

Alison Blackshaw

From: Daniel Pruce
Sent: 10 September 2002 12:25
To: 'Mark Matthews'
Cc: Matthew Rycroft, 'Paul Hamill', Godric Smith, Alastair Campbell
Subject: DOSSIER

Mark,

I promised some quick thoughts on John's draft of 9 September

On content

- in general I think we should personalise the dossier, placing the focus on Saddam as much as possible. So I would propose that we replace most, if not all, of the references to Iraq with references to Saddam,
- the personal witness statements are very powerful. Are there more we can use to illustrate Saddam's repression of his own people through murder, rape and torture?
- we make a number of statements about Saddam's intentions/attitudes. Can we insert a few quotes from speeches he has made which, even if they are not specific, demonstrate that he is a bad man with a general hostility towards his neighbours and the West?
- in the public's mind the key difference between this text and the IISS text will be the access to intelligence material. I like the idea of the history of JIC assessments. Might we also include a general statement on the nature of the intelligence services and their role. This could be drawn from material that is already in the public domain. It's inclusion might help underline the fact that the services have contributed to the report, often in ways which, for perfectly fair reasons, are imperceptible,

On presentation:

- the text now reads as a single continuous narrative. This is fine - but I think we should look at breaking it up into the sections set out in Alastair's note of yesterday,
- much of the evidence we have is largely circumstantial so we need to convey to our readers that the cumulation of these facts demonstrates an intent on Saddam's part - the more they can be led to this conclusion themselves rather than have to accept judgements from us, the better,

On mechanics

- I'd be grateful if you could discuss with the FCO Publications team production times and costs. I would envisage that most people would access this text over the web, but I would guess that 500 hard copies will be needed. We can look at design questions later - but I would envisage a fairly sober presentation with a very "official" flavour
- we also need to think, once we have John's further draft tomorrow, how we prepare the ground for the launch of the text to get expectations in the right place

Danny