

RESTRICTED

13



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
ROOM 205, OLD WAR OFFICE BUILDING
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2EU

Telephone 020 721 82111/2/3
Fax 020 721 87140
E-mail defencesecretary@defence.mod.uk

SECRETARY OF STATE

MO 21/8/4H

11 July 2003

Dear Geoffrey,

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE: DR KELLY

As you know, the Defence Secretary received a letter yesterday afternoon from the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Donald Anderson, asking that Dr David Kelly should appear before the FAC on Tuesday 15 July at 1500. At about the same time, we received an oral request from the Clerk to the Intelligence and Security Committee (ISC) asking for Dr Kelly to appear before them on the same day at 1230 for about 45 minutes. Donald Anderson has asked for a reply by 1600 today. The Government has already indicated, in the MOD press statement issued on Tuesday 8 July, that it would not object if the ISC asked to see Dr Kelly as part of their current inquiry.

The Defence Secretary has given the request from the FAC careful consideration. There are reasons for resisting this request

- The FAC have already completed their inquiry. (Indeed, their report was finalised on 3 July before MOD officials had interviewed Dr Kelly themselves)
- A separate session to question Dr Kelly would attach disproportionate importance to him in relation to the subject of the FAC's inquiry as a whole.
- The ISC is better placed than the FAC to handle the national security dimensions should the question of intelligence material arise.
- It is fairer on the man himself not to expect him to appear before two Parliamentary Committees within the space of 3 hours

Geoffrey Adams Esq
PS/Foreign Secretary

RESTRICTED

M00/1/0077