



*Discussion:
Possible Contingencies*

December 2002

~~Classified by USDP Douglas J. Faith~~
~~Reason 1.3(a)~~
~~Declassify on 14 Oct 12~~

12/9/02 5:45 PM

DRT
Feb 05

~~TOP SECRET~~

Possible Contingencies

- Saddam loses power “prematurely” --
 - he is replaced by a new strongman.
 - he is replaced by anarchy.
- Israeli retaliation:
 - against Iraq.
 - against Syria (following Hezbollah attack).
- Other “third party” involvement:
 - Iran.
 - Turkey (not in coordination with U.S.)
- Iraqi use of WMD:
 - Against U.S. troops.
 - Against country supporting U.S. war effort.

For each contingency:

- Description of scenario.
- Key principles for dealing with it.
- Course of Action

Description:

- A senior military or security officer replaces Saddam.
- He announces his intention to abide by all UN Security Council resolutions.
- Intense international pressure to cease (or not commence) hostilities.
- Danger of "Saddamism without Saddam."

Key Principles:

- New strongman likely to be similar to Saddam in ambition, political attitudes and methods of operation.
- Broad-based, representative government necessary to resolve outstanding problems with Iraq:
 - Can't have confidence in any inspection regime unless Iraqi government is cooperative and acts in good faith.

New Strongman in Iraq: Course of Action

Demand that the new ruler:

- Turn over power to civilian, broad-based, representative government within weeks.
 - Immediately enter into internationally-supervised negotiations with all segments of Iraqi society, including opposition groups.
- Take immediate steps to facilitate inspections:
 - Permit overflight by U-2s, Predators; cease firing on aircraft patrolling the no-fly zones.
 - Send key WMD scientists (with families) to NY to be interviewed by inspectors.
- Dismantle elite security organizations, including SSO.
- End restrictions on media, including foreign media.

Key is to make demands that can be met
immediately.

Description:

- Current regime loses power; no one able to reassert control.
- Kurds advance on Kirkuk and Mosul.
- Internecine violence spreads (e.g., Sunnis vs Shi'a in Baghdad).

Key Principles:

- U.S. can't avoid responsibility for restoring order.
 - Important that U.S. be able to influence events in Iraq and the formation of the new government.
- To maintain territorial integrity of Iraq, U.S. must ensure that oil revenues remain under central control.

- Convene, under nominal UN auspices, a conference of interested parties:
 - Iraqi opposition groups (“external” groups).
 - Kurdish parties.
 - Tribal leaders.
 - Shi’a representatives (religious, tribal).
 - Anyone exercising authority (excluding those tainted by Ba’athist atrocities).
- Seize main oil fields and key energy infrastructure.
- Provide security for UN/NGOs involved in food distribution and other humanitarian activities.

Description:

- Iraq attacks Israel with WMD (delivered by missile or terrorists).
- Israel decides to retaliate, regardless of U.S. pressure.

Key Principles:

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

Israeli Retaliation Against Iraq: Course of Action



- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

12/9/02 5:45 PM

Israeli Retaliation Against Syria

Description:

- Hezbollah launches rocket attacks against northern Israel.
- Israel decides to retaliate against Syria, regardless of U.S. pressure.

Key Principles:

●

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Israeli Retaliation Against Syria: Course of Action

- [REDACTED]
- Demand that Syria turn over those responsible for rocket attacks on Israel.
- Warn Iran not to interfere.

12/9/02 5:45 PM

Description:

- Iran exerts its influence in southern Iraq to:
 - bolster influence of Islamist groups.
 - encourage terrorism against U.S. and coalition troops.

Key Principles:

- U.S. should seek to reduce Iranian influence among Shi'a population.

Iranian Involvement: Course of Action

- Emphasize to Iraqi Shi'a the advantages of remaining within Iraq.
- Contrast Iraqi economic prospects with Iranian economic decline under clerical rule.
- [REDACTED] Iran with prospect of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- "We solve [REDACTED] problem, you stay out of Iraq."

12/9/02 5:45 PM

13

~~TOP SECRET~~

Description:

- [REDACTED] seizes Mosul and Kirkuk to prevent [REDACTED] occupation.
- [REDACTED] Turcoman population to claim Kirkuk area and establish an autonomous zone.

Key Principles:

- U.S. remains committed to territorial integrity of Iraq.
- U.S. recognizes legitimacy of [REDACTED] concern.

- Maintain political pressure on [REDACTED] to moderate its actions.
 - [REDACTED]
- Establish political forum in which [REDACTED] concerns can be raised.
 - Goal of forum would be to commit all participants to territorial integrity of Iraq.

Description:

- Iraq uses chem/bio weapons against U.S. troops in the field.

Key Principles:

- U.S. demonstrates that such action will be punished severely.
- U.S. takes greater risks to conclude war quickly.

WMD Use Against U.S. Troops: Course of Action

- Signal possibility of U.S. escalation to deter future use.
- Adjust tactics (e.g., increase dispersal of forces).
 - Be willing to accept increased risk to speed up tempo of operations.
- Ease restrictions on attacking high collateral-damage targets.

WMD Use Against Country Supporting U.S. Port

Description:

- Iraqi launches missile with chem/bio warhead against Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia or Turkey.
- Terrorist attack using WMD against these countries.

Key Principles:

- U.S. must demonstrate that such action will be punished severely.

- Signal possibility of U.S. escalation to deter future use.
- Ease restrictions on attacking high collateral-damage targets.
 - Be willing to accept increased risk to speed up tempo of operations.
- Readjust logistics (e.g., over-the-shore delivery).
- Major IO campaign.

- Issues to be decided:
 - Should we determine a policy to deal with the “strongman” scenario *now*?
 - (Most imminent -- it could happen at any time.)
 - When to discuss deconfliction with the Israelis?
 - What type of nuclear “posturing” should be considered?
- CENTCOM is dealing with the WMD response issues.
 - Battlefield.
 - SPOD/APODs.