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To: Stephen Pattison,
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**SUBJECT: DR DAVID KELLY: REQUESTS FOR PRESS INTERVIEWS:
FCO HANDLING**

Customary practice

1. The manner in which Press and media contacts with FCO were handled, in my experience, was as follows. The request for an interview would be made to the Press Office. They in turn would contact CPD where the identity of the journalist, nature of the news outlet and any potential sensitivities were discussed and a decision made on whether to accept or reject. The Press Office or CPD would then speak to Dr Kelly to relay our views and ask whether he was ready to go ahead.
2. There were obviously also instances where he was contacted first by the journalist or researcher but he was, as far as I was aware, scrupulous about informing FCO in order to seek prior agreement and discuss areas on which he should not be drawn. This situation applied over a number of years. I took on the responsibility of being most often the initial CPD point of contact on becoming Deputy Head of Department in September 2000. Other colleagues, in what was then the UNSCOM/UNMOVIC Section, may have handled requests in my absence on leave. Dr Kelly would also on occasion call in from overseas to inform us of an unexpected request for a TV appearance in the US or Canada and, I also recall, an interview for German radio.
3. He was much in demand and an obvious Press target because of his technical expertise and experience as an UNSCOM inspector. His frequent visits to New York gave him an international profile. I, in turn, had confidence in him as he had become an accomplished media performer. On what was always a difficult and complex issue he expressed himself clearly and put across HMG's line with authority.
4. This system, which ultimately relied on self-discipline and judgement on all sides, worked well and provided the media with expert background briefing and led to no embarrassments for HMG over the period 2000-2002.