

**PAULA DIGGLE**

Copy to  
John Scarlett  
Matthew Armstrong  
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SIS - CS2a  
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**JIC PAPERS FOR LORD HUTTON**

1 Lord Hutton came to the Cabinet Office on Friday 15 September where he read a number of JIC papers relevant to his inquiry. Subsequently, Lord Hutton asked for redacted copies of the draft assessment circulated on 5 September and the final assessment issued on 9 September, showing how the two papers treated the intelligence on the 45 minute issue. This material would be available for publication by the Inquiry. We have consulted JIC Members, or their representatives, about this request. A number of those we consulted would prefer to offer Lord Hutton verbatim extracts from the JIC papers for publication, rather than redacted papers. I attach a note accordingly, setting out the relevant extracts

2. Additionally, Lee Hughes has asked for any available records of comments offered on the 5 September draft. We received only one written reply from the DIS with comments on the revised JIC draft. But other comments were made on the telephone. I attach a copy of the e-mail and a note recording to the best of our knowledge the verbal comments received



**JULIAN MILLER**

20 August

CAB/17/0002

**EXTRACTS FROM JIC ASSESSMENTS RELATING TO 45 MINUTES**

Revised JIC draft of 5 September

Page 4, Para 3, final bullet said:

“Iraq has probably dispersed its special weapons, including its CBW weapons. Intelligence also indicates that from forward-deployed storage sites, chemical and biological munitions could be with military units and ready for firing within 45 minutes”

Final JIC assessment issued on 9 September

Page 3, para 3, final bullet said:

“Iraq has probably dispersed its special weapons, including its CBW weapons. Intelligence also indicates that chemical and biological munitions could be with military units and ready for firing within 20-45 minutes”.

**Assessments Staff**

**20 August**

CAB/17/0003

## COMMENTS ON REVISED JIC DRAFT OF 5 SEPTEMBER

Following JIC discussion on 4 September the Assessments Staff issued a revised draft to reflect the new intelligence which had been received since the paper had been discussed by experts at a Current Intelligence Group meeting on Wednesday 28 August. The revised draft was sent to JIC Members asking for comments by Monday 9 September.

An e-mail with comments on the revised text was received from the biological weapons branch in the DIS by the Assessments Staff on 6 September (attached). All but one of these suggestions were accepted and reflected in the final version of the paper.

Other verbal comments were received and this note records to the best of our recollection what those were concerning the 45 minute issue. The Assessments Staff judged that the intelligence report probably referred to the time taken to remove chemical and biological munitions from their forward deployed storage sites and deliver them to pre-designated military units. The draft language in the revised JIC draft was discussed with military and scientific experts in the DIS as well as SIS. The scientific analyst consulted in the DIS pointed out that questions relating to Iraqi military plans for the use of chemical and biological weapons were not his area of expertise. We then consulted the appropriate military analyst in the DIS regional assessments branch. He advised against referring to forward deployed storage sites. That reference was therefore removed from the final paper, issued on 9 September.

No other comments were received.

### **Assessments Staff**

**20 August**

CAB/17/0004

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] c=gb;a= ;p=hmg+mod,o=dis,ou1=owob;ou2=bentley,s=53b1,i=d1,g=d1]  
Sent: 06 September 2002 17.54  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: [REDACTED]

Barry, a good paper. Some minor comments from the BW side.

Para 2 4th sentence - not sure we can be as categorical as "never", SIS may have something which means we need to fudge this slightly but they weill talk to you.

Para 3 final bullet last line The intelligence refers to a maximum time of 45 minutes, the average was 20 minutes This could have important implications in the event of a conflict

Para 8 - First sentence - There is specific intelligence that Iraq plans to use CBW, it is just that there is no specific intelligence of their plans as to how/when/with what they would do so As stated in para 4 there is intention to use during this phase

Para 8 6th line - delete biological It is difficult to see how persistent biological could shape the battle field

Para 8 line 10 replace chemical munitions with CB munitions (which is what the intelligence states)

Para 10, we would like a more specific reference to possibility of sabotage/terror on lines of supply/homeland  
[REDACTED]

CAB/17/0005