

Committee. TB felt we had to leave it to Omand/Tebbitt judgement and they didn't want to do it. Had to go for natural justice. GH said there was a problem that he [Dr Kelly] once gave evidence alongside Jack Straw, we were briefing that they [BBC] would eventually apologise. Wall to wall all day, source issue not moving.

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Source going better but not necessarily him

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GH wanted to get up source, TK, GS, felt best to wait until tomorrow and had to do it right.

8 July 2003

Meeting with TB, JS, Scarlett, DM, etc to go over Liaison Committee. Still not clear how we were going to handle the case of the MOD official.

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Said he [GH] should get going on the source issue, TB clear that we should leave the bureaucracy to deal with it.

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TB ... came back [from Liaison Committee] and continued to try to sort the source issue. He met Scarlett and Omand and agreed try to resolve through letter from Ann Taylor. Word then came back she didn't want a letter on it. That meant do it as a press release. JoP, AC, PMOS, John S and Kevin Tebbitt went GS room and wrote press release. Tebbitt wrote letter from GH to Gavyn Davies offering to give him the name of the source. Martin Howard had interviewed David Kelly and was pretty convinced that he was the source, though of course we could not be sure. Tebbitt took it away to MOD and had to clear it with David Kelly who was on a motorway. Then out by 6 and briefing mainly on fact BBC put out a non-denial denial within two hours.

9 July 2003

BBC story moving away because they were refusing to take on the source idea. There was a big conspiracy at work really. We kept pressing on as best we could at the briefings, but the biggest thing needed was the source out. We agreed that we should not do it ourselves, so didn't but later in the day the FT, Guardian after a while Evans [Defence Correspondent of the Times] got the name.

15 July 2003

Looking forward to Kelly giving evidence, but GS, CR and I all predicted it would be a disaster and so it proved. Despite MOD assurances he was well schooled...

CAB/39/0002