

ALIEN INVASION WAR PLAN

14 May 2012

Prime Minister

1. As part of the wider government review of disaster preparedness, the Ministry of Defence has been examining the full range of plans covering scenarios where we would be lead Department, or a key contributor to a wider HMG response. In line with the Cabinet Office instruction to identify and plan for risks not covered by existing plans (e.g. comet/asteroid strikes, or the fall to earth of a defunct satellite) we have looked at a number of 'low probability/high impact' events and drawn up some new contingency plans to cover these risks. As you know, one of these is the possibility of an alien invasion. We discussed this last month and you indicated that in view of the extreme sensitivities and the need to ensure that our plans are consistent with US policy, you would wish to discuss this with the US President and approve the final document personally.
2. The attached draft has been produced by a small working group chaired by the Chief of the Defence Staff. The three single-Service Chiefs, the Chief of Defence Intelligence and the Chief Scientific Adviser have also been closely involved.
3. In line with standard policy, the draft caters for the worst-case scenario. In reality, a range of other 'first contact' possibilities exist, including the detection (via radio telescope) of a message from an extraterrestrial civilisation, or encountering a civilisation that has benign or neutral intentions towards us. In such circumstances, establishing secure, covert communications would be the priority, with technology acquisition being the key strategic aim.
4. In military planning terms, once approved, the war plan will form the basis of a more detailed CDS Directive that will set out the overall military contribution to wider Government activity.
5. On handling, you were able to raise this issue with the US President in the margins of your March visit to the US and you will have the opportunity for further private discussions in the margins of the G8 meeting at Camp David on 18/19 May and again during the NATO Summit in Chicago on 20/21 May. You previously told me that you and the President would wish final sign-off of the war plan to occur by 12th August. It is my hope that the draft is sufficiently mature to allow for this. I have discussed the draft with my US opposite number and CDS has had several bilateral meetings with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
6. I stand ready to discuss this further.

[Original Signed]

Secretary of State for Defence