

[REDACTED]

D/CB(S+S)Sy 7/1

6 August 2003

Tribunals Enquiry Unit

Copy to:

PS/2<sup>nd</sup> PUS\*

\*Less Annex A

PS/VCDS\*

DG CB\*

D CB(S+S)

SECURITY INFRINGEMENT - ROOM 3/18, METROPOLE BUILDING - 20 JULY 2003

1. You requested a summary of the events concerning the discovery of the unsecured classified burning bag in room 3/18, Metropole Building, on Sunday 20 July 2003. You will be aware that I informed the Joint Managers of the security breach, following an article in the Daily Telegraph on 1 August, allegedly linking the discovery of an unsecured burning bag to the disposal of documents relating to Dr David Kelly (D/CB(S+S)Sy7/1 dated 1 August refers).

**SUMMARY OF EVENTS**

2. On Sunday 20 July 2003, at approximately 11.20 hours, a Ministry of Defence Guard Service (MGS) officer discovered a classified burning bag left unsecured in room 3/18, during a routine check of Metropole Building, London. On investigation, a document classified Secret UK Eyes Only was discovered. This document, attached at Annex A, was found to have the name David Kelly written in blue ink.

3. In light of the recent media coverage relating to Dr Kelly, the officer removed the burning bag to the MGS Control Room. He completed a security infringement report and, following advice from the Whitehall Main Control Room duty officer, contacted the Ministry of Defence Police (MDP), who attended the scene. The MDP officer sealed the room pending further investigation. The burning bag was removed, in an evidence bag, to the Seized Property Locker located in the Old War Office Building and an MDP officer posted on duty outside room 3/18.

4. On Monday 21 July, the Metropolitan Police collected the burning bag from the MDP and took it to New Scotland Yard, where officers examined the contents on behalf of Thames Valley Police. Following this examination, the assessment was that the contents of the bag were unlikely to be significant in terms of the Kelly inquiry. At this point, the MDP gave permission for Room 3/18 to be released. As a matter of routine, the Metropolitan Police Special Branch will retain the burning bag until the Thames Valley Police enquiry has concluded.

5. Internally, we had been treating this as a security breach, and had anticipated that no further action would be necessary. Following the article in the Daily Telegraph on 1 August, and the subsequent articles over the weekend, however, it became appropriate to make further enquiries in to the incident. On Monday 4 August, I obtained a copy of the document from the Metropolitan Police bearing Dr Kelly's name and then met with a member of staff from the branch concerned, who was associated with the security breach of leaving the bag unsecured.

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~~Covering Secret UK Eyes Only~~

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