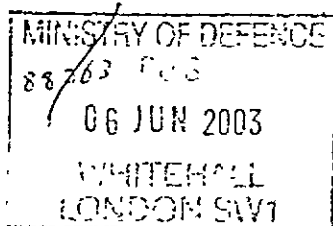


CONFIDENTIAL
PERSONAL



CDI 1/1

5 June 2003



DI Ops
DI BCR
DI P&R
DISA
DIST
DTIO

[Handwritten signature]
[Handwritten initials]
[Handwritten mark]

Copy to:

PS/CDI
DGIC

WMD: LEAKS

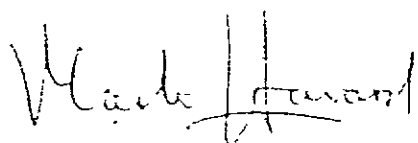
1. I attach a copy of a letter from PUS to CDI about leaks to the media on last September's Iraq WMD dossier. It relates in particular to a probable briefing given by someone to Andrew Gilligan of the BBC Radio 4 Today Programme.
2. Like PUS, CDI and I have no reason to suspect that anyone in the DIS is responsible. The fact remains, however, that Mr Gilligan is the Defence Correspondent of the Today Programme and, as I know to my own personal cost, he has a large number of sources in MOD and in the Armed Forces. This, combined with the MOD reputation as a "leaky" department means that unfairly or not, the finger is being pointed at MOD and at the DIS in particular. Against that background, I would like Directors to do two things. First I would ask them to report to me any suspicions or information they may have about the identity of the leaker, whether or not he or she comes from within the DIS. I will, separately, pursue with DGCC what we know about Mr Gilligan's contacts to see if the field can be narrowed any further.
3. Second, you should, in whatever way you see fit, remind staff that confidentiality about their work must be observed and that contacts with the media should only take place with my approval and in conjunction with DGCC and his staff. We all recognise that from time to time people may have concerns about how intelligence is being interpreted or how it is being used. It is right that such concerns, if they arise, should be expressed up the line management or

CONFIDENTIAL
PERSONAL

MOD/1/0017

CONFIDENTIAL
PERSONAL

command chain. You have my personal assurance that I will prosecute vigorously any well founded issues on this score. But should not be aired in unauthorised briefings to the media. Leaking material to the press is not clever or smart. It is unprofessional, deeply corrosive to trust and morale and is a disciplinary offence. I repeat, that I have no reason to think that anyone in the DIS is responsible for the leak to Mr Gilligan. But if it turns out that this is the case and the individual is identified, the strongest possible action will be taken.



MARTIN HOWARD
DCDI
OWOB361 82265MB

CONFIDENTIAL
PERSONAL

MOD/1/0018