

CHIDGEY, David

From: Greg Simpson [G Simpson@libdems.org.uk]
Sent: 14 July 2003 15:22
To: 'chidgeyd@parliament.uk'
Subject: FW: David Kelly - pls onpass to David Chidgey

-----Original Message-----

From: Andrew Gilligan-INTERNET [mailto:andrew.gilligan@bbc.co.uk]
Sent: 14 July 2003 14:25
To: Greg Simpson
Subject: David Kelly - pls onpass to David Chidgey

Greg,

We have been doing some research on David Kelly. Aside from the red herring of a source-hunt, he is an extremely interesting witness in his own right - probably, if he answers fully, the best you'll have had.

He is described in one of the standard reference works (Tom Mangold and Jeff Goldberg, *Plague Wars*) as "the senior adviser on biological warfare to the MoD...the West's leading biological warfare inspector" with "world-recognised expertise in every aspect of biological warfare [whose] knowledge cannot be overtrumped."

- As has been reported, he was the chief field inspector of UNSCOM, the predecessor to UNMOVIC. He led the first and last BW inspections in Iraq carried out by UNSCOM.

- He was one of three officials who accompanied Jack Straw when Straw gave evidence to the FAC about Iraq's WMD programmes on September 25 2002, one day after publication of the Blair dossier. He said hardly anything, however; Straw did all the talking.

- We believe he is currently the chief British inspector on the Iraq Survey Group (the No.2 Brit in the Group under Brigadier John Deverell, the British contingent commander.)

Questions for Kelly

What is the current state of the Iraq Survey Group's knowledge about Iraq's BW programme? Have you found anything?

Did you believe in September 2002 that Iraq was an immediate danger? Was everyone happy about the inclusion of the 45 minute point in the dossier in the light of what's been discovered since? Did you know the 45-minute point was single-source? Were there any arguments between the intelligence services and No 10 over the dossier?

Above all, he should be asked to say what kind of a threat Iraq was in September 2002 in his opinion. If he is able to answer frankly it should be devastating. Obviously he works for the Government and who pays the piper calls the tune. But if you could put some of these quotes (particularly the Watts) to him I think it would have some impact.

He is on record as saying that Iraq was NOT the greatest WMD threat. Leakage from the Russian programmes, he believed, was a greater threat.

For instance, CBC (Canadian TV), 23 October 2002: "Leakage from Russia is the greatest threat, because Russia had a dedicated programme and a great understanding of how you use smallpox as a volatile weapon."

On 18 Oct 2001, at the height of the US anthrax scare, Kelly told *The Independent* that if suspicion fell on any country as the source of the US anthrax "the obvious one is Russia, it's a league ahead of Iraq." He also said that Iraq had "too much at stake" to take part in any action against the West.

He also told my colleague Susan Watts, science editor of *Newsnight* (who described him as "a senior official intimately involved with the process of pulling together the