

Head of Security Policy  
From: ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Dursumi  
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JOHN SCARLETT

cc: Sir David Omand

## IRAQ WMD: LEAKS TO THE MEDIA

### Issue

Your note of 4 June asked for early advice on how best to manage the leaks to the media regarding Iraq and weapons of mass destruction, in particular the Today Programme report on 29 May about the "45 minute" report on CW in Iraq and the references in The Sunday Times of 1 June to your note to Alastair Campbell about the September 2002 dossier. This note sets out what might be done initially short of establishing a full inquiry.

### Outcome

The steps described can be taken immediately but their effect will be limited to establishing some of the facts preliminary to an inquiry and are unlikely in themselves to uncover the culprit(s).

I also list some factors which may lead you to revisit the question of whether a full inquiry (which I interpret as being the appointment of an investigator and instigation of a series of interviews with those who had knowledge of the leaked information) would on balance be helpful. This includes extant PQs from Lord Lester of Herne Hill and Gregory Barker MP for answer on Monday.

### Commentary

1. From initial analysis it so far appears that one document has been leaked (the Scarlett/Campbell memo of 20 Sept 2002). In addition, a growing number of oral briefings are occurring, mainly to the BBC, based upon alleged knowledge of the exchanges between the JIC and No10 about the dossier. The briefings are said to be from a number of government sources.
2. Short of employing an investigator, I think what can realistically be done is confined to clarifying some of the detail of the leaked memo's history. It might also be possible to identify those who were in a position of knowledge to provide oral briefings to the press about the negotiations on the dossier, though anecdotal