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Dear Ian

Concerning your letter on my resignation from the Labour Party, I accept the considerable domestic achievements of the Labour government itemised in your letter.

With reference to the removal of Saddam Hussein, my position was and is that we should abide by international law and the invasion was in breach of it. No one is capable of changing history, but since the major actors of this decision are still in power, I believe it is necessary to argue for a critical analysis of motives and of our government's procedures and actions.

I do not accept that the control of Iraq has now been handed back to its people. No representative government of Iraq would allow for the heavy bombing of one of its cities and the mass exodus of its population. The Allawi regime is a puppet administration of the vicious American military occupation.

The American military will brook no opposition. As the unfolding human catastrophe intensifies, there are no significant moves towards a political solution. The American position is one of abrogation of political dialogue in favour of military force. They do not accept that dialogue need be contemplated, nor that it is in their own interests.

One would have thought that, with the British experience of Northern Ireland, there could have been a determined attempt by the British government to promote a constitution that would have permanently (say in a power-sharing executive) balanced the competing forces from the Shiite, Sunni and Kurdish populations of Iraq. If indeed elections take place in January, we can expect a Shiite dominance to be resisted, as it already is, in terms of a boycott of the election by Sunnis. If elections do not take place, expect a war against the British.

I include with this letter a cut-down version of the latest letter I had sent to David Lepper MP detailing my reasons for leaving the Party. You will see that I regard concern for people for whom the British government is responsible does not end at the citizens of our own country. For example, if we provide for the health of the people in Britain, we should equally be concerned for the health of the people of Iraq.

I note, with reference to this second letter, that there are now reports of the bombing of Mosul hospital by the Americans.

With regard to the political situation vis-à-vis *Iran*, I await in fear the decision that is still to be made as to whether John Boulton is to become American Under-Secretary of State. Should this become so, a war with Iran is almost certain, which would be far more serious in its military, political and economic effects, and in terms of human suffering, than our occupation of Iraq, and I would expect the Prime Minister either covertly or directly to support it. This was the second reason I gave for my resignation from the Party.

Yours fraternally

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