

From: Tom Kelly
19th July 2003

To: Charles Clarke
Alastair Campbell
Derek Plews
David Prout
Clare Sumner
Godric Smith

Lines re independent Lord Hutton inquiry and Dr David Kelly

No one pretends that this hasn't been a difficult period for everyone involved - the Government, Parliament and I accept, the BBC. Equally I know that no one wanted this controversy to end the way it has. But we should all recognise and keep at the forefront of our minds that today a family is mourning the loss of a husband, a father and a friend.

That should be what guides everything we say and do.

So we should let Lord Hutton establish the facts and do nothing or say anything that pre-empts his investigation. That means no one in Government, in Parliament or in the media should rush to judgement. Let the independent judge do his job and the rest of us be silent. Because most of all the people we should consider are the family of David Kelly.

They should be allowed to grieve without having a whole cacophony of controversy in the background. That is why I agree with Robert Jackson, the local MP, who does not belong to my party, when he says that a recall of Parliament would generate more heat than light.

As the PM has said there should be time of respect and restraint as we let the family mourn, establish the facts and wait for the judge's verdict on what lessons we all - Government, Parliament, the media have to learn. A bit of humility and dignity is what the country is looking for at this stage and I think we owe that to David Kelly's family most of all.

15c/3/0005

For information:

Words issued by David Kelly's family this afternoon:

"We are utterly devastated and heartbroken by the death of our husband, father and brother. We loved him very much and will miss his warmth, humour and humanity. Those who knew him will remember him for his devotion to his home, family and the community and countryside in which he lived.

"A loving, private and dignified man has been taken from us all. David's professional life was characterised by his integrity, honour and dedication to finding the truth, often in the most difficult of circumstances. His expertise was unique and universally respected and his life and achievements will always be a source of great pride to us.

"Events over recent weeks made David's life intolerable and all of those involved should reflect long and hard on this fact.

"We have been deeply moved by the many expressions of support from friends, family and the local community. We would also like to pay tribute to the professionalism and compassion of the officers of the Thames Valley Police force.

"It is hard to comprehend the enormity of this tragedy. We appeal now to everyone to afford us the privacy to grieve in peace and to come to terms with our loss."

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