

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Informal minutes of the meeting on Thursday 10 July at 10.00 am,
in Committee Room 8

Members present: Chairman, Mr David Chidgey, Mr Eric Illsley, Mr Andrew Mackinlay, Mr Bill Olnier, Mr Richard Ottaway, Mr Greg Pope and Sir John Stanley.

The Decision to go to War in Iraq

1. The Committee noted the article in the 'Times' newspaper that day concerning the suggestion by the Ministry of Defence that one its officials, Dr David Kelly, was the source of Mr Gilligan's report on the origin of the '45 minute' claim in the September 2002 dossier.
2. The Committee agreed that the Chairman should write to:
 - i) Rt Hon Mr Geoff Hoon MP, Secretary of State for Defence, to confirm when Dr Kelly met Mr Gilligan; and
 - ii) Mr Andrew Gilligan, to confirm when he met with the source of the '45 minute' claim.
3. It was also agreed that the Clerk would clarify Dr Kelly's position and employment status with the Foreign Office.
4. The Committee further agreed that the Chairman would chase up the reply promised by the Secretary of State during the oral evidence session on Friday 27 June concerning the passage of information by the US authorities to the British intelligence services regarding the 'uranium from Niger' claims.
5. Sir John Stanley proposed that the Committee invite Dr Kelly to give oral evidence on Tuesday 15 July.

The Committee divided.

Ayes, 4	Noes, 3
David Chidgey	Eric Illsley
Andrew Mackinlay	Bill Olnier
Richard Ottaway	Greg Pope
Sir John Stanley	

It was agreed that Dr Kelly would be invited to give oral evidence.

6. The Committee agreed to delegate the examination of the sidelining of the Foreign Secretary's private evidence proposed by the FCO to the Chairman, Sir John Stanley and the Clerk.

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