

✓-----Original Message-----

From: Gavin Hewitt
Sent: 27 June 2003 08:29
To: Richard Sambrook-Internal
Subject: RE: re: dossiers debate

Richard,
Yes please use anything from that first conversation in your reply to Campbell. The man was my main source for the Ten piece and the person who told me 'No 10 spin did come into play'. Privately I am, of course, happy to tell you precisely who he was. He was consulted on the dossier and had intimate knowledge of how it came together. He is senior and is recognised as one of the principal experts in the field of biological/chemical weapons. He has a role in government at a senior level but not at M16. I hope that is not too cryptic but I am trying to protect him being identified. However - as I said - v willing to tell you who he is.

Thanks
gavin

-----Original Message-----

From: Richard Sambrook-Internal
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2003 10:57 AM
To: Gavin Hewitt
Subject: RE: re: dossiers debate
Importance: High

Gavin

Thanks that is extremely useful. Do you mind if I use some of that in the Campbell reply?
Can you give me at least a broad sense of the seniority of your source for the Ten?

Thanks
R

-----Original Message-----

From: Gavin Hewitt
Sent: 27 June 2003 08:34
To: Richard Sambrook-Internal
Subject: re: dossiers debate

Richard,
Thought it might be helpful to mention my conversations re the 'sexed up' dossiers. On the day that Andrew G broke the story on the Today programme Mark Popescu asked me whether we could add anything for the 10.00 news. Without talking to Andrew I spoke to a very respected individual who had been consulted on and involved in the preparation of the september dossier. He said that dossier had been based almost entirely on UK sources. He said it had been prepared over a six month period but that in the final week it had become frenetic with material being taken out and material being added. In his view 'No 10 spin did come into play'. The view was that material was being presented in a very 'black and white way'. However he still supported the basic conclusions that Iraq had a weapons of mass destruction programme. On the news that night I stated clearly - on the basis of this conversation - that 'No 10 spin did come into play'.

_____ a conversation was had on my behalf _____ at M16. They were more concerned with the intelligence unit that had been set up by Rumsfeld at the Pentagon. 'It had done very serious damage'. They still supported the basic assertions in the september dossier but there was 'unease' over the way the material had been presented.

Later that day I spoke to Dame Pauline Neville Jones. Although I did not use this clip she said on camera that at the time of the september dossier she had heard mutterings within the intelligence community. Again it was not that people disagreed with the thrust of what was being published, it was just that some of the