

TEXT FROM THE DOWNING STREET MEMO

DAVID MANNING From: Matthew Rycroft

Date: 23 July 2002 S 195 /02

cc: Defence Secretary, Foreign Secretary, Attorney-General,
Sir Richard Wilson, John Scarlett, Francis Richards, CDS, C,
Jonathan Powell, Sally Morgan, Alastair Campbell

SECRET & STRICTLY PERSONAL- UK EYES ONLY

This record is extremely sensitive. No further copies should be made. It should be shown only to those w/ a genuine need to know its contents. Bush wanted to remove Saddam, through military action, justified by the conjunction of terrorism & WMD. But the intelligence and facts were being fixed around the policy. the NSC had no patience with the UN route, and no enthusiasm for publishing material on the Iraqi regime's record. There was little discussion in Washington of the aftermath after military action. It seemed clear that Bush had made up his mind to take military action, even if the timing was not yet decided. But the case was thin. Saddam was not threatening his neighbours, and his WMD capability was less than that of Libya, North Korea or Iran. We should work up a plan for an ultimatum to Saddam to allow back in the UN weapons inspectors. This would also help with the legal justification for the use of force.

CONGRESS MUST INVESTIGATE THE LIES THAT TOOK US TO WAR!

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