

Alison Blackshaw

From: Matthew Rycroft
Sent: 19 September 2002 10:51
To: Jonathan Powell; Sally Morgan; Clare Sumner, Robert Hill; David Manning; Alastair Campbell; Scarlett John - SEC - A
Subject: Iraq dossier - Ann Taylor

Ann Taylor read the draft dossier this morning and passed on some detailed comments to John Scarlett. She has just rung me to underline the following points

- the dossier should more explicitly refer back to the end of the Gulf War, the cessation of hostilities agreement, and the demands on Iraq arising from the UNSCRs then. This is a baseline that people will understand.

- the dossier itself needs to come across as an impartial, professional assessment of the threat. The political/policy questions of the response to the threat need to be separate. The PM's statement in the House should make this distinction.

- the hardest questions in the debate, not fully answered by the dossier, remain why now and why Saddam. The PM should take these on in his statement to undercut critics

All of these are helpful points I think.