



## UK FORCES IN IRAQ – GEOOF HOON

*Alan Simpson (Nottingham, South) (Lab):* I know that the Secretary of State said that no decision has been made about the request, but given his answer to the hon. Member for Richmond Park (Dr. Tonge), I was reminded of a line from a song in the musical "Oklahoma":

"I'm just a girl who can't say no".

Can he tell the House of any occasion when a request from our American allies was turned down? If not, would he as Secretary of State place any limits on the deployment of British troops in out-of-area activities at the request of the Bush Administration?

*Mr. Hoon:* "Oklahoma" was a bit before my time.

*Mr. Skinner :* The actress's name was Gloria Grahame—an American.

*Mr. Hoon:* I am getting help with the participants; but I do not accept the assertion of my hon. Friend the Member for Nottingham, South (Alan Simpson). It is important to concentrate on the operational nature of the deployment and recognise that it is in the interests of the Iraqi people.