

**Mr Gilligan:** I will quote his words again. He said, "It was real information. It was the information of a single source." My source did not believe it was reliable. He believed that that single source had made a mistake, that he had confused the deployment time for a conventional missile with the deployment time for a CBW missile. He did not believe that any missiles had been armed with CBW that would therefore be able to be fireable at 45 minutes' notice. He believed that claim was unreliable.

**Q462 Mr Pope:** But that view was not necessarily shared by the Joint Intelligence Committee because they did have, albeit a single source, evidence of the 45 minutes.

**Mr Gilligan:** That is right, absolutely, yes.

**Q463 Mr Pope:** Has your source made any wider allegations or expressed concerns about Number Ten in general and Alistair Campbell in particular interfering in intelligence assessments?

**Mr Gilligan:** He expressed concern that Downing Street had spoiled its case against Iraq by exaggeration. I want to make it clear that my source, in common with all the intelligence sources I have spoken to, does believe that Iraq had a weapons of mass destruction programme. His view, however, was that it was not the imminent threat described by the Government.

**Q464 Mr Chidgey:** On that very point, we took evidence earlier in the week from Clare Short. Would you have a view on whether or not your source might have been briefing her on this issue?

**Mr Gilligan:** No.

**Q465 Mr Chidgey:** It seems rather similar.

**Mr Gilligan:** It is a hypothetical. I just cannot comment on it.

**Q466 Mr Chidgey:** Can I draw you back to the uranium from Africa claim. You said that your source's response to that issue was "crisp". Did you have any more detailed discussion with your source? Could you share with us how your source analysed that particular issue and came to the conclusion that his remark should be crisp?

**Mr Gilligan:** My source believed that the documents on which the allegation rested were forged.

**Q467 Mr Chidgey:** That has been proven subsequently, has it?

**Mr Gilligan:** Yes. I believe it was a letter from a minister who had left the Niger government several years previously.

FAAC/2/0146