

FOLLOWING FOR CHARLES POWELL, AIRBORNE FROM DOMINIC MORRIS, NO.10

Following is summary of Secretary Baker's statement at press conference at 1850 hours:

There had been "serious and extended" conversation with Tariq Aziz. The meeting was "not to negotiate backwards from the UN resolutions. They met to communicate. Both listened as well as talked." The message Secretary Baker delivered from the international community was that Iraq needed to comply with the UN resolutions or force would be used. "Regrettably he had heard nothing that suggested any Iraqi flexibility whatsoever on the UN resolutions."

Secretary Baker set out the Iraqi "miscalculations" which had led to the present position. He said he hoped they would not now miscalculate again. "If Iraq did not withdraw it was facing a military conflict it could not win". He said this "not to threaten but to inform; he said it with no satisfaction because the US and the rest of the international community wanted a peaceful solution. This is still a confrontation Iraq can avoid. The path of peace is open. That path is laid out clearly in twelve UN resolutions passed over the preceding five months."

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TO FLASH CABINET OFFICE

TELNO AIRBORNE 010

OF 091803Z JANUARY 91

TO NO 10 DOWNING STREET FROM PRIME MINISTER AIRBORNE.

PLEASE ADVISE IF ANY NEWS THIS PRECEDENCE ON GENEVA

A NIL RETURN IS REQUIRED THIS PRECEDENCE.

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