

adds little to what was already publicly known." He said, "It was transformed the week before it was published to make it sexier. The classic example was the statement that WMD were ready for use in 45 minutes. That information was not in the original draft. It was included in the dossier against their wishes because it wasn't reliable." Mr Gilligan, we have specifically put that issue to the Foreign Secretary and we have received the Foreign Secretary's response. The question we put to the Foreign Secretary was this: "Was the wording of the 45-minutes claim given on page 19 of the document *Iraq's Weapons of Mass Destruction* exactly the same as it was in the intelligence assessments applied to the Government? If not, was it accompanied in the intelligence assessment by qualifications not included in the public document?" The answer we have received from the Foreign Secretary is this: "The same report was reflected in almost identical terms in the JIC's classified work. There were no further caveats used." The question I put to you is this: against what has been clearly stated now by the Foreign Secretary, are you saying that the Foreign Secretary is lying to this Committee? Or will you now acknowledge that your source was incorrect in saying that the 45-minutes claim was not based on a genuine assessment of the JIC, fully approved through the JIC process?

**Mr Gilligan:** I note the words "almost identical" in the Foreign Secretary's response. I would simply say that it is not my business to say whether the Foreign Secretary is lying or not. All I would say is that I invested strong credibility in my source, who is a person of impeccable standing on this issue, and whose complaints have been reflected in something like seven or eight newspapers and other media outlets, including other BBC outlets, since my original story and his complaints have also been reflected by named, on the record, former intelligence officers from Australia, from the United States, and also, to some extent, by other Members of the House.

**Q450 Sir John Stanley:** You are making, Mr Gilligan, a very, very serious allegation against the integrity of the JIC. The entire ----

**Mr Gilligan:** I am not making any allegations.

**Q451 Sir John Stanley:** I am sorry, may I just go on. You are making, in my view, a very serious allegation against the integrity of the JIC, all the members of the JIC and, most particularly, against the integrity of the JIC Chairman. You are saying that the JIC Committee and its Chairman, under pressure, which you are implying is political pressure from, presumably, 10 Downing Street, "sexed up" their original assessment at the last moment and introduced material which according to your source was unreliable. You are effectively saying that the whole of the JIC system, including the Chairman, connived in a political embellishing of a JIC assessment for political purposes. I

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