

Mark Damazer

From: Mark Damazer
Sent: 18 July 2003 11 51 AM
To: Donald Steel and Assistant, Richard Sambrook-Internal, Sally Osman
Cc: Kevin Marsh, Stephen Mitchell
Subject: Draft 2 -- Kelly statement Changes in red from draft 1

The BBC wishes to express its deepest sympathy to Dr Kelly's family and friends

*In the appalling circumstances of Dr K's death the BBC will now set out the dealings of its journalists with Dr Kelly
Dr Kelly was the principal source for both Andrew Gilligan's report on The Today programme and for Susan Watts's Newsnight reports*

*Dr Kelly clearly felt the matter was of such concern that he wished to talk about the matter - against official rules.
The BBC felt he was acting as a man of conscience and believed it had a duty to protect him as much as possible*

We set out below a detailed account of the conversations held between Dr Kelly and Andrew Gilligan .

Account of Andrew Gilligan's conversation with him that led to the report's publication

- Every detail
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- Reasons for Kelly as a credible source for the particular allegations

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- Account of Watts conversation with Kelly - every detail
 - Reasons for Kelly as a credible source
 - Contact with Kelly since story published - for both Gilligan and Watts (Note - Gilligan said yesterday at the FAC that he had tried to get the source to 'come out ') Susan Watts did have a conversation with Dr Kelly on xth July
 - The BBC can confirm that Susan Watts and Andrew Gilligan have never spoken , met or had any transaction of any kind -either directly or through a third party - on this story or on any other matter
 - Were there separate attempts to substantiate Dr Kelly's story ?

Dr Kelly was rapidly proved right on some central elements of the story told to our journalists in May. The FAC discovered that the 45 minute WMD intelligence had indeed been based on a single uncorroborated source and further that it had only been included shortly before the dossier's publication. In these circumstances the BBC did not feel it could disown Dr Kelly or his information

SECTION 2

- BBC response to Kelly evidence to the FAC and Gilligan to the FAC yesterday

When the MoD statement suggested that Dr Kelly was the source the BBC did not believe it right to confirm their view. Dr Kelly had not spoken for himself at this stage and we were still seeking to protect him. At no time had Dr Kelly indicated to either Andrew Gilligan or to Susan Watts that he was willing for them to identify him as their source. In his evidence to the committee it was clear that he did not wish to be seen as providing the information for the two separate reports

*After Dr Kelly had given his evidence those in the BBC who knew his role considered carefully what Dr Kelly had chosen to say
As regards his transactions with Susan Watts - she felt that Dr Kelly had said nothing untrue. He confirmed that he*