

RESTRICTED - STAFF

From: William Ehrman, DG(D&I)
Date: 18 July 2003

Cc: Private Secretary
Peter Ricketts
Edward Oakden
Sophia Willitts-King, Secpol
Stephen Pattison, IIU
John Williams, Press Office
Sir Kevin Tebbit, MOD
Sir David Omand, Cabinet Office

To: PUS

DAVID KELLY AND PARLIAMENT

1. This records conversations that with you, Sir Kevin Tebbit, the Private Secretary (Jonathan Sinclair), the Foreign Secretary and the Resident Clerk (Sophia Willitts-King) on the afternoon of Saturday 5 July.
2. You rang me from Copenhagen to say that Sir Kevin Tebbit had phoned you to ask whether you thought the FAC should be informed that someone had come forward who might have been Andrew Gilligan's source on the 45 minutes point in the Iraq dossier of September 2002. Sir Kevin had said there remained an element of doubt. Some points seemed to fit with Andrew Gilligan's story but others did not. Sir Kevin's letters of 4 and 5 July (attached), which neither you nor I had seen at that stage, gave further details.
3. Your and my view was that the FAC should not be informed at that stage, given that there were discrepancies between what the person concerned had stated and Andrew Gilligan's story, and thus that no conclusion had been reached on whether the person concerned had indeed been Andrew Gilligan's source. I so informed Sir Kevin (who told me at that point that the person concerned was David Kelly) but said I would need to get the Foreign Secretary's view.
4. I informed the Duty Private Secretary (Jonathan Sinclair) of the above and asked him to seek the Foreign Secretary's view. He did so. The Foreign Secretary subsequently rang me to say that he agreed with your and my view.
5. Sir Kevin Tebbit had left his office by then. I therefore asked the Resident Clerk (Sophia Willitts-King) to get a message to him, via the MoD Duty Clerk, to inform him that the Foreign Secretary agreed with you and me that the FAC should not be informed at that stage, for the reasons in paragraph 3 above. She passed this message to the MoD Duty Clerk. I also asked her to inform Sir David Omand. She contacted him direct by phone and did so.
6. You subsequently wrote to Sir Kevin Tebbit on 8 July to clarify that David Kelly was not and had never been an FCO official (attached).
7. I attach your Private Secretary's minute to me of 10 July about David Kelly's attendance before the FAC and ISC, which records your advice that it was difficult to see any grounds to refuse the FAC's and ISC's requests, but that the final decision on handling lay with MoD.
8. Lastly, I attach Sir David Omand's letter dated 5 July to Sir Kevin Tebbit, which was copied to your Private Secretary. We received this letter on 7 July.

[Signed]

William Ehrman
Director General (Defence and Intelligence)