

UNCLASSIFIED

S/ES 200415455

TOPAR 49
United States Department of State

S41



SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

Ambassador-at-Large for
War Crimes Issues

Washington, D.C. 20520

6/25

DIST:

=====

S

D

P

S/P

EUR

L

PA/RB

S/WCI

S/ES

NOTE TO THE SECRETARY *6/25/03*

JUN 25 2004

FROM: S/WCI – Pierre-Richard Prosper *PRP* RELEASED IN FULL

SUBJECT: UK Report on Treatment of Detainees in Afghanistan,
Guantanamo, and Iraq

The Intelligence and Security Committee of the UK Parliament will issue a report on June 29 on detainees, discussing the participation of British intel and military officers in interrogations in Afghanistan, Guantanamo, and Iraq. It will note that interviews with UK intelligence officers were generally conducted in accordance with the principles of the Geneva conventions, with the exception of an incident in which an Iraqi prisoner was presented to the UK, by US officials, hooded and shackled during the interview. It will also note that they received some verbal complaints by detainees that they had been abused.

The information was provided to the committee by PM Blair by way of a letter, in response to their inquiry.

The report will also say that where UK officials became aware of detainees being held in "austere" conditions or treated inappropriately, those concerns were communicated locally to USG officials, in intel channels or through diplomatic channels.

I have agreed with the UK Embassy that we will work with them on a press line.

Attachment: Relevant portion of parliamentary report

cc: Beth Jones
Will Taft
Adam Ereli

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: FRANK E SCHMELZER
DATE/CASE ID: 24 SEP 2004 200303827

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

541A
RELEASED IN FULL

The UK Intelligence and Security Committee's report (which will be laid before Parliament - ie made public - on 29 June). Para 78 will read as follows:

"We also wrote to the Prime Minister to ask if any of the Agencies staff or military intelligence personnel had been involved in or witnessed any abuse of detainees in Afghanistan, Iraq or Guantanamo Bay. He replied just as we were completing this report. In his letter, the Prime Minister gave us as full an answer as he could because it had not yet been possible to speak to all the officers involved. He undertook to inform us if any further information of relevance emerged, stating that:

"On this basis:

a) Interviews of detainees conducted or observed by UK intelligence personnel have, with the following exception, been conducted in a manner consistent with the principles laid down in the Geneva Convention. In June 2003, two xxx interviewed an Iraqi detainee xxx.

The detainee was brought in hooded and shackled by the US military and remained so during the one-hour interview. The xxx understood these measures to be for security purposes, and did not report it at the time since they were not aware that hooding was unacceptable. The detainee showed no signs of distress and made no complaint of being hooded or otherwise during the interview.

b) Some of the detainees questioned by UK intelligence personnel have complained - either during their detention or subsequently - about their treatment while in detention.

c) UK intelligence personnel interviewing or witnessing the interview of detainees are instructed to report if they believe detainees are being treated in an inhumane or degrading way. None of those involved witnessed any evidence of detainee abuse of the type that US authorities have acknowledged has occurred in Iraq. But on a few occasions SIS and Security Service Staff did become aware, either through their own observations or comments from detainees, that some detainees were being held in austere conditions or treated inappropriately. The concerns of these staff were passed on to the US authorities, either locally or via intelligence or diplomatic channels."

1000

BRITISH EMBASSY

25/06 2004 FRI 17:03 FAX 202 588 7880

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: FRANK E SCHMELZER
DATE/CASE ID: 24 SEP 2004 200303827

UNCLASSIFIED