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PERMANENT SECRETARY

D/PUS/12/3 (250)

8 July 2003

Personnel Director

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DCDI  
DPACS

[ All sent via CHOTS ]

GILLIGAN: INTERVIEW WITH DR KELLY

PUS was grateful for your minute of 7 July and record of your discussions with Dr Kelly

2 What is now needed is a more intensive interview with Kelly. The objective would be to establish what transpired between him and Gilligan, with a reliability that will stand up to the intense glare of public scrutiny. The core issue in this respect is whether it was Kelly who alleged that the 45 minute intelligence was inserted into the dossier against the wishes of the intelligence community and at the behest of the Government in general and Alistair Campbell in particular.

3 PUS believes that this must be pinned down as clearly as possible because of the continuing problem with the BBC and the FAC's recommendation that Gilligan's contacts should be investigated. It should also be in Kelly's own interest for this to occur, given that at least one of his colleagues has already speculated that he could indeed be Gilligan's 'single anonymous source' and Kelly's own view (as we understand it) that this would be a misrepresentation of the position.

4. Against this background I understand that arrangements have been made for the further interview to be carried out by you and addresses at 1600 today. The PUS would like to consider in the light of this whether to recommend a public announcement. The key issues will be:

- a. a judgement of the probability that Kelly is in the principal source of Gilligan's allegations – wittingly or otherwise (and the credibility of alternative explanations);
- b. Kelly's readiness to be associated with a public statement that names him and carries a clear and sustainable refutation of the core allegation on the '45 minute' intelligence;

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c. our view about the robustness of the rest of his position, including on Iraq's WMD programmes generally.

5. In all this PUS remains concerned to ensure that Dr Kelly's rights are respected – it is important that he understands he is cooperating voluntarily. There is also the different angle that in the event that it becomes evident that he may have divulged classified or privileged information contrary to the position so far, proceedings would need to be stopped immediately to avoid prejudicing any case that might then need to be brought.

*{ Original Signed }*

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