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From Director, News

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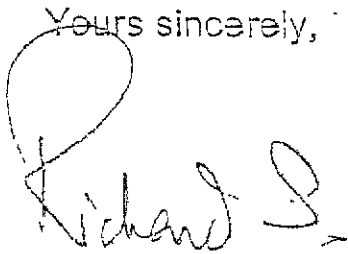
Dear Alastair,

Thank you for your letter and the transcript of Andrew Gilligan on News 24. I agree his final phrase is unacceptable. In mitigation I would only say it was live and at the end of an interview, the rest of which seems to me be appropriate. Gilligan has also been adept at highlighting from Baghdad weaknesses in the Iraqi regime - for example, this morning's interview when he pressed the Foreign Minister on Saddam Hussein's whereabouts which the Minister was unable to deal with.

Nevertheless this particular phrase was unacceptable, which I regret, and will take it up with Andrew Gilligan.

Thank you for drawing it to my attention.

Yours sincerely,

  
(Richard Sambrook)

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