

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

**For the meeting of the Foreign Affairs Committee on
Thursday 10th July 2003
10.00am Private
in Room 8**

Apologies: John Maples, Gisela Stuart

1. The Decision to go to War in Iraq

To consider developments since publication of the Committee's Report.

[If I understand correctly what this is about, I am quite concerned that the Committee risks (a) getting dragged deep into the Campbell-Gilligan dispute, which it has very wisely avoided so far, and/or (b) exceeding its brief, by taking too close an interest in the Ministry of Defence].

To consider the FCO's proposals for sidelining of the oral evidence heard in private.

The majority of the FCO's proposals appear to be sensible. Does the Committee wish to allow the Chairman and Clerk to conduct negotiations with the FCO on its behalf, or does it wish to consider this in detail now, and perhaps return to it on Tuesday? *[NB the third volume of the Committee's Report cannot be published until this has been resolved].*

2. Any other business

FCO officials recently returned from Iraq will brief the Committee at 9.30am on Tuesday in Room B, 1 Parliament Street.

FCO advice on travel to Afghanistan in September is being sought in time for Tuesday's meeting.

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