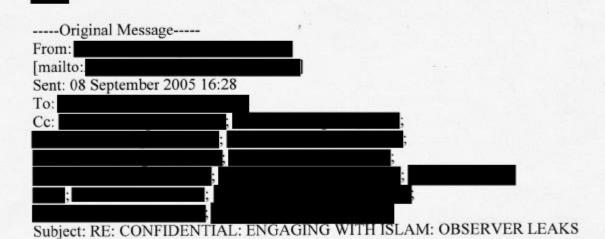
To: ;
From: Subject: RE: CONFIDENTIAL: ENGAGING WITH ISLAM: OBSERVER LEAKS Sent: 08 September 2005 17:37:57 GMT

I note your reference to the Crawford leak. That involved documents originating in a number of Departments that only came together once for a particular purpose. No Department had copies of all of the documents in the course of normal business and there were only 4 copies of the folder that contained them all, which were held in the Cabinet Office and No10. The Observer case is different as copies of all the documents so far leaked are held in the FCO, where they all originated.

I can tell you who officially got copies of the Ehrman letter to David Omand, because that was the same distribution as the Omand letter: 'AC', DGSS, Nigel Sheinwald, and the then JIC Chairman (Scarlett). I imagine distribution in the Cabinet Office was restricted to a few people in ISS and OD Sec, but we will check.

The sad outcome the Crawford leak investigation is that we have not satisfactorily pinned down the source, even for such a tightly controlled set of documents; but as you know that is par for the course with investigations of this sort.



Matthew

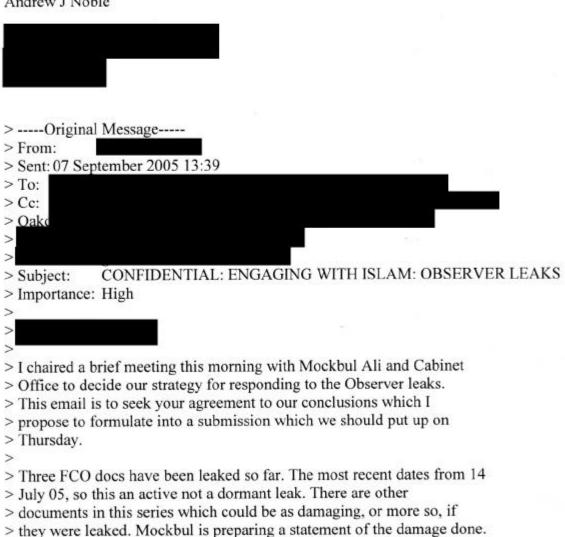
Following discussions with the PUS and John Williams, we are not confident that we can act before the weekend in a way which will prevent further disclosures (if the Observer has the material or a leaker wants to send something out). Indeed, any action with staff or the newspaper

could make matters worse. So, in slower time, I will recapitulate for all staff in the coming weeks (possibly through an answer to a reader's letter in News and Views) the requirement not to leak, the range of possible personal consequences for the leaker, and the damage and danger that could follow a leak.

Separately, Neil Giles begins his investigation on Monday (I will mention this at the PUS' meeting).

As, apparently, the only OGD to have received all the papers leaked so far, I'd be grateful if Oliver Hoare could track all the officials who would have had access to these papers in the Cabinet Office. Colleagues with longer experience have pointed out the points in common with the "Crawford leak".

Andrew J Noble



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> Some of the other does identify by name individuals in madrassas in
> Pakistan with whom we are cooperating. Their safety could potentially
> be endangered by the "right" leak. In itself, the "Ehrman" leak risks
> invalidating one of our key tools in one of our key policy priorities.
> We should pursue two avenues in parallel:
>
> - try to stop any further leaks
> - try to identify and act against the source.
> Stopping any further leaks is the priority but is difficult. To this
> end, the PUS should issue an immediate message to all staff asking for
> them to stop all leaking of documents (and to come forward if they
> have anything they want to tell us). This would also put them on
> notice that we have appointed a leak investigator who will seek to
> identify the source of the leaks. If found, disciplinary action would
> be taken against the individual. (Question to John: At the same time,
> is there something we can do with the Editor of the Observer to urge
> them to desist from further leaks, particularly where this identifies
> individuals (officials and members of the public), whose security is
> being endangered by the present
> stories?) Both these steps should be taken before cop on Friday to try
> prevent further revelations this Sunday.
> SSU has already asked our usual investigator to begin work to track
> down the source. I plan to write to the Home Office (as the most
> likely alternative source of leaks) to do likewise. But a proper leak
> investigation will, inevitably take time.
> Agreed?
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