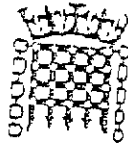


GERALD KAUFMAN MP

From: The Rt. Hon. Gerald Kaufman, M.P.

WILLS
CAMDELL PAGE 0:



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1 April 2003

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Richard Sambrook
Director
News

INTRO
CAMDELL
CORRESPONDENT R.

Dear Mr Sambrook

Andrew Gilligan claimed on Radio 5 today that "people here are saying the Republican Guard hasn't really been damaged at all and they could be right" (R5 1220)

Who told him the Republican Guard hasn't been damaged - the Iraqi Ministry of Information? On what evidence does he base this claim - in particular the assertion that they could be right? Was this report monitored? Does Mr Gilligan have a minder?

Would you agree Andrew Gilligan's report today broke several of the BBC's own guidelines, including:

"Reports should normally make it absolutely clear where the information has come from, and be attributed accordingly."

"Reporters and correspondents in the battle areas will often be reporting what they have not themselves seen. That should be made evident."

"We will have a great deal of information from both military and various governments' briefings. That too should be made evident and tested as to its reliability."

"We should also make clear if our reporting has had to take place with a "minder" present or our ability to travel has been circumscribed by the authorities."

"Beware of speculation, and overstated claims from all sides. Context is essential."

Yours sincerely

Gerald Kaufman

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