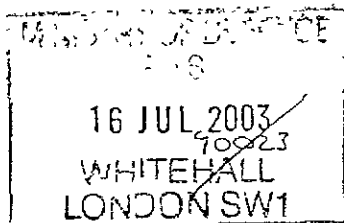
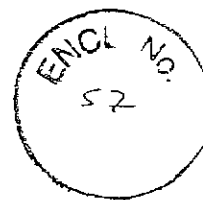


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MO 6/17/15H

15 July 2003

[Dear Geoffrey]

17/16/7

IRAQ WMD: DR KELLY'S EVIDENCE TO FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Kelly says he believes he was not Gilligan's main source for his allegations about the September Iraq WMD Dossier. Denies knowledge of the basis of the "45 minute claim", Uranium/Niger, and the process of the finalisation of the Dossier; but less clear in denying speculation on the role of Alastair Campbell. FAC put it to him that he is the fall guy.

Dr David Kelly gave public evidence to the Foreign Affairs Committee this afternoon on his dealings with Andrew Gilligan on Iraq and WMD. The session lasted one hour. There was considerable press interest. The session was shown live on BBC News 24 and Sky. You may find useful a brief read-out and analysis of the main points.

The bulk of the Committee's questioning concerned Andrew Gilligan's account to the FAC of his meeting with a 'single source' on the process of finalising the September Iraq WMD Dossier. The key points from the evidence were.

- a "45 Minute Claim" In response to repeated questioning, Kelly said that he had not been aware of the assessment (that some of Iraq's WMD could be ready within 45 minutes of an order) until he read it in the published version of the Dossier. He denied being the source of the assertion that it had been inserted in the Dossier late in the drafting process.
- b Uranium/Niger. In response to limited questioning on uranium imports from Niger, Kelly confined himself to saying that he was aware that Dr El Baraderi had said that the documents given to the

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PS/Foreign Secretary

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IAEA were false, he had no further information on the issue

- c "Sexing up" the September Dossier Kelly told the Committee that he had been out of the country in August and early September and was not involved in the finalisation of the September Dossier, he was not the source of allegations that the Dossier was sexed up
- d Role of Alastair Campbell Allegations about the role of Alastair Campbell in the finalisation of the September Dossier came up in two sets of exchanges. In the first, Kelly did not explicitly deny that he had speculated on Alastair Campbell's role, in the second (raised because the first exchange seemed inconclusive), Kelly said he could not recall naming Alastair Campbell as having been responsible for an alleged "transformation" of the Dossier the week before it was published. Comment: this was less clear than what Kelly had told us, when he acknowledged that the possible role of Alastair Campbell had been discussed in his meeting with Gilligan, but that he had said that he was unable to comment.

Two other headline issues arose in Kelly's evidence

- a Gilligan's 'single source' Kelly said that he believed he was not Gilligan's main source, and had no idea who it was. The FAC put it to him that his evidence on what he knew about the "45 minute claim" and uranium imported from Niger led to the conclusion that he could not be the source; the MOD's press statement of 8 July ("we do not know whether this official is the single source . . .") was therefore incorrect. Kelly acknowledged that he had cleared the press statement and, under pressure, accepted that there was an inconsistency
- b Kelly as "fall guy". Towards the end of the evidence, a number of Committee members put it to Kelly that he was being made the "fall guy", and that he was being exploited by Ministers to rubbish Gilligan's account. Kelly replied that he had no knowledge of how the decisions were made that led to his appearance before the Committee, but he accepted the process. Comment a straight answer

I am copying this letter to Jonathan Powell and Alastair Campbell (No 10) and to Sir David Omand and John Scarlett (Cabinet Office)

[Yours ]

P D WATKINS  
Private Secretary

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