

P2
"It was a statement that was made and it just got out of all proportion. They were desperate for information, they were pushing hard for information which could be released. That was one that popped up and it was seized on, and it's unfortunate that it was. That's why there is the argument between the intelligence services and cabinet office/ Number Ten - because they picked up on it, and once they've picked up on it you can't pull it back from them."

(WT) and again - specifically on the 45 minute point...

P2
"It was an interesting week before the dossier was put out because there were so many people saying, 'Well I'm not so sure about that', or in fact that they were happy with it being in, but not expressed the way that it was - because the word-smithing is actually quite important. The intelligence community are a pretty cautious lot on the whole - but once you get people presenting it for public consumption then of course they use different words." (4.36)

PIX IRAQI NATIONAL CONGRESS? WEAPONS INSPECTORS
The problem is that the 45 minutes point was not corroborated. For sceptics it highlights the dangers of relying too heavily on information from defectors. Journalists in America are being accused of running propaganda from the Iraqi National Congress...

SYNCH McGOVERN (ans 2)
Exiles notoriously unreliable

PIX MOBILE LABS/ POWELL AT THE UN
Back in February Colin Powell talked of the existence of mobile weapons labs. Material from defectors is behind the confident insistence by politicians on both sides of the Atlantic that they've now found them.

MORE MOBILE LABS
But our source - who is in an excellent position to know and spoke of being 90% confident these claims were correct on the day the Pentagon showed the trucks to the world NOW puts that confidence level at just 40%. A CIA report last week says the Iraqis claim the trucks were used to produce hydrogen for military weather balloons...

WAR PIX
(WT) But with the war OVER - does all this really matter ? Perhaps intelligence service concern about a FUTURE threat from WMD was enough to justify military action..? But the Government's critics say that

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