

ISC didn't give a running commentary on its work and it would be wrong for Downing Street to do so on their behalf.

Asked if there had been any guidelines in place during the publishing of the dossier in February as to the treatment of intelligence material the PMOS said on a purely factual basis the February document was referred to by himself at the time as a briefing paper and was different in character to the September dossier. The PMOS said that he himself had admitted the following morning quite openly that mistakes had been made in terms of not attributing material and had said procedures would have to be tightened as a result. Those procedures were tightened after that. Questioned further the PMOS said that the fact that we tightened procedures indicated that the procedures in place at that time had not applied to those particular circumstances.

Asked if the Prime Minister or Alastair Campbell would appear before the ISC if requested the PMOS repeated that the Prime Minister had met them today and it was right and proper that we wait and see what came out of that conversation. The Prime Minister was perfectly relaxed about talking to them but the normal conventions applied. Questioned further on this the PMOS reminded journalists that the ISC did not give a running commentary on their actions and he was not going to do it for them. Asked if he expected the ISC to see the Prime Minister before the next annual meeting the PMOS said that was an entirely a matter for the ISC. To clarify for the benefit of journalists the PMOS repeated that he had briefed last week that the Prime Minister would have a discussion with the ISC today and it was entirely up to them what they discussed. That was the normal convention. It was equally however the case that the normal convention of the ISC is that they do not provide a running commentary of what they do and thus it would be entirely wrong for the PMOS to breach that normal convention. Asked if that meant there should be a public enquiry the PMOS said that the ISC operated the way it did for very good reasons because of the kind of material which it deals with. The PMOS said he felt there was a danger that people were overlooking the significance of what the ISC did say about the way were procedures were properly carried through in September and he felt it would be a pity if people ignored the evidence in front of them.

#### **PRESS BRIEFING: 11AM MONDAY 23 JUNE 2003**

#### **IRAQ/INQUIRY**

The Prime Minister's Official Spokesman (PMOS) informed journalists that the Foreign Secretary had written this morning to the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee (FAC) to inform him that the Prime Minister's Director of Communications and Strategy, Alastair Campbell, would give evidence to the Committee at a time and place of their choosing. The PMOS briefed on the

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