

court of Parliament and I want you to tell the Committee who you met.

**Dr Kelly:** On this occasion I think it is proper that the Ministry of Defence communicates that to you.

**Chairman:** But it is a proper question.

**Andrew Mackinlay:** You are under an obligation to reply.

**Chairman:** If you have met journalists there is nothing sinister in itself about meeting journalists, save in an unauthorised way.

**Q108 Andrew Mackinlay:** Who are they?

**Dr Kelly:** The only people that I can remember having spoken to in recent times about this particular issue - not about this particular issue - is Jane Corbin and Susan Watts.

**Q109 Andrew Mackinlay:** Okay. Can I ask you this: I think part of what you have said in the press, and I do have some sympathy with this, is that it was like a culture and some of your meetings with the press were not necessarily authorised but it was understood that you had been around a long time, is that correct?

**Dr Kelly:** I do not think I have made any such statement to the press.

**Q110 Andrew Mackinlay:** What are the ground rules for talking to the press amongst you and your peers?

**Dr Kelly:** Normally you have to have authorisation or a request by the Ministry to interact in such a way.

**Q111 Andrew Mackinlay:** But you did not on this occasion?

**Dr Kelly:** I did not.

**Q112 Andrew Mackinlay:** Why not?

**Dr Kelly:** I think you have to look back at my history. I have been involved with the press for ten to 12 years, primarily as an UNSCOM inspector, and when I was a chief inspector I had responsibility for dealing with the press. Since then I have been asked on many occasions by both the United Nations and by the Foreign Office and the Ministry of Defence to provide interviews both to British and international press. As a consequence of that, it is quite often follow-ups on clarification of issues with contact numbers, and so one responds to that.

**Q113 Andrew Mackinlay:** Basically you are saying you have a general mandate?

FAC | 4 | 0016