

~~SECRET~~ [REDACTED]

SUBJECT:

Questions from VP Cheney on Niger/Iraq

REFERENCE:

suggestions on handling this?

Forwarded by [REDACTED] on 06/10/03 04:56 PM

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Office: Executive Assistant to the ADDO-PS

06/10/03 04:30 PM

To: [REDACTED]

cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Questions from VP Cheney on Niger/Iraq

Good afternoon, folks. The DDCI asked Iraq Mission Manager [REDACTED] several specific questions today on behalf of the Vice President relating to the old story that Niger sold Iraq Uranium. The VP apparently heard the below story and had questions on it. The DDCI needs a response before his noon meeting tomorrow (Wednesday) with the VP, so if you could get back to me by 1000 or 1100 tomorrow, I'd appreciate it. Thanks a million.

Story: In February 2002, CIA received an initial report of a shipment of uranium from Niger to Chad. Former Ambassador to Cameroon Joe Wilson (an old friend of the Agency and former Charge d'Affaires in Baghdad) was supposedly sent by CIA to Niger to investigate the story. He did so, and he concluded that there was no truth to it. Wilson said that he was debriefed by a CIA case officer who flew in (to where is unclear) [REDACTED].

VP Questions: Is this story true? Do we have a chronological account of the above events? What is the nature of Wilson's relationship with CIA? What exactly did Wilson report to us? Was this in a reporting cable [REDACTED] (If it was, can somebody send me a copy of it? Will you also send me a copy of the intel? [REDACTED] Didn't the Brits come out with a similar report detailing a Niger-Iraq uranium connection? [REDACTED]

More Story: Wilson told State Department Deputy Secretary Marc Grossman "recently" that when the British report hit the press, he "called the CIA" to tell us that the information was bogus. When President Bush reiterated the information in his State of the Union address earlier this year, Wilson again called his CIA contact.

More Questions: For WINPAC, when exactly did your analysts conclude that the information was bogus? Did anybody in WINPAC tell the White House that our analytic conclusion was that the information wasn't true? Who at the White House was told? How was the information conveyed? Did WINPAC play a role in the State of the Union address? If so, did that role include providing information on Niger?

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