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"This is not diplomacy that we're witnessing here but rather an unscomly scramble by individual countries to salvage their own reputations in all this for the history books. The attempt to blame the French is frankly a canard. The reason that the British and the Americans killed off their own resolution is not because of the threat of a veto but simply because it didn't have the support in the Security Council. And the longer I have watched this go on the more obvious that has become. Frankly they would have been better off if they'd never tried this at all."

"America came here to try to sell its view of the world. But failed to make the sale. Its diplomacy was heavy-handed, even inept at times. Many of Bush's own team were openly scornful of the whole diplomatic process. They talked all the time about the need for American security after 9/11 but very little about the global context. Yet despite all of that, we all assumed the sheer weight of American power would prevail. But it didn't. Five months of bargaining and arm-twisting produced the staggering result of winning over Bulgaria".

This is not reporting, but editorialising. Could you justify each of these three statements.

4. Andrew Gilligan said on the Today programme today that "innocent people will die here in the next few hours". Could you justify that statement to me.
5. Ragab Omaar in Baghdad on Tuesday quoted what he called an "ordinary Iraqi" as saying "I know that British and Americans say they'll spare civilian targets this man said but few of us believe them. I think they're just going to bomb everything and most of us are going to stay in our homes".

As I have said to you before, and as John Simpson has acknowledged, reporters are not free in either their movements or who they speak to. What is more, any "ordinary" Iraqi who speaks to the media knows that if they say anything that would offend the regime, they risk punishment up to and including death. This is why it is so important that restrictions are referred to. I regret that in your previous correspondence you fail to see this point. For my part, I feel you are in regular breach of your own guidelines.

Finally, let me just take one issue in more detail, namely the legality of military action without a new SCR, to illustrate the selection towards anti-war, anti-government stories.

BBC/4/0132

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