

NOTES OF A MEETING WITH DR KELLY – 14 JULYPresent

Mr Martin Howard, DCDI
Dr David Kelly
Dr Bryan Wells, DCPAC
Ms Heather Smith, DGCP CHRO Cond/AD

1. Howard started the meeting by saying that he wanted to ensure that Kelly understood the procedures that the FAC and ISC were likely to follow during their evidence sessions, and that he was comfortable with what was required of him. There was no question of the MOD seeking to impose Departmental lines: Kelly was free to tell his own story. Howard outlined the different bases on which the FAC and ISC were constituted, and their current interests in the Government's policy towards Iraq and WMD.

2. Howard then outlined the areas that the two Committees might be free to question Kelly. These were:

- (a) his role in Government, and relationship with the media;
- (b) his role in drawing up the Government's September 2002 Dossier;
- (c) his meeting with Gilligan: what transpired, and why he subsequently decided to inform his line management;
- (d) (for the ISC) his access to intelligence in general;
- (e) (for the ISC) his access to intelligence on the "45 minute claim".

Howard emphasised that the Committees' questioning in these areas would be eliciting essentially factual answers, and Kelly should feel free to give his own story. Kelly confirmed that he was happy about this.

3. Howard then outlined other areas where the Committees might probe, which were at the margins of what the Defence Secretary had defined when agreeing that the Committees could interview Kelly, but which were nevertheless hard to refuse. These areas were:

- (a) what Kelly thought of Government Policy on Iraq. Kelly said that this was a matter for Ministers;
- (b) whether Kelly thought he was Gilligan's source. Kelly asked if he could say "I don't believe I am"; Howard replied that

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- Kelly was free to decide how to answer this to his own conscience: the Department was not telling him what to say,
- (c) what disciplinary action was being taken against Kelly
Kelly said that this was a matter for MOD.

4. Kelly asked what he might say about the issue of Uranium imports from Niger. Howard noted that Kelly had already said that in his meeting with Gilligan he had confined himself to repeating the IAEA observations on the matter. Kelly should feel free to repeat the same line if that was his position.

5. Howard asked Kelly about his contacts with Susan Watts; Kelly said that they had not spoken about the September Iraq Dossier.

6. Wells asked Kelly how he wanted to take forward his wish to be accompanied by a colleague to the FAC. Kelly replied that, on the basis of this present meeting, he did not feel the need to have a colleague alongside him. He was aware that Wells would be accompanying him to the evidence sessions.

7. At the end of the meeting, Kelly said that he would welcome the chance to see Howard later in the week or early the following, to discuss Howard's recent visit to Iraq. He (Kelly) was looking forward to returning to theatre. Howard said he would be pleased to see Kelly, to discuss Iraq and for a general discussion after the evidence sessions. Kelly concluded by saying that he appreciated Howard's giving up so much time to discuss his appearances before the Committees.

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