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outside national command, tasking of UK military capability must accord with UK strategic objectives and we must retain the right to invoke the National Veto if circumstances make this necessary.

Policy and Law

7. The legal basis for military action against extraterrestrials would be the authority of the United Nations and the international community to resist an attack on sovereign nations. However, as has been the case in Iraq and Afghanistan, CDS will want to be assured that his order to commit UK Armed Forces to any conflict would be a lawful order. This will be particularly important should there be (for whatever reason) no UN Security Council Resolution authorising an attack on extraterrestrial forces. In such circumstances, if the Attorney General is satisfied that proposed military action by the UK would be in accordance with national and international law, CDS can properly give the order committing UK forces. Subsequently, all operations by UK assigned forces must be in accordance with the Law of Armed Conflict and domestic law.

Rules of Engagement

8. Prime Ministerial authority is required for anything other than defensive ROE.

Concept of Operations

9. We envisage a graduated campaign, with conflict taking place across the following three theatres of operation:

a. Space

The Secret Space Program is a term that covers a range of militarised space shuttles and similar vehicles, satellite-based weapons, and ground-based directed energy weapons. This force package involves the capability to deploy nuclear weapons. A first-strike nuclear attack against the extraterrestrial craft may be our best hope for victory. Though the secret space program is predominantly a US capability, UK assets (or US assets based in the UK, for which UK authority to deploy on offensive operations would be needed) may be requested. The Ballistic Missile Early Warning Centre at RAF Fylingdales and the communications facility at RAF Menwith Hill are the two key assets.

b. Air

All UK assets with an air-to-air and ground-to-air capability may be tasked. This might include the Rapier missile system operated by HQ Joint Ground-Based Air Defence, but the centre of gravity of the UK effort will fall upon RAF Eurofighter Typhoon aircraft. Type 45 destroyers with Sea Viper missiles and (possibly) Type 23 frigates with Seawolf could also be deployed.

c. Ground

All UK land forces may be deployed. It is likely that we will be operating in support of a US-led coalition. The fundamental building block for a major US ground force operation is a division. Only on that scale (requiring 3 brigades as our planning base) would the UK have sufficient influence over how the campaign was developed and

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