

4 JULY 2003

Spoke to Hoon who said that a man had come forward who felt he was possibly Gilligan's source, had come forward and was being interviewed today. GH said his initial instinct was to throw the book at him, but in fact there was a case for trying to get some kind of plea bargain. Says that he'd come forward and he was saying yes to speak to AG, yes he said intel went in late, but he never said the other stuff. It was double-edged but GH and I agreed it would fuck Gilligan if that was his source. He said he was an expert rather than a spy or full-time MOD official. GH and I agreed to talk tomorrow.

6 July 2003

Spent much of weekend talking to TB and GH re the source, man who felt he was the source because his colleagues said he sounded like what AG was saying. Came forward earlier in the week to confide that he'd seen Gilligan in a hotel, that he'd made some of these comments, but not others, eg re me. GH, like me, wanted to get it out that the source had broken cover to claim that AG misrepresented him. TB and I had a long chat about it and TB was worried that we (TB or GH) ought to tell FAC about it. His worry was that it could lead to them re-opening the inquiry. I wanted, and GH did, to get it to the BBC Governors that we may know who the source was, that he was not a spy, not involved in the WMD dossier and was a WMD expert who advised departments. TB was fine about that but backed off after speaking to Omand who felt the guy had to be treated properly and interviewed again,. GH and I felt we were missing a trick. I suggested to GH to speak to TB to try to persuade him we should do this and maybe GH should speak to Sambrook and tell him that it was re the dossier, nobody. GH said he was almost as steamed up as I was. TB said he didn't want to push the system too far. But my worry was that I wanted a clear win not a messy draw and if they presented it as a draw that was not good enough for us

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GH and I both wanted to get the source up but TB was nervous about it. Felt that we should not push K Tebbitt/Omand too hard, and could maybe bring it out tomorrow if we needed it. TB also feeling that we had to have something for the ISC to go for and that could be this.

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Source idea went nowhere as he had to be interviewed again by Martin Howard, DIS and Personnel.

7 July 2003

Then round with JS [Straw], John S [Scarlett] to see TB who was meeting Kevin Tebbitt, Omand and others re 'the source'. He was ex-inspector, who advised the Government, was aware of information going into the dossier but not involved in drawing it up. He'd once sat next to Jack as expert at select committee. Kevin said the guy claimed he never mentioned me, he was a bit of a show off though. Felt that maybe Gilligan just lied about the stuff about me. It was agreed he should be interviewed again, and then we should get it out that the source was not in the intelligence community, not involved drawing up dossier. Again we should be saying source was misrepresented by [Gilligan]. TB was keen for the officials (KT and DO) to be in control of the process.

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Several chats with MOD, Pam Teare, then Geoff H re the source. Felt we should get it out through the papers, then have line to respond and let TB take it on at Liaison

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Committee. TB felt we had to leave it to Omand/Tebbitt judgement and they didn't want to do it. Had to go for natural justice. GH said there was a problem that he [Dr Kelly] once gave evidence alongside Jack Straw, we were briefing that they [BBC] would eventually apologise. Wall to wall all day, source issue not moving.

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Source going better but not necessarily him

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GH wanted to get up source, TK, GS, felt best to wait until tomorrow and had to do it right.

8 July 2003

Meeting with TB, JS, Scarlett, DM, etc to go over Liaison Committee. Still not clear how we were going to handle the case of the MOD official.

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Said he [GH] should get going on the source issue, TB clear that we should leave the bureaucracy to deal with it.

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TB ... came back [from Liaison Committee] and continued to try to sort the source issue. He met Scarlett and Omand and agreed try to resolve through letter from Ann Taylor. Word then came back she didn't want a letter on it. That meant do it as a press release. JoP, AC, PMOS, John S and Kevin Tebbitt went GS room and wrote press release. Tebbitt wrote letter from GH to Gavyn Davies offering to give him the name of the source. Martin Howard had interviewed David Kelly and was pretty convinced that he was the source, though of course we could not be sure. Tebbitt took it away to MOD and had to clear it with David Kelly who was on a motorway. Then out by 6 and briefing mainly on fact BBC put out a non-denial denial within two hours.

9 July 2003

BBC story moving away because they were refusing to take on the source idea. There was a big conspiracy at work really. We kept pressing on as best we could at the briefings, but the biggest thing needed was the source out. We agreed that we should not do it ourselves, so didn't but later in the day the FT, Guardian after a while Evans [Defence Correspondent of the Times] got the name.

15 July 2003

Looking forward to Kelly giving evidence, but GS, CR and I all predicted it would be a disaster and so it proved. Despite MOD assurances he was well schooled...

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