

cannot think of anything more damaging by way of an accusation to make against the professional integrity of those who serve on the JIC.

Mr Gilligan: I would repeat, as I have said throughout, I am not making any allegations. My source made the allegations. We were reporting the charge of my source, who is a figure sufficiently senior and credible to be worth reporting.

Q452 Sir John Stanley: I accept you are reporting your source, but you and your organisation chose to give this matter publicity in this country and around the world to the effect that the JIC system, including the Chairman, was effectively a party to including unreliable intelligence assessments material in a document going round under the JIC's imprimatur. I put it to you that is a very, very serious allegation to give the sort of publicity which you have given.

Mr Gilligan: As I have said, the JIC did not enter into my report. I reported the source as saying there was unhappiness within the intelligence services, disquiet within the intelligence services. The JIC and the intelligence services are not the same thing. The JIC is a Committee of the Cabinet Office and the intelligence services are represented on it, but they are not the same thing.

Q453 Sir John Stanley: Can you say whether your source suggested that any other pieces of the text that were put in at the last minute, presumably following its approval to the JIC system, other than the references to 45 minutes, were inserted at the last minute before the document was made public?

Mr Gilligan: He was quite cutting about the claim that uranium had been sought from Africa.

Q454 Sir John Stanley: Are you suggesting, apart from being quite cutting, that that was a last minute addition as well?

Mr Gilligan: I am not sure. No, I do not think I am because I do not think he quite said that. He was of the opinion, however, that that was unreliable information.

Q455 Sir John Stanley: In terms of your evidence to this Committee, the only piece of evidence which you are specifying was allegedly made at the last minute subject to a political requirement to "sex it up", to use your phrase, is the 45 minute claim?

Mr Gilligan: That was the only specific piece of evidence that my source discussed, yes.

Sir John Stanley: Thank you.

Q456 Mr O'ner: So the rest of the evidence that was in the dossier

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