

Loftus, Paul (L&DR-LON)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 July 2003 19:54
To: 'David Kelly'
Subject: notes ref

1. Regarding notes having been deposited ref http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/3056374.stm

2. Director of news, the D-G, and Editor of Today, know the source name/post and "are said to have been reassured by this knowledge, with one executive boasting that disclosure of his identity would 'transform the debate'" (Times, Thur, 10 Jul, p. 10, col 2)

3. On line guardian story yesterday

Pressure on Gilligan as MoD expert speaks out
 Patrick Wintour
 Saturday July 12, 2003
 The Guardian

Andrew Gilligan, the BBC Today programme's defence correspondent, yesterday came under pressure to give fresh evidence to the foreign affairs select committee next week, following the decision of a Ministry of Defence witness to appear before MPs, writes Patrick Wintour

The consultant David Kelly asserts that he believes he is Gilligan's source and did not tell Gilligan - as the BBC correspondent has claimed - that Alastair Campbell, the government's communications director, had been responsible for "sexing up" the government's September dossier against the wishes of the intelligence services

The committee last night announced that Dr Kelly will appear before MPs next Tuesday. Conservative MPs on the committee led the decision to reopen its inquiry. One Labour MP on the committee, Eric Illsley, said it is possible that Gilligan is in contempt of parliament for failing to give accurate evidence

The stage may be set for a confrontation between the BBC correspondent and parliament, since it is likely that Gilligan will refuse to reveal his source

The BBC has declined to confirm or deny whether Dr Kelly is indeed Gilligan's source, arguing that if it rules out one possible source, the government will come back with another possible name

The committee has agreed to write to Gilligan to confirm whether Dr Kelly is his source and also ask if, on reflection, there is anything else in his evidence to the select committee that he would like to change. As a private citizen, Gilligan would be obliged to attend the committee

Mr Illsley said yesterday "No committee can tolerate evidence being given that is knowingly inaccurate"

COM/4/0061

27/08/2003