

CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY DIS STAFF

The concerns fall into 3 main groups.

Recent Production of CBW Agent

The DIS personnel concerned suggested that language in the dossier was too strong on the continued production of chemical and biological agents. These concerns related to the foreword, executive summary and main text.

The language in the dossier was stronger on this issue than it had been in the 9 September JIC assessment. This reflected the arrival of further, corroborative intelligence on 11 (and 23) September. Because of its sensitivity, this had not been seen by the personnel concerned (as they acknowledged).

45 Minutes

Concerns related to the level of certainty expressed in the foreword and executive summary. By this stage in the drafting process, following consultation with the DIS, the main text said 'intelligence indicates that the Iraqi military are able to deploy chemical or biological weapons within 45 minutes of an order to do so'. This reflected the language in the 9 September JIC paper. The executive summary expressed the point differently, as a judgement. The personnel concerned did not share this judgement. But it was agreed by the JIC.

Saddam and the Importance of CBW

The DIS personnel did not agree that intelligence 'shows' Saddam attached great importance to possessing WMD. They judged it only 'indicated' this. Several reports contributed to the stronger judgement, however. Again it was agreed by the JIC

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