

Mr Maples: Thank you very much.

Q443 Chairman: You have said that the agencies were laying down ultimata to the Government. What did you mean by that?

Mr Gilligan: Would you remind me of the context again.

Q444 Chairman: It was a phrase which I wrote down as you were saying it, that the agencies were "laying down ultimata".

Mr Gilligan: Yes, that is right. That was something that was reported, as I mentioned, by the *Independent* and the *Guardian* in the week after the 45-minute story broke. I cannot remember the exact words of the reporting but it was in terms of: the agencies have asked the Government to make a clearer distinction between material derived from intelligence and material derived from Downing Street or government with regard to your sub-editing in any future dossiers. That was it.

Q445 Chairman: That is in respect of the January dossier rather than

Mr Gilligan: It is in respect of all future dossiers.

Q446 Chairman: But it arose after the publication of the January dossier.

Mr Gilligan: The story emerged after the row over the September dossier, the 45-minute story. You will remember that the Prime Minister was asked to answer some of the criticisms expressed at the time by promising, I think, a third dossier, and I think this was in relation to that promised future dossier.

Q447 Chairman: Was this suggested to you as well by your sources?

Mr Gilligan: As I say, an intelligence source contacted me and said, "The story in *The Independent* is spot on."

Q448 Chairman: Right. Were these ultimata meant to be in written form?

Mr Gilligan: I do not know.

Q449 Sir John Stanley: Mr Gilligan, could I go back to what you describe as the 45-minute story and to what you said on the *Today* programme on May 29. We are referring here not to the so-called "dodgy dossier" but to the assessment of September 2002. You said this: "I have spoken to a British official who was involved in the preparation of the dossier and he told me that until the week before it was published the draft dossier produced by the intelligence services

FAC/2/0142