

that the 45 minutes issue is kind of irrelevant because if they had weapons they probably would be used within 45 minutes. It seems to me that the relevance of this is it shows this is not just a weapons programme, they have actually got some weapons they can use. Is that how you saw the incentive to bring this 45 minutes question forward in your report?

Mr Gilligan: That is how my source put it. The 45 minute claim is an important one, he believed and I believe, because it did make the case that there were actual weapons with chemical or biological tips ready to go. My source's belief on this is that they had not managed to weaponise CBW. His actual quote was that they had not got useable weapons at that point. They had obviously weaponised in the past but they had not got useable weapons at the point of the issue of the dossier. What he said is that, "I believe it is 30 per cent likely that there was a CW (Chemical Weapons) programme in the six months before the war and, more likely, that there was a BW (Biological weapons) programme, but it was small because you could not conceal a larger programme. The sanctions were actually quite effective, they did limit the programme."

Q512 Mr Maples: Like my colleague, I supported the Government over this and I would again. If you were trying to make the case to an audience with doubts about this and you were thinking how this was going to play in the press, this seems to me to be a very important claim to bring forward because I think you said to us it did provide the headline for a lot of reporting.

Mr Gilligan: I remember it was the headline in the *Evening Standard* that day and I am pretty sure it was the headline in several of the other papers the next day. I want to make the point that the 45 minutes and the uranium issues were the only two items of the dossier which we discussed, but he was unhappy with the general tone and tenor of the dossier as well. His words were, "Most people in intelligence were not happy with it" - that is the dossier - "because it did not reflect the considered view they were putting forward." It is as much a matter of language, phraseology --- As you know, an intelligence report of any description is pretty unexciting to be honest. It is couched, it is full of caveats, it is full of conditionals.

Q513 Chairman: Have you seen such reports?

Mr Gilligan: Yes.

Q514 Chairman: In what circumstances have you seen JIC reports?

Mr Gilligan: In historical circumstances and in the Public Records Office and once again when one was shown to me.

Q515 Chairman: The Public Records Office, you mean of 30 years

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