

The Right Honourable Jack Straw MP  
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
Downing Street West  
London  
SW1A 2AL

Fax: 0207 8392417

22 January 2003

Your ref:  
Our ref: PS/SA/

Dear Sir

**The legality of the use of force against Iraq**

We enclose a copy letter sent today to the Secretary of State for Defence.

We are sure that your lawyers will advise you as to its contents and implications. It deals with the consequences for you, and other leaders of the UK Government, if the UK decides to become involved in the further use of force in Iraq, and if that use of force violates rules of international humanitarian law (IHL). Specifically, we make clear that if the UK acts so as to bring any breaches of IHL within the definition of "war crimes" we, and others, will take steps to ensure that you, and other leaders of the UK Government are held accountable within International Criminal Law.

Please would you acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Yours faithfully

**Public Interest Lawyers**