

on a document for public consumption. This was not something that we took lightly, as I believe the Chairman of the JIC and the other Agencies involved would acknowledge. I emphasised at all times both in our discussions and in any written outcomes of our various meetings that nothing should be published with which the JIC and the Agencies upon it were not 100 per cent happy. Also, as the document was being presented to Parliament by the Prime Minister, the utmost care was taken by all involved in its preparation.

I should therefore emphasise that the intelligence judgements were entirely those of the JIC and there was no question of interference with them. The allegation that I "sexed up" the document and in so doing abused intelligence is one that I reject entirely, and I have the support of the Chairman of the JIC, and the head of the SIS, (John, are you happy with this (and can you check that Richard is)) in so doing. The claim that the "45 minute" command and control point was put in at my or No. 10's insistence is false. It is a serious allegation and one I am keen to rebut to the FAC. It is a serious allegation not just against me but against the JIC, in that it suggests they would have allowed something to be said in their name which was not a true representation of what they believed.

The second document under investigation was intended as a background briefing paper to highlight the fact that the Iraqi state was configured to produce and conceal WMD. The idea arose when new intelligence came to light revealing the numbers of people involved in this programme of deception and concealment. It was my idea, as I recall, to prepare a background briefing paper. It is the kind of paper that No. 10 and Government Departments produce fairly regularly as a means of informing debate on domestic or international issues. But compared to