

TRANSCRIPT OF EXTRACTS FROM
BBC RADIO 4 WORLD AT ONE PROGRAMME
THURSDAY 29th MAY 2003

Nick Clarke (Presenter):

While Mr Blair experiences for himself the reality of post-war Iraq, he continues, as he himself acknowledged, to have trouble dealing with pre-war controversies at home. The latest row to flair up concerns the Government's use of intelligence material to make the case for war. The Today Programme this morning reported the views of an anonymous member of the Security Services who cast doubt on the status of the dossier published with a foreword by Tony Blair last September. This informant suggested that Downing Street asked for the material provided to be beefed up, made more sexy, and that in one highly significant instance chose to highlight a piece of information that came from a single source. The intelligence services conventionally demand double-sourcing at least. The information in question was the claim that Saddam Hussein could mobilise weapons of mass destruction in 45 minutes, a point made strongly by Mr Blair. The Today Programme informant said that the intelligence community wasn't happy about this, nor about the document as a whole because it didn't properly represent their considered view about Iraq at that time. Downing Street responded with a carefully worded, if inelegant, denial:

Actor: *'Not one word of the dossier was not entirely the work of the intelligence agencies'*

NC: The Today Programme then went back to Number Ten to ask the specific question: Had they made any request to MI6 to beef up the available intelligence material? The reply came back:

Actor: *'We will not get involved in processology'*

NC: The minister despatched to answer questions on Iraq this morning was the Armed Forces Minister Adam Ingram. He denied the suggestion that there might be any unhappiness in the intelligence services about Downing Streets approach to the dossier:

Adam Ingram: The war was fought for er, on the basis of all of those allegations, much of which was substantiated, not just in a security document produced by our security services, not concocted by by Number 10, or pressured, a pressure from Number 10 to produce it in a particular way, but their best knowledge, and their best assessment of what they could play out into the public domain, and based upon the knowledge which was out there, the whole world know what Saddam Hussein was up to in terms of the weapons of mass destruction, that's why we prosecuted that war, that's why we were right.

NC: Adam Ingram. But he will not have drawn a line under the affair. The charge that intelligence material was in any way being exploited for political ends is a