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*Handwritten initials*

Foreign & Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

18 January 2002

Prime Minister

During the weekend we may get feedback from ICRC and from our team.

*Handwritten signature* [Redacted]

*File* (circled)

UK Nationals Held in Afghanistan and Guantanamo

You asked for a round up of the latest position.

I attach a chart listing the detainees who might be British. We still need to verify their identities and confirm their nationality. There might be other British detainees that have not yet been drawn to our attention.

The team from the Security Service and the Embassy in Washington is now in Guantanamo. They will be interviewing the detainees in accordance with the agreement reached with the Americans. Their dual aim is to obtain information on any terrorist activities affecting the UK and to establish the identity of any British nationals. We have asked for an initial report on Monday morning. The team will report back to Ministers after their visit; they will not speak to the press.

The ICRC are due to arrive in Guantanamo today. There will be intense press interest in any conclusions they reach on humanitarian issues. However it is highly unlikely that they will make public any judgements on conditions in the camp or make statements on individual cases.

[Redacted]

This will continue to be a difficult issue to handle, both in procedural and legal terms with the US and in handling Parliament and the media here.

10 Downing Street

*The key is to find out how they are being treated. Tough I was initially sceptical about claims of torture. We must make it clear to the U.S. that any such action would be totally unacceptable & v. quickly establish that it isn't happening.*