

Alison Blackshaw

From: Jonathan Powell
Sent: 18 September 2002 10:45
To: Alastair Campbell, Scarlett John - SEC - A
Cc: David Manning
Subject: RE Dossier

As I said last night I am not suggesting any changes to the dossier, just flagging up points where we are going to need to mould expectations in advance of publication and on publication and areas where we are going to need briefing for the statement and press afterwards

A note on AQ would be useful [REDACTED]

On the sites we just need to flag up before publication that of course Saddam can tidy places up and take people there but that does not change what he has been doing there.

The threat argument will be a major problem in the press/parliamentary assault after the dossier comes out and we need to flag up the point in the preface at publication and during the debate. We need to set the test for ourselves at a level we can meet

-----Original Message-----

From: Felicity Hatfield On Behalf Of Alastair Campbell
Sent: 18 September 2002 10:23
To: Scarlett John - SEC - A, Jonathan Powell
Cc: Alastair Campbell, David Manning
Subject: RE Dossier

I think we risk complicating the issue if we get into links with Al-Qaida. The dossier, and the debate in Parliament, are explicitly about Iraq/WMD. On the question of sites, we should in our briefing make clear that we assume he will sanitise one of them for the media, and pull some stunt, but remain robust re our judgements. Re the "imminent threat" point, that is why TB's foreword sets out "the case I am making". John, I will show him you revisions and hopefully get the foreword signed off today

-----Original Message-----

From: Scarlett John - [REDACTED] -
[REDACTED]
Sent: 18 September 2002 08:36
To: Powell Jonathan - No 10 -
Cc: Campbell Alastair - No 10 -, Manning David - no10-
Subject: RE Dossier

We are now doing a note now giving the detail on Iraq and AQ. [REDACTED]

The dossier mentions about eight sites. There are dozens more which could be relevant. At least one of the eight (the engine test stand for long range missiles) would not be easy to stage manage without dismantling the stand i.e. this would be progress. The dossier stresses the dual-use problem and the ease of concealment. This applies to trained inspectors let alone journalists. We ought to be able to work out lines to tackle this issue up front

-----Original Message-----

From: Jonathan Powell [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 September 2002 19:41
To: Scarlett John - SEC - A
Cc: Alastair Campbell, David Manning
Subject: Dossier

The dossier is good and convincing for those who are prepared to be convinced

I have only three points, none of which affect the way the document is drafted or presented

First the document does nothing to demonstrate a threat, let alone an imminent threat from Saddam. In other words it shows he has the means but it does not demonstrate he has the motive to attack his neighbours let alone

the west. We will need to make it clear in launching the document that we do not claim that we have evidence that he is an imminent threat. The case we are making is that he has continued to develop WMD since 1998, and is in breach of UN resolutions. The international community has to enforce those resolutions if the UN is to be taken seriously.

Second we will be asked about the connections with Al Qaeda [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Third, if I was Saddam I would take a party of western journalists to the Ibn Sina factory or one of the others pictured in the document to demonstrate there is nothing there. How do we close off that avenue to him in advance?

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CAB / 11 / 0078