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From Director, News

Alastair Campbell, Esq.,
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2 April, 2003

Dear Alastair,

Thank you for your letter. Gerald Kaufman has written in strikingly similar terms.

Andrew Gilligan was asked on Radio 5 Live:

"Can you tell from where you are whether the bombing of The Republican Guard is effective?"

He began his answer - "We can't tell." Your letter does not mention this. Thereafter Andrew's remarks were founded on legitimate professional judgement. He cited the Kosovo campaign where the number of Serbian armoured vehicles damaged was less than had been hoped. Andrew also was relaying what Iraqis had told him - and that is the way he puts it. Further, Andrew's judgement was self-evidently not definitive. Later in the interview he said "So far they (those with doubts about the effectiveness of the bombing of the Republican Guard) may be right." He did not say they *were* right.

On your point about monitoring and minding - I am sure that you have watched and listened enough to know that for nearly a fortnight - since the Iraqis changed their way of dealing with foreign journalists - we have been alerting our audiences that reporters cannot move around the city exactly as they please - and that pieces are monitored. This particular Radio 5 interview with

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