mass destruction, and I think rather than speculating, let's wait until we get the full report back from our people who are interviewing the Iraqi scientists and experts who were involved in the programme, who still have only explored a very small number of the potential WMD sites, and I do point out to you that we have already found two trailers that both our and the American security services believe were used for the manufacture of biological weapons.

QUESTION:

But do you think you will find usable weapons, there is a difference between finding evidence of a programme, scientists may tell you things you might find egregious, and what your dossier appeared to suggest which was that they had weapons they could use within 45 minutes?

PRIME MINISTER:

I have no doubt at all that we will find such weapons and I would just wait for the report to come out. But our priorities with Iraq at the moment are less to do with finding weapons of mass destruction, though that is obviously what the team is charged with doing, and they will do it, the actual immediate priority is more to do with the humanitarian issues and political reconstruction.

QUESTION:

On the roadmap, do you think you are on target with this, and what is the single most important part of it, is it going to be the American commitment to this for example?

PRIME MINISTER:

The American commitment is there, and I would point out there are many people who said to me 2 or 3 months ago that the road map wouldn't be published, that President Bush wouldn't show a commitment to the Middle East. The road map has been published, President Bush has shown a commitment, the road map is now accepted by everybody, including frankly the Israeli Cabinet. The issue now is to make it work, and the key issue immediately is to put together the undertakings necessary on security for Israel, on lifting some of the restrictions and on making sure that there is an end to illegal settlement activity.

QUESTION:

Do you share the White House's apparent concerns that Iran may be exporting effectively a ... towards Iraq, is that something that worries you?

PRIME MINISTER:

Everybody is aware of both the history in relation to Iran/Iraq, and the nature of the present regime in Iran. But the thing that we have found most evident amongst Iraqis of whatever religious denomination, is a



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