

Alison Blackshaw

From: Felicity Hatfield on behalf of Alastair Campbell
Sent: 19 September 2002 08:21
To: Scarlett John - SEC - A
Cc: David Manning, Jonathan Powell, 'Julian.Miller@britainoffice.x.gsi.gov.uk'
Subject: Nuclear Section

As I said to Julian last night, I think it would be simpler to have just one clearer section on nuclear timelines, perhaps on the following lines. (This would delete par 18 and replace 24)

It is impossible to be precise about nuclear timelines. We can be clear however, that provided sanctions and export controls remain in place and effective, it is not possible for Iraq to develop nuclear weapons. This is because although they have the expertise, the design data, the planning and the intent they do not have the material necessary for the production of fissile material. This contrasts with CW/BW, which they can produce indigenously. Even if sanctions were removed, we assess that it would take up to five years for them to develop nuclear weapons. The timelines are considerably shortened however if Iraq manages to obtain fissile material illegally from overseas. In these circumstances, the JIC assessed in early 2002 that they could produce nuclear weapons in between one and two years

AB/11/0091

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

From: Tom Kelly
Sent: 19 September 2002 10:50
To: Alastair Campbell
Cc: Godric Smith, Daniel Puce
Subject: Tuesday core script

<< File: dossier draft doc >> This is a rough draft of what could be a core script for Tuesday - whether we go up on Today, or do a briefing. I think the key point in our favour is the systematic nature of what Saddam is up to. The weakness, obviously, is our inability to say that he could pull the nuclear trigger any time soon. But the basic message of by then it would be too late does deal with that I think.

CAB/11/0092