

was reliable? By implication, if your source said he was not happy about the 45 minute thing then he was happy with the rest of it.

Mr Gilligan: The fact that my source was not specifically unhappy with other elements of the dossier does not necessarily mean that other elements of the dossier were reliable. Of course it might mean that, but I do not think anything can be drawn from it the other way.

Q457 Mr Oiner: Who from Number Ten asked for the dossier to be changed?

Mr Gilligan: I asked this. The source's claim was that the dossier had been transformed in the week before it was published and I asked, "So how did this transformation happen?", and the answer was a single word, which was "Campbell". I asked, "What do you mean, Campbell made it up?", and he answered, "No. It was real information" - this is the 45 minute claim - "but it was included in the dossier against our wishes because it was not reliable. It was a single source and it was not reliable." He also said that Downing Street officials, he did not name anybody else, had asked repeatedly if there was anything else that could be included on seeing the original draft of the dossier which was considered done.

Q458 Mr Oiner: After having heard evidence on this Committee yesterday, I think the 45 minute thing is irrelevant in a way because if an armament is found it can be used immediately.

Mr Gilligan: Irrelevant to what?

Chairman: Let us get onto the subject.

Q459 Mr Oiner: I thought it was a relevant question to ask.

Mr Gilligan: The 45 minute claim is important because it went to the heart of the Government's case that there was an immediate threat from Saddam, it was not a mere detail and it was one of the most headline grabbing parts of the dossier. The 45 minute claim was far from irrelevant to the case the Government made against Iraq.

Q460 Mr Oiner: Not the Government's headlines, your headlines, the media headlines.

Mr Gilligan: Yes, but it was clearly designed to elicit those sort of headlines. As I say, the implication of 45 minutes was that Iraq was an imminent threat.

Q461 Mr Pope: Just on this issue of the 45 minutes, I want to be very clear about what your source is alleging. Is your source alleging that the 45 minutes did not exist in the assessment that was inserted by Alistair Campbell?

FAC/2/0145