

CONFIDENTIAL

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DATE: 10 June 2003
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{e-mail only}

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IRAQ WMD: LEAKS TO THE MEDIA

1. Thank you for your minute of 9 June. I read with interest [REDACTED] ^{Head of SPD} advice. I share your view that we do not at present have the basis on which we could launch a formal leak enquiry. I am not clear how much of what has appeared in the newspapers is embellishment of what journalists might reasonably have inferred from casual conversations, how much may have been drawn from well meaning attempts by officials to set records straight, and how much is because someone has breached their trust and provided unauthorised information for gain or for a malicious purpose.
2. I am in the same position as you are in relation to any possible leak, since my office also handled some of the relevant papers, and would have known the background to the issues. I am attracted therefore the idea that T3, working in consultation with [REDACTED] ^{Head of SPD} (and I assume with MOD and the Agencies' security officers) might assemble the facts and see if there are any patterns that would warrant a more formal enquiry including interviewing individuals. Could [REDACTED] see if T3 would be prepared to do some initial work on this?

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Head of SPD

DAVID OMAND

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