

cc SA
RH
PH
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VH

See my e-mail,
David will speak
to R FCO.

From: Alastair Campbell
Date: 2 September 2002

cc: Jonathan Powell
Matthew Rycroft

DAVID MANNING

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The Prime Minister is alarmed, and angry, at the way that parts of our thinking and planning on Iraq are seeping into the media in an unco-ordinated and undisciplined way. Above all, he is concerned at what the US Administration must think of all this. Although it is clear that we are being subject to all the usual mischief making and invention of parts of our media, what has appeared in the last few days – on the UN, on the general position and now on the visit – suggests there are people speaking far too openly to the press, or to people who are talking to the press. I know you have spoken to Condi to emphasise that none of this is of our doing, and I will do the same with Karen. It may also be an idea for Jack to call Colin Powell and make clear this is the case.

I leave it to you and Jonathan to decide to whom this should be copied in No. 10, or indeed in the FCO, but it may be worth sending round as a general message that if people are talking loosely about this, they are being foolish and risk being highly counter-productive.

The Prime Minister intends to use tomorrow's press conference to make clear the general position. That will at least give people a public script. But in the meantime we must do more to ensure people do not depart from that, publicly or privately, or give a running commentary in every aspect of his thinking.

ALASTAIR CAMPBELL