

TKBC/005/000118-01

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From: Michael Jay

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cc: Iraq Distribution

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IRAQ: BP

1. I had lunch with Lord Browne, Chairman of BP, this morning.
2. Lord Browne confirmed that BP had been asked to help with the renovation of Iraq's oil facilities after military action. He said that BP distinguished clearly between renovation and long term development. BP had no difficulties with the first, although it could range from the maintenance and improvement of existing facilities if they were not damaged during conflict, to repair or rebuilding of damaged facilities. BP had a team ready to go. Lord Browne said that they might be able to work with the Iraqi state oil company, whose competence should not be underrated: a number of senior people had been trained by BP in the 1970's.
3. Lord Browne said that BP's involvement in the longer term development of Iraq's oil was more complex. They would not wish to be involved unless they were clear that administrative and other structures were in place to ensure that their involvement would be acceptable to whatever Iraqi Government followed military action.

Michael Jay