1. The statement that I delivered on 17 March, making clear that the co-sponsors would not be pursuing a vote on the Iraq resolution, follows:

BEGIN
As you know, we have worked very hard in the last few days in a
final effort to seek a Council consensus on Iraq. In an effort to
reunite the Council, the United Kingdom proposed last week an
ultimatum which would challenge Iraq to take a strategic decision
to disarm.

There were three key elements to the compromise we proposed:

tough but realistic tests, including an unequivocal commitment to
disarmament by Saddam Hussein;

a realistic but tight timetable for completion of those tests
given the urgent need for Iraq to comply after 12 years of
prevarication;

and, third, an understanding that if Iraq failed the tests,
serious consequences would ensue as set out in resolution 1441.

Having held further discussions with Council members over the
weekend and in the last few hours, we have had to conclude that
Council consensus will not be possible in line with Resolution
1441. One country in particular has underlined its intention to
veto any ultimatum "no matter what the circumstances". That
country rejected our proposed compromise before even the Iraqi
government itself and has put forward suggestions that would row
back on the unanimous agreement of the Council in 1441 - those
suggestions would amount to no ultimatum/no pressure/and no
disarmament;

Given this situation, we have agreed that we will not pursue a
vote on the draft UK/US/Spanish resolution in blue;

The communiques and press statements that issued at the Azores
summit explain the position of our governments on the way forward.
The co-sponsors reserve their right to take their own steps to
secure the disarmament of Iraq.

ENDS

GREENSTOCK

YYYY
MAIN 13
IRAQ/KUWAIT 13
MENAD 0
RESIDENT CLERK 0
CONSULAR D. 0
EMERGENCY UNIT 0
PROTOCOL D/I/PALACE 0

ADDITIONAL 1
IRAQ/KUWAIT 0
(I/IRA) 0
ATT GEN/C ADAMS 1
BANKE 0
BT11 0
BT12 0
CAOFF1 0
CAOFF2 0
DFID1 0
DFID2 0
EGGD 0
FSA 0
HMT 0