

0607

Gilligan brief okp

Duration: 2'21"

NAME AND TITLE OF CONTRIBUTOR: ANDREW GILLIGAN Defence corr  
EX TFC

DRAFT CUE: Doubts about the reliability of Tony Blair's  
assertion last September that Iraq could deploy WMD within  
45 minutes have been confirmed by this programme.

WHAT DO THEY SAY:

\*Evidence that experts felt their work was being  
misrepresented to justify an attack on Iraq to fit in with  
the US led timetable for overthrowing Saddam Hussein

BACKGROUND:

GILLIGAN'S NOTES FROM HIS SOURCE INT

Q: What about the Blair Dossier (of Sept 24th 2002) When we  
last met (in Spring 2002) you said the dossier wouldn't  
tell us anything we didn't already know.

A: Until the week before it was just the same as I told  
you. It was transformed in the week before it was  
published to make it sexier.

Q: What do you mean?

A: The classic was the statement that WMD were ready for  
use within 45 minutes. Most things in the dossier were  
double-sourced but that was a single source. And we  
believed that the source was wrong. He said it took 45  
minutes to construct a missile assembly and that was  
misinterpreted (in the dossier) to mean that WMD could be  
deployed in 45 minutes. What we thought it actually meant  
was that they could launch a conventional missile in 45  
minutes. There was no evidence that they had loaded  
missiles with WMD, or could do so anything like that  
quickly.

Q: So how did this transformation happen ?

A: Campbell

Q: What do you mean? They made it up?

A: No, it was real information. But it was included in the  
dossier against our wishes because it wasn't reliable. It  
was a single source and it was not reliable"

He also said DST had asked if there was anything else on

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