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California State University, Northridge

July 3, 2012

FOIPA Request No.: 1135045-001
Subject: DICK CHENEY INTERVIEW ON LEAK OF VALERIE PLAME'S IDENTITY

Records responsive to your request were previously processed under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. Enclosed are 67 pages of previously-processed documents and a copy of the Explanation of Exemptions.

You may file an appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), U.S. Department of Justice, 1425 New York Ave., NW, Suite 11050, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001. Your appeal must be received by OIP within sixty (60) days from the date of this letter in order to be considered timely. The envelope and the letter should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so that it may be identified easily.

Very truly yours,

David M. Hardy
Section Chief,
Record/Information Dissemination Section
Records Management Division

Enclosure(s)
EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552

(b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;

(b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;

(b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute (A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;

(b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;

(b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;

(b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

(b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information (A) could be reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, (C) could be reasonably expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;

(b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or

(b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a

(d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;

(j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;

(k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;

(k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;

(k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;

(k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;

(k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;

(k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service the release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;

(k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.

FBI/DOJ
(U) RICHARD B. CHENEY, Vice President of the United States, Date of Birth: 1/30/41, was interviewed in his office at the White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. Special Counsel Patrick Fitzgerald, Department of Justice, also participated in the interview. Vice President Cheney was represented by Terrence O'Donnell and Emmet T. Flood of the law firm of Williams and Connolly, 725 12th Street, NW, Washington, DC. Vice President Cheney was familiar with the nature of the investigation and provided the following information:

(U) At the outset of the interview, the Vice President advised that, like all employees in the White House, he had been directed by the President to cooperate in the Department of Justice (DOJ) investigation of the matter involving the alleged leak of classified information to newspaper columnist Robert Novak. Vice President Cheney advised that he would cooperate with the investigation and provide as much information as he could, consistent with the President's directive. However, the Vice President added that any matters which might arise during the course of the interview which, in his judgment, fall outside of the scope of the investigation may require him to exercise a privilege not to answer certain questions, particularly those that relate to private conversations he may have had with the President. In those situations, the Vice President advised that he would consult with David Addington, Counsel to the Office of the Vice President (CVP), who would be waiting nearby for consultation in the event any such instances arise. Special Counsel Fitzgerald suggested that the interview proceed and the parties could address any potential issues when, and if, they arose.

(U) The Vice President advised that he has no idea who may have made the unauthorized disclosure to newspaper columnist Robert Novak of information identifying Valerie Wilson, the wife of former Ambassador Joe Wilson, as a CIA employee. He does not know of any other reporters who may have been provided this information before July 14, 2003. While he assumed people talked about the issue with the press after the article appeared, he did not know of anyone who had told him of any discussions on that issue with reporters even after July 14, 2003. No one has ever told him that they talked to any other reporters and provided the information to

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them about Mrs. Wilson's employment. Furthermore, he has no personal knowledge of anyone having provided this information to Robert Novak, or any other reporter, and he has never been advised by anyone to that effect.

The Vice President advised that he first learned about former Ambassador Joseph Wilson when news reports surfaced in approximately May and June 2003 about an unnamed ex-envoy who had traveled to Niger to investigate intelligence reports that the Government of Iraq had attempted to purchase yellowcake uranium from Niger. In fact, when the Vice President first heard of this trip, he did not know the actual identity of the ex-envoy, but only became aware of his identity at some point later in time. He also recalled that early media reports had suggested that the Ambassador had been sent on the fact-finding mission at the request of the OVP, which was news to the Vice President because he was not aware of such a trip. The Vice President advised he recalled making an initial inquiry for intelligence about the alleged transaction, or efforts by the Iraqis to purchase the uranium from Niger, during a CIA briefing in February 2002, when it was brought to his attention that

Per OGA had made such an assertion. He believed that the very first time he had heard the information about the ex-envoy's trip was from a New York Times column written by Nicholas Kristof in approximately May 2003.

The Vice President could not recall whether the Wilson trip was discussed during any of the visits he made to the CIA with his Chief of Staff I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby when they met with intelligence analysts to discuss various issues such as, weapons of mass destruction, China or other matters. These issues usually were discussed as part of a prepared agenda. He said it is possible that the trip by Wilson may have been discussed, but he could not specifically remember. He also advised that he could not recall whether or not he and Libby made a visit to the CIA in March 2003, nor could he recall an appearance by former Ambassador Wilson on CNN in March 2003. The Vice President could not remember any reaction he had to the Kristof article at the time it was published.

He also remembered Washington Post reporter Walter Pincus wrote a similar article, subsequent to the Kristof column, about an ex-envoy's trip to Niger, making the same assertion, namely that the Vice President had signed off on Wilson's mission to Niger. In preparation for that article, Pincus may have called
the OVP making inquiries about the role of the Vice President, but Pincus would not have spoken directly with the Vice President. The Vice President does not, as a matter of practice, speak directly to journalists, but allows OVP staff members to respond to media inquiries. He does occasionally appear on television talk shows, but that is the extent of his interactions with journalists.

The Vice President also had no recollection of discussing this matter at a meeting on 6/10/03 he attended with Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) George Tenet and CIA Counter Proliferation Division Manager. When asked about the Administration's efforts to research Williams mission, the Vice President advised that around the time of the initial media reports, exact date not recalled, he spoke to DCI Tenet directly on the secure telephone line from his office.

The Vice President advised that line from his office enables him to make a direct connection to various individuals in the national security apparatus, including the Secretaries of Defense, State, and CIA Director Tenet.

President Cheney believed that all of this discussion occurred during a single telephone conversation that he had with DCI Tenet. The Vice President described the tone of his conversation with DCI Tenet as cordial, however, he had a sense that the DCI was defensive and embarrassed about the issue and had not known what was going on with regards to this mission. The Vice President based this latter assertion on the tone and temperament used by the DCI in the conversation, which was uncharacteristic for Tenet.

(U) The Vice President cannot recall if he mentioned the content of his conversation with DCI Tenet to Libby, but he stated that if he would have shared it with anyone, it would have been Libby. He probably would not have shared this information with Cathie Martin or anyone else from the OVP staff.
(U) The Vice President has no recollection of reading or hearing about a Kristof article published 6/13/03 about the envoy's trip, nor does he recall an article about it in the New Republic magazine dated 6/19/03. With respect to any press inquiries about the trip that may have been made by Walter Pincus in preparation for his June 2003 article, the Vice President said any such inquiries would have gone to either Libby or Cathie Martin. However, he does not know the specifics of any inquiries which were made by Pincus.

(U) He first became aware of Joe Wilson's editorial in the New York Times on either 7/6/03, the day it was published, either by personally reading it in Wyoming, or during the return flight to Washington. The Vice President explained that he had traveled to Jackson Hole, Wyoming for the holiday weekend and cannot recall if he read the New York Times editorial when he was on the ground in Wyoming, or returning on the flight to Washington on 7/6/03, or when he got back to Washington, in which case he may not have read the editorial until the next day. Vice President Cheney explained that he has a subscription to the New York Times in Wyoming, but the newspaper is sometimes delivered late and it may not have arrived in time for his departure. He did not see Joseph Wilson's appearance on Meet the Press on television that Sunday, 7/6/03.

(U) His initial reaction to the Wilson article was his sense that it was "amateur hour" at the CIA. According to the article, Wilson claimed that he'd been sent on assignment by the CIA, directly implying it was done at the request of the Vice President. Moreover, Wilson's fact-finding mission did not appear to be up to professional trade-craft standards: nasmuch as Wilson did not review the relevant documents, did not execute a confidentiality requirement, and he apparently returned without filing a written report of his findings. In fact, the Vice President stated that he'd learned more details about Wilson's trip and its purpose from the New York Times than he'd been able to get from the CIA. Vice President Cheney said Wilson's July 6 article was disturbing, in part because it referred to information arising out of confidential meetings with his daily briefers. He was most disturbed because of the false implication of the CVR's role in the trip, especially since all he knew about the matter was that he'd made a legitimate inquiry of a CIA briefer regarding Niger and Iraq in February 2002, and it was now being made to look as if he'd personally sent Wilson on the trip.
(U) The Vice President is relatively certain he spoke to someone about the article, but he cannot recall exactly who it was. He remembered that there were a number of other matters going on that week, particularly the controversy over the "16 words" in the President's State of the Union (SOTU) address, and assertions made in the British White Paper in the Fall of 2002, about Iraq's efforts to purchase yellowcake uranium. He recalled the week culminated with DCI Tenet's statement released to the media on Friday, July 11th regarding the SOTU controversy. DCI Tenet's statement knocked down some of the claims made by Wilson about his trip, including the assertion that the Vice President had sent him.

(U) Returning to the 7/6/03 New York Times editorial by Wilson, the Vice President recalled that he tore it out of the newspaper. When shown a copy of the Wilson editorial with handwritten notes on it, the Vice President acknowledged that the handwriting was his. Though he has no specific recollection of when he wrote the notes on the upper margin of the editorial, the Vice President believed it was probably contemporaneous with the time he read the editorial. He stated that it was his normal practice to make such notes and underline relevant or important portions of news articles at the same time he read them, so he suspects that was the case with this article.

(U) During the interview, the Vice President read aloud those underlined portions of the Wilson editorial, CVP Bates Stamp Number 1595, and discussed certain parts. For example, he had underlined and read aloud that part of the Wilson editorial that stated, "...it would be exceedingly difficult for Niger to transfer uranium to Iraq." In discussing this portion of the editorial, the Vice President stated that such a transfer had already happened once before. Therefore, although what Wilson was saying might be accurate, i.e. that such a transfer would be difficult, it did not mean that it could not occur. He said he was struck by the thought as he read the Wilson editorial that this attempt by Wilson and the CIA to investigate the intelligence re Iraq and Niger was not really a serious enterprise. Once again, the Vice President cited as an example the underlined portion of the article wherein former Ambassador Wilson wrote that, "...I have every confidence that the answer I provided was circulated to the appropriate officials within our government." The Vice President stated that had not happened so he questioned again the "seriousness" of this effort by Wilson and the CIA.
(U) The Vice President also read aloud the handwritten notes he had made in the upper margin of the editorial. He commented that his notation reading, "Or did his wife send him on a junket?" was written as he recalled the earlier statement made to him by DCI Tenet that the ex-envoy's wife worked in the Unit that sent him. Vice President Cheney also noted that he thought it was strange that Joe Wilson did his investigative work pro bono.

(U) Regarding the editorial which he cut out of the paper, Vice President Cheney advised that it was his normal practice to carry such documents around with him for a few days and then place them in his "out" box when he was finished with them. He cannot recall if he discussed the underlined portions of the editorial with anyone, but he probably did. After he placed the article in his "out" box, he does not know whatever happened to it, nor did he ask for any specific treatment or follow-up with respect to his handwritten questions on the newspaper.

(U) The Vice President advised that between the time of the publication of the Wilson editorial on July 6, 2003, and the publication of the Novak editorial eight days later, he does not recall having any discussions about Wilson's wife or Wilson's trip with either DCI George Tenet or Deputy DCI John McLaughlin. He does recall at one point "giggling" Tenet and/or McLaughlin about vetting a separate, unrelated intelligence matter by sarcastically suggesting to them that perhaps they ought to send Joe Wilson to check it out. The Vice President stated that the issue of Valerie Wilson's possible involvement in sending her husband to Niger was just not a big deal and did not become one until after the publication of the Novak editorial.

(U) However, with respect to inquiries of the CIA, the Vice President does recall at some point in time began by explaining that in addition to He stated that he was not sure of the identity of his briefer at the time, but he believed Dave Terry had left the position he stated that he would have probably been either Per OGA
In order to clarify this matter and to refresh the Vice President's recollection, he was shown a series of three sets of documents which had been sent via fax to his office on 6/9/03, OVP Bates Stamp numbers 1445 through 1465 for set #1. The Vice President initially did not recognize the documents which contained as a cover sheet a memorandum dated 6/9/03 from John Hannah, the subject of which was Information: CIA Paper on Purported Iraq-Niger Uranium Deal. The Vice President advised that he did not specifically recognize the documents so he spent several minutes perusing them. The Vice President then made several comments about the documents, including the fact that the documents confirmed that he had asked questions about the purported Iraq/Niger uranium deal at a briefing in February 2002; the information from which had been provided to the Vice President speculated that may have been the reason he asked for the compilation of documents related to the issue.

The Vice President was asked specifically about the document with OVP Bates Stamp Number 1450, entitled "Purported Iraqi attempt to get Uranium from Niger." The Vice President advised he could not recall reading or seeing this particular document. In reviewing it, the Vice President specifically commented on paragraphs numbered three and six. He stated that the third paragraph relates to reports regarding Iraq and Niger. With respect to the sixth paragraph, the Vice President related that this paragraph concerned the written report and debriefing of Joe Wilson after his return from Niger. The Vice President was then asked to review the page of the same document containing OVP Bates Stamp number 1456 which contained the hand printed notation, "Did CIA have it in their document?" The Vice President advised he did not recognize the printing.

The Vice President was then provided with a set of documents bearing OVP Bates Stamp numbers 1472 through 1481. The Vice President commented that this set was basically a reformatting of the document he had previously reviewed "Purported Iraqi attempt to get uranium from Niger." The Vice President was directed to OVP Bates Stamp number 1475, a document which contained the same paragraph number 6 as the previous document. This particular document contained underlining of certain portions of the paragraph and an asterisk in the left hand margin. The Vice President
advised that he did not complete the underlining and the asterisk, nor does he have any idea who may have done so.

The Vice President was then shown a two page document dated March 8, 2002 bearing OVP Bates Stamp numbers 1552 and 1553. The Vice President reviewed it and advised he recognized it as the Wilson debrief document. The Vice President advised that he first saw this document more than one year after it was written, recalling that was around the time the Wilson story began developing in the summer of 2003, either in May, June, or July. The Vice President recognized his handwriting of the word "Wilson" at the top right hand side of the document. The Vice President also believed he underlined that portion of paragraph two because he believed it raised a "red flag," seeming to show that the former Niger Prime Minister Mayaki had been approached about commercial relations with Iraq which the former Prime Minister believed meant yellowcake uranium sales. The Vice President could not recall if he read this document prior to the publication of Joseph Wilson's editorial on 7/6/03 in the New York Times.

The Vice President was then shown a two page document containing OVP Bates Stamp Numbers 1586 and 1590. The Vice President was advised that OVP Bates Stamp number 1589 was missing and apparently may have not been included with the original production. The Vice President advised that he believed that this document also was a reformattting of the document he had previously reviewed, namely the Wilson "debrief." The Vice President advised that it looks like his handwriting of the name "Joe Wilson" at the top of this document. He has no idea why he received the document in a different format from the previous one, indicating its possible the other one may have been lost.

Finally, the Vice President was shown a set of documents bearing OVP Bates Stamp numbers 1781 through 1790. The Vice President remarked that this was another copy of the document containing numbered paragraphs that he had previously reviewed. The Vice President was directed to OVP Bates Stamp number 1784, which contained that part of the document marked paragraph six. The Vice President noted that "Joe Wilson" was printed in the margin to the left of the paragraph while a handwritten notation which may have said "Wilson" was just below it. The Vice President advised that neither the printed portion or the handwritten portion was done by him. The Vice President advised that it was possible that the handwritten portion containing the word "Wilson" may have
been written by Scooter Libby, but the Vice President did not believe the printed notation was done by Scooter.

The Vice President advised that he believed the documents discussed above represent the CIA’s attempt to accurately reflect the Office of the Vice President’s understanding of the facts as related to Wilson’s trip to Niger. He further noted that the Office of the Vice President was working with Congress and the White House to ensure that the Vice President’s understanding was brought to the CIA’s attention. As mentioned above, the Vice President could not recall specifically when this was completed, but he believes it may have been after Wilson’s trip to Niger became public and questions were raised about the Vice President’s involvement in sending Wilson on the trip. He also recalled that he believes the CIA report produced from a debriefing of former Ambassador Wilson after he returned from Niger was the only document produced which reported the results of Wilson’s trip. And although there was allegedly “wide dissemination” of this document in the intelligence community, the Vice President had never read it at the time it was purportedly widely disseminated.

Because of the intense interest in Wilson’s trip after his 7/6/03 editorial was published, the Vice President speculated that may have been the period when he saw this report for the first time. He characterized the earlier media interest at the time of the Pincus and Kristof articles as less intense. However, because there was so much developing controversy at the time, including the “16 words” issue, which was related to the Wilson episode to some extent, he was not certain when he reviewed this report.

The Vice President reiterated that he does not take incoming calls from the media. Routine press inquiries would have gone to Cathie Martin, while some of those involving more substantive matters, particularly in the area of intelligence and national security, would have likely been handled by Scooter Libby. He provided press guidance to both of them at times and, though he can’t recall any specific advice he gave in the May/June 2003 time frame, he generally would have advised them of the following points regarding the Wilson trip to Niger:

1. He made legitimate intelligence inquiries about alleged Iraq/Niger uranium transactions.

2. He did not direct or send former Ambassador Wilson on the fact-finding mission to Niger.
3. He had never been briefed on the proposed trip, nor was he briefed after former Ambassador Wilson returned from Niger.

4. The findings and written report of the trip were not provided to him until after the Wilson trip became public in 2003.

(U) Regarding the controversy over the "16 words" in the SOTU, the Vice President advised that in his mind he could not draw a distinction between the inquiries on the issue before the publication of the Wilson editorial and after the publication of the Wilson editorial.

(U) The Vice President was then provided a series of classified documents marked with OVP Bates Stamp Numbers 129 through 151, but did not include all sequentially numbered documents in between. These documents were CIA cables related to former Ambassador Wilson's trip to Niger. The Vice President was asked specifically about those documents with Bates Stamp numbers 147-48, 162, and 165. The Vice President advised he did not recognize any of the CIA documents or recall having seen any of them before.

(U) Vice President Cheney was then asked if he discussed Ambassador Wilson or Valerie Wilson with specific White House staff. Regarding whether or not he discussed either of the Wilsons with Eric Edelman, current Ambassador to Turkey, the Vice President advised that if Edelman was, at the time, involved in the operations of the National Security Council under Scooter Libby, it was possible he discussed the Wilsons with Edelman, but he was unsure about whether Edelman was still in Washington. In any event, he had no specific recollection of any such discussion. The Vice President said the same would be true for Neil Patel, a White House staffer who because of his job, might have been involved in such a discussion, though the Vice President had no specific recollection of any discussion with Patel. Vice President Cheney can recall no other discussions regarding the Wilsons with either DCI Tenet or DDCI McCloughlin except for the previously mentioned telephone conversation, and the occasion when he gigged Tenet over Joe Wilson's assistance. Finally, he does not recall having a conversation with the President about the Wilsons.

(U) By contrast, the Vice President advised that White House employee Dean McGrath was more involved in the administrative aspects of the Council so he probably did not discuss the Wilsons with him. The Vice President also advised that NSC staffer John
Hannah was primarily involved in issues relating to the Middle East, which included Iraq and weapons of mass destruction. However, Vice President Cheney believed it was possible he might have discussed the Wilsons with Hannah, but he did not think it was likely.

(U) Regarding his press secretary Cathie Martin, the Vice President was sure he had discussed Joe Wilson with her but he had no recollection of ever discussing Valerie Wilson with her. He has no recollection of Cathie Martin entering his office at some point while Scooter Libby was present and advising both of them that Joseph Wilson's wife was employed by the CIA. He also has no recollection of learning of an episode when the CIA apparently was upset that NBC News reporter Andrea Mitchell and CBS reporter David Martin had publicly reported on a conflict between the White House and the CIA relative to the SOTU "16 words." It was reported that the CIA was being blamed by White House staffers for the mistake and that Steven Hadley of the NSC had criticized Cathie Martin for the tension that surfaced between the CIA and the White House over the report. The Vice President advised he was not aware of that tension, but he was aware of a struggle between the White House and the CIA while they were both working to disseminate George Tenet's explanation of the "16 words" controversy.

(U) Regarding Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, the Vice President advised that he did not ever discuss either Joseph Wilson or Wilson's wife with either of them. The Vice President stated that the identity of Valerie Wilson and her employment was not high on his radar screen and her employment with the CIA and relationship with Joe Wilson did not figure prominently in his thinking.

(U) The Vice President advised that it was probable that he discussed Joe Wilson at some point with National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice, but he had no recollection of discussing Valerie Wilson at all with her. He advised his thoughts were the same regarding Presidential Chief of Staff Andrew Card - he probably would have discussed Joe Wilson with Card, but not Valerie Wilson. He said the same held true for Presidential Advisor Karl Rove - he probably discussed Joe Wilson with Rove, but would not have discussed Valerie Wilson with him.

(U) The Vice President went on to explain his reason for believing he possibly discussed Joe Wilson with the latter three individuals. The Vice President stated that after he receives his
7:00 a.m. briefing at his residence from the CIA briefer, he travels to the White House where he joins the President for a daily CIA briefing which the President receives from either DCI Tenet or DDe McLaughlin. Chief of Staff Card and Dr. Rice are also present for these briefings, along with a Presidential briefer from the CIA. Normally, when the CIA's briefing is completed, the four, who are sometimes joined after the briefing by Mr. Rove, will discuss a wide range of topics. At some point in time, after the Wilson issue had become public, the Vice President recalls

The Vice President said he could not recall exactly when he had this discussion and who was present for it, but it may have been at one of the morning meetings. He said that it was possible he had the discussion with the President prior to the publication of Wilson's editorial on 7/6/03, but it probably occurred afterwards. It may have occurred early on Monday, 7/7/03 although he stated that he would not have discussed it with the President on Sunday, 7/6/03, the day when he returned to Washington from Wyoming. Additionally, the Vice President had no recollection of discussing Wilson's wife at any time with the President.

(U) Asked about any possible discussions of either of the Wilsons with three high-ranking Department of State employees - Secretary of State Colin Powell, Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage, or Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Marc Grossman - the Vice President advised that he did not discuss either Wilson or Wilson's wife with any of the three men. He is also unaware of any of his staffers having discussed the Wilsons with Grossman, nor have any of the staffers told him about having any such discussion.

(U) Thereafter, the Vice President advised that he did not discuss either of the Wilsons with Bush-Cheney campaign Manager Ken Mehlman. In response to this question, Vice President Cheney asked, Why would I talk to Mehlman about that? However, he stated that it was possible he or Scooter Libby had discussed the Wilsons with his former press secretary, Mary Matalin. The Vice President advised that after Ms. Matalin left her full-time position with the White House, he continued to consult with her on a variety of issues and it was not uncommon for him to reach out to her for advice. He would normally consult with her prior to television appearances, particularly the talk shows, such as "Meet the Press." He has no specific recollection of discussing Wilson or Wilson's wife with Matalin, but he said it was possible.
(U) The Vice President advised that he is unaware of anyone in the administration conducting any research or completing a research project on either Joe Wilson or his wife. He advised that he never directed anyone on his staff to conduct such a project and no one advised him they were working on one.

(U) Regarding his relationship with columnist Robert Novak, the Vice President advised that he has known Novak for a number of years. In fact, the Vice President stated that Novak had come to Washington even before the Vice President, which was quite a number of years ago. The Vice President also knew Novak's late partner, Rowland Evans. However, despite the fact that the Vice President has known Novak for a long time, he does not have a great deal of contact with him. Vice President Cheney reiterated that he does not have routine contact with members of the press who make inquiries of the Office of the Vice President - he leaves that job to the staff. Therefore, he would not be taking telephone calls from Novak. He recalled being interviewed by Novak during the post-election transition period because Novak predicted, correctly in hindsight, that the administration was making a mistake in naming Paul O'Neill as Secretary of the Treasury. He has done several interviews on Novak's television show. He has never discussed Wilson or Wilson's wife with Novak and he has never heard Novak speak to anyone about either of the Wilsons.

(U) The Vice President advised that he assumes he discussed Joseph Wilson with Scooter Libby when the issue of Wilson's trip to Niger first surfaced in the media. He does not recall discussing Valerie Wilson with Libby prior to her name appearing in Novak's column on 7/14/03. Scooter Libby never advised him of any conversation he had with Marc Grossman from the State Department about Joe Wilson and/or Wilson's wife. Libby also never told him about any conversation he had with former White House press secretary Ari Fleischer about the Wilsons. The Vice President advised that it would have been logical for Libby to brief the White House Press Office if inquiries about Wilson were being made to the GVP. He is not aware of any lunch meetings or discussions between Ari Fleischer and Scooter Libby, but it would not surprise him if they had been to lunch together at some time during Fleischer's White House tenure.

(U) The Vice President advised that he had not made any inquiries about a contractual arrangement which might have existed between former Ambassador Wilson and the CIA. He stated that it's
possible someone else might have made such an inquiry, but he is
not aware of any such request.

(U) Vice President Cheney advised he was aware, prior to
the unauthorized disclosure of Valerie Wilson's identity in Robert
Novak's newspaper editorial on 7/14/03, that Scooter Libby was
speaking to reporters about Joseph Wilson and his trip to Niger. He
stated that Libby was not required to clear every public statement
and press contact because the Vice President had confidence in
Libby's abilities and experience in handling such inquiries.
However, the Vice President was generally aware of Libby's contacts
with Walter Pincus of the Washington Post but not aware of any
other specific reporters with whom Libby had contact. Asked
specifically about whether there was a media strategy developed
within the OVP to counter the unfair implications raised by Wilson,
the Vice President made it clear that the White House and the OVP
were not trying to affirmatively generate coverage on this issue,
but were merely responding to media inquiries.

(U) The Vice President is not aware of any contacts
Scooter Libby may have had with Robert Novak prior to the
publication of the Novak newspaper column on 7/14/03. If Libby had
such contacts, he did not tell the Vice President about them. The
Vice President was not advised by Libby that Novak had asked for an
outline of the chronology of how the SOTU was prepared.

(U) The Vice President advised that he believed he had
always been the subject of unfavorable press coverage by [Redacted]
reporter Chris Matthews.

The Vice President did not
recall [Matthews'] coverage of the Joe Wilson matter in the week
following the publication of Wilson's editorial on 7/6/03 as being
a particular problem, but he acknowledged that it was possible.
The Vice President advised that he was not aware of any attempts by
Libby to complain to [Redacted] about Chris Matthews' coverage and Libby did not discuss any such
plan with the Vice President. When asked if he had been told of
any conversation that Scooter Libby may have had with [Redacted]
Vice President Cheney said it was possible, but that he could not
recall. He repeated that he had no specific recollection of any
reporters being talked to by Scooter Libby prior to July 14.
Finally, the Vice President was not aware of any discussions which
Scooter Libby may have had with Karl Rove about Joe Wilson or
Wilson's wife, and Libby did not tell him of any such discussions.
(U) Regarding the Presidential trip to Africa beginning on 7/7/03 and ending on 7/12/03, the Vice President did not recall discussing Joe Wilson with anyone traveling with the President on Air Force One or while the entourage was in Africa. The Vice President does recall talking to Dr. Rice about the CIA statement being prepared by George Tenet, which was eventually released on 7/11/03. He recalls that the Tenet statement addressed the Wilson controversy in several respects, to include rebutting several assertions made by Wilson about the Vice President. The Vice President recalls DCI Tenet's statement admitting the CIA unilaterally decided to send Wilson to Niger to check the Iraqi/Niger uranium allegation, and the Vice President had nothing to do with that decision. Additionally, DCI Tenet's statement indicated that neither the President nor Vice President had been briefed on the findings of Wilson's trip, as Wilson asserted.

(U) The Vice President cannot recall any specific discussion with Dr. Rice about Joe Wilson or Wilson's wife. He believes that the only person he spoke with on the telephone on Air Force One or in Africa during the Presidential trip was Dr. Rice. He does not recall talking to the President during the Africa trip.

(U) Regarding DCI Tenet's statement of 7/11/03, the Vice President stated that to the best of his recollection, he did not believe the CIA statement went as far as it could have in clarifying the "16 words" controversy.
The Vice President recalled that components of the NIE, and some of the findings of the Wilson mission, and cables relating to it, were declassified and included in the statement, even though the actual NIE was not declassified.

(U) The Vice President advised that it was conceivable that he may have had discussions about Joe Wilson during the week of 7/6/03 because the Tenet statement covered the bulk of the Wilson matter, namely that the CIA had dispatched Wilson to Niger on its own without direction from the Vice President; Wilson's report confirmed there had been an approach by Iraq to Niger at one time; and the results of Wilson's trip were not briefed to the Vice President.

(U)

Rice made the press sometime shortly after the publication of the Wilson editorial wherein she had said it had been a "mistake" to include the "16 words" about the Iraqi efforts to acquire uranium in the President's SOTU. The Vice President acknowledged that Ari Fleischer may have made a similar acknowledgment in a press "gaggle" he held the day after Wilson's editorial was published.

(U)

Vice President Cheney advised that he normally receives a daily briefing from the CIA at the Vice Presidential residence beginning at 7:00 a.m. Following that briefing, he joins the President in the Oval Office for an 8:00 a.m. briefing.
sit in on the briefings with him at the Vice-Presidential residence, but often cannot make it due to conflicts. They receive separate briefings on Saturdays.

On Saturday, 7/12/03, the Vice President recalled making the trip to Norfolk, Virginia for the commissioning ceremony for the USS Ronald Reagan. He does not remember anything in particular about the CIA briefing he received at the Vice-Presidential residence that day. The Vice President was given a series of documents to review, including several from the briefing that day. With respect to the CIA briefing document marked with OVP Bates Stamp number 1537, the Vice President acknowledged that it was his handwriting of the name "Wilson" in the margin and on the face of the document. He noticed after further review of the document that it was similar to the previous document he had seen regarding Wilson's trip to Africa, but it was in a slightly different format. He noted that the paragraph which is numbered six of the document referred to the report made of Wilson's trip by the CIA Reports Officer who debriefed Joe Wilson upon his return from Niger. The Vice President advised that a review of the document did not successfully refresh his recollection about the CIA briefing on the morning of 7/12/03. He stated that the document in question did not appear to be, but looked like a type of document he may have kept. He has no specific memory of this document, and recalls no reason why he kept it.

The Vice President looked at documents bearing OVP Bates Stamp numbers 1538 and 1539. It is possible that he may have received one of the two documents, or even the previously-described one from Scooter Libby, but he has no specific recollection of having obtained either one of them from him.

The Vice President advised that he very clearly remembered the trip to Norfolk on 7/12/03 for the commissioning of the USS Ronald Reagan. He looked forward to making the trip for some time and was actually pleased that the President had declined the opportunity to commission the ship. He was particularly looking forward to spending time with former First Lady Nancy Reagan and some of his old friends from Yale University. He recalled that his wife and several members of his family made the trip on Air Force Two with him for the ceremony. Initially, he could not remember that Scooter Libby attended the ceremony with members of his family, but did seem to recall that fact when he was advised that it was and he was attending with his father.
(U) The Vice President advised that after Air Force Two arrived in Norfolk on the morning of 7/12/03, he believed that he and his wife went to the Admiral's house for breakfast where he met with Nancy Reagan. After spending time and visiting with her, the group went to the aircraft carrier for the commissioning ceremony which took place on board the ship. He recalled spending several hours at the ceremony and he also remembers the helicopter ride back to Air Force Two for the short flight back to Washington.

(U) The Vice President advised that it was possible while on the return flight, that he and Scooter Libby discussed media responses to inquiries regarding Joe Wilson's charges about the use of flawed intelligence. Though he cannot recall any specific conversation, he would not be surprised to learn that he had such a discussion with his Chief of Staff. The Vice President advised that he sees Libby several times each day and the two have previously discussed communication strategies for responding to questions from particular reporters.

(U) Vice President Cheney is familiar with Glenn Kessler, a reporter from the Washington Post, but he is not familiar with Matthew Cooper, who was identified as a reporter from Time Magazine. In handling press inquiries regarding Joe Wilson, it is conceivable that he tasked Scooter Libby with this responsibility rather than OVP press secretary Cathie Martin. As he mentioned earlier, Martin handled routine press inquiries, while Scooter's experience dictates that he assist with those press questions pertaining more explicitly to foreign policy and national security. He stated that Martin was good in getting things done and following through but she did not have Libby's experience in certain policy areas. Therefore, Libby was the more appropriate person to answer those inquiries.

(U) The Vice President said he does not recall specifically, but it would be possible he discussed the Wilson talking points with Libby aboard Air Force Two on 7/12/03. Because DCI Tenet's CIA statement had been released the previous evening, Vice President Cheney would have expected there to be press inquiries about it the following day. He stated that he might have dictated to Libby certain logical responses to the press inquiries which may have been made regarding DCI Tenet's statement. He stated that he does not recall Joe Wilson's wife or her affiliation with the CIA ever being a part of any media talking points about Wilson's trip to Niger because her employment was not an issue. He
Richard B. Cheney

cannot recall if he and Scooter Libby talked about Valerie Wilsons
CIA position as a data point.

(U) The Vice President advised he has no idea what
Scooter Libby knew about Valerie Wilson on 7/12/03. He does not
recall if he told Scooter Libby about Mrs. Wilson and her
employment at the CIA, or if Libby revealed to the Vice President
his independent knowledge about that fact. The Vice President
repeated that he believed he first heard about Joe Wilson's wife's
employment in the telephone conversation he had with DCI Tenet. He
did not recall hearing anything else about her until the Novak
column was written on 7/14/03. He stated that he had made
the handwritten notation about Wilson's wife on the Sunday New York
Times newspaper from 7/6/03, because he was remembering his
telephone conversation with Tenet in approximately June 2003,
wherein the Vice President learned for the first time of Valerie
Wilson's position with the CIA. With respect to the 7/14/03 Novak
column, he had been given no advance knowledge of the subject or
substance of the column, and he had no idea Novak or any other
reporter was working on such a story.

(U) Vice President Cheney then reviewed documents bearing
OVF Bates Stamp Numbers 2152 and 2893 which were two pages of
handwritten notes depicting media talking points pertaining to Joe
Wilson. Although the notes were not dated, he acknowledged that
they appeared to have been written by Scooter Libby. After
reviewing the notes, the Vice President stated that the talking
points in the notes resemble something he would have said to Libby,
but he cannot remember the specifics of the conversation. The Vice
President stated again that he was not aware of which reporter, or
reporters, were working with Scooter Libby on OVF responses to Joe
Wilson's criticisms. The Vice President is not sure if Mr. Libby
followed up with the media on these notes and talking points as he
does not recall whether Libby reported back to him the results of
any contact with reporters.

(U) With respect to the portion of the notes containing
the phrase "deep background," the Vice President indicated that
Mr. Libby alone would be the judge of whether or not information
was to be presented to any reporters with that caveat. As a
general rule, the Office of the Vice President and the Vice
President himself try not to be critical of other government
agencies as it is not productive. His review of the Libby notes
indicated to the Vice President that they generally contain the
same information in them as was in the DCI's statement.
Richard B. Cheney

(U) The Vice President defined his understanding of the ground rules he believed existed for reporters' use of information provided by the administration. He stated that information provided on the record could be used by the media in their reporting and also attributed to the source who provided it. Furnishing information "on background" means the information could be used and attributed to an anonymous administration official. When working "on deep background" the information could be used by a reporter to form derivative judgements, but not quoted or attributed to a source; and, finally, "off the record" means the information provided by a source could not be used.

(U) The Vice President repeated that he was not familiar with a reporter from Time magazine by the name of Matthew Cooper. The Vice President has no recollection of a misunderstanding between Scooter Libby and Time magazine wherein Libby had provided a quote relative to the Wilson matter to Time on the record and the quote, when published, was incomplete or truncated. The Vice President stated, apart from this instance, that would not be the first time that has happened in journalism. He also stated he had no recollection that Time made a change to the article in its subsequent on-line edition and printed the entire quote from Libby. He also has no recollection of instructing Libby to give the same information to Newsweek magazine as he gave to Time in the interest of balance. Because he does not have a very favorable view of Newsweek, the Vice President advised he could not conceive of giving such a direction, but stated it was possible he told Libby to contact both magazines. It is also possible that Libby made these contacts on his own initiative.

(U) Vice President Cheney reiterated that Libby's 7/12/03 handwritten notes look and sound like something he might dictate to Libby, but he cannot specifically recall having dictated such instructions to him on that occasion. The Vice President repeated that any decisions about whether Libby, when talking to the media, provides information "on the record" or "on background" are made by Libby himself. Finally, with respect to the Fall 2002 NIE, the Vice President did not believe he discussed it with Libby on 7/12/03. The Vice President advised that if Scooter Libby had any discussion with any reporters on 7/12/03 upon his return from Norfolk, VA, he must have viewed those discussions as unremarkable, inasmuch as the Vice President was never told the outcome of any conversations, discussions or interviews with the media by Libby.
The Vice President believed he read the Robert Novak column in the newspaper on the day it was published, 7/14/03. He cannot recall discussing it, or any of its contents, with anyone at the time it was published. He did not pay any particular attention to Novak's disclosure of the identity of Valerie Wilson, and he does not know how Novak might have received this information. He emphasized that it did not appear to him to be an important or even relevant fact in the Joe Wilson controversy.

When asked his view of former Ambassador Wilson, the Vice President described him as something of an aggravation. He also advised that it is a bit hard for him to separate his feelings about Wilson from the 2003 time-frame of the publication of the various news articles, and from his view of Wilson now. The Vice President advised that his biggest problem in the entire Wilson matter has been the performance of the CIA. The Vice President noted that he had a history of experience with the CIA, and has been a consumer of CIA intelligence, ranging from his time as a Congressman when he served on the House Intelligence Committee, through his service as Secretary of Defense and currently as Vice President. The Vice President described himself as a long-time admirer of the CIA and its people and programs, but he characterized their performance in the Wilson matter as "amateur hour." His mind-set about the entire issue led him to wonder to himself about what was going on at Langley. He also believed, with respect to Joe Wilson, that Wilson has built a career on this niche, noting that he understood Wilson had just written a book. He also saw him on television discussing the book and it appears that some of what Wilson has said has expanded over time.

The Vice President indicated that in the July 2003 time-frame he did not have the impression that Joe Wilson was a partisan. His handwritten notes on the 7/6/03 editorial about Wilson's trip and the involvement of Wilson's wife in the CIA's selection of Wilson was triggered by his recollection of the prior telephone conversation he had with George Tenet, wherein Tenet identified Wilson's wife as an employee of the agency. The Vice President also indicated that he never discussed the substance of his call with Tenet with anyone prior to the publication of Valerie Wilson's identity in Novak's 7/14/03 newspaper column.

Vice President Cheney advised that no one ever told him that Wilson went to Niger because of his wife's CIA status and, in fact, the Vice President does not have any idea to this day why Joseph Wilson was selected to go to Niger. He has never been
advised by anyone of the findings of the CIA's Inspector General investigation alluded to by DCI Tenet in their initial telephone call regarding Wilson. The Vice President advised that it is possible he and Scooter Libby discussed former Ambassador Wilson's credentials for undertaking the mission for the CIA, but he has no specific recollection of such a discussion. Additionally, he does not recall any discussion with Libby of perceived nepotism associated with Wilson's selection for the CIA assignment. The Vice President believed, based on Joe Wilson's past service as an ambassador in the region, that his qualifications for the trip were "OK." However, the Vice President believed the CIA did not go about the mission in the right way. He assumed that Scooter Libby very likely shares his view of the CIA's handling of the Wilson mission as "amateur hour." The Vice President believed it possible that he and Libby discussed the Wilson trip as some kind of a junket or boondoggle, words which are to him synonymous in their meaning. However, he has no solid recollection of any such discussion.

(U) The Vice President advised that there was no discussion of "pushing back" on Wilson's credibility by raising the nepotism issue, and there was no discussion of using Valerie Wilson's employment with the CIA in countering Joe Wilson's criticisms and claims about Iraqi efforts to procure yellowcake uranium from Niger.

(U) The Vice President recalled the Gerald Ford 90th birthday party celebration at the White House on 7/16/03. He indicated that he was the host and organizer of the party and is aware that both Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan and his wife, NBC News reporter Andrea Mitchell, attended the party. Greenspan received an award from the Gerald Ford Foundation. The Vice President could not recall any discussion that evening with Andrea Mitchell about the Wilson matter. He advised that he has long known Andrea Mitchell and has been in attendance at numerous social functions with her in the past. He described her as a reporter who does not mix business and social occasions. The Vice President cannot recall if Secretary of State Powell attended the party, but he advised he was sure there was a list available of the party attendees.

(U) The Vice President advised that during the period from the publication of Robert Novak's column on 7/14/03, until the Department of Justice investigation was announced in late September, he does not recall much, if any, discussion about former
ambassador Wilson and the trip to Niger. He has some recollection of Deputy National Security Advisor Stephen Hadley providing a "back-grounder" to the press addressing Iraq/WMD matters. He recalled that this briefing occurred some time shortly after declassification of the October 2002 NIE.

(U) The Vice President learned of the investigation at the same time White House Counsel Alberto Gonzales issued a document preservation order to all White House employees directing that they preserve any and all records relating to this matter. To the best of the Vice President's recollection, everyone in the White House was advised that because an investigation was underway, the documents were to be preserved and employees should not discuss the investigation with anyone else. At that time, no one came to him and told him of any discussion they had with Robert Novak regarding Valerie Wilson prior to the publication of Novak's column. No one told him at that time that he was under investigation. He did not know if Scooter Libby independently attempted to get the White House press office to make
a statement clearing him prior to discussing it with the Vice President.

(U) Regarding his conversations with Libby about this time, although the Vice President has no specific memory of such a conversation, Libby may have told him he was not Novak's source. In any event, the Vice President did not suspect Libby of being Novak's source. He cannot recall Scooter Libby telling him how he first learned about Valerie Wilson. It is possible Libby may have learned about Valerie Wilson's employment from the Vice President after the Vice President's phone call with George Tenet, but the Vice President has no specific recollection of such a conversation. The Vice President also cannot recall ever waving Libby off, at a certain point in time, when Libby offered to tell him everything he knew about the Wilson matter. The Vice President has no recollection of Libby saying that he'd learned about Valerie Wilson from a reporter, nor does he have any recollection of Libby indicating that anyone else in the administration knew about Valerie Wilson's employment at the CIA. Moreover, Vice President Cheney does not have any recollection of Libby indicating that reporters with whom Libby was speaking about the Wilson matter, ever informed him of Valerie Wilson's employment with the CIA.

(U) The Vice President was then provided a document bearing OVP Bates Stamp number 002518. This document reflected some hand printed talking points on the top half, and the rest of the document contained separate handwritten notes on its lower half, which the Vice President advised was his handwriting. The Vice President recognized this note from a conversation he had with Scooter Libby after White House press secretary McClellan had issued his September 2003 press statement clearing Rove as Novak's source. He recalled Libby presented the hand printed talking points to him as a suggested response to the media to be used by McClellan in an effort to clear Libby of any involvement in the leak. The Vice President, during the interview, read aloud the handwritten portion of the document. The Vice President stated that he could not decipher that part of his own handwritten notes which appeared to have been crossed out. He stated that the crossed out words might have been written as "the Pres.", however, Vice President Cheney advised he could not be certain and, in any event, it had been crossed out. The Vice President stated that the portion of his handwritten notes which read in part, "...sacrifice the guy that was asked to stick his neck in the meat grinder because of the incompetence of others", was his reference to the efforts of Libby who was forced to respond to numerous media inquiries involving Joe
Wilson because of the incompetence of the CIA. The Vice President believed at the time that both Libby and Elliot Abrams were being left out there in the public eye as the alleged sources for Novak in the aftermath of McClellan's public exoneration of Karl Rove.

(U) The Vice President acknowledged that it was also his handwriting in the left margin of the one-page note referring to "Tenet" and "Wilson memo." However, he said his review of that portion of the document did not ring a bell as to why he wrote those words. The Vice President could not recall exactly when he wrote this note, but assumes it had to have been sometime after McClellan's September 2003 press statement about Rove, and prior to a similar statement McClellan subsequently issued during a press briefing denying any involvement in the leak on the part of either Libby or Abrams as Novak's sources.

(U) The Vice President does not recall any member of his staff, including Scooter Libby, meeting with New York Times reporter Judith Miller during the week of 7/7/03, just after publication of Joe Wilson's editorial in the New York Times. The Vice President was familiar with Judith Miller and her reporting expertise in the area of weapons of mass destruction. The Vice President does recall some OVP discussion with Miller about the key judgements of the Fall, 2002 NIE around the time of the declassification of the NIE. The Vice President recalled this time-frame as being after Baghdad had fallen and the search was on in Iraq for weapons of mass destruction. The Vice President recalled that certain portions of the NIE had been declassified regarding WMD, namely the summary judgment portions about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and those parts of the body of the overall NIE report which dealt with Iraq's efforts to procure uranium from Africa.

(U) The Vice President described the declassification process stating that the President has the ultimate authority to declassify a document, with other declassification responsibilities vested with those agencies having originally classified a given document. He also noted that the Vice President himself had declassification authority which commonly occurs when two different agencies cannot agree on the declassification of certain matters and the Vice President, in essence, referees the dispute. As an example,
The Vice President advised he eventually made the declassification decisions in those matters.

(U) With respect to the NIE, questions had arisen about the President's decision to go to war with Iraq, so the White House had been in favor of declassifying the summary judgment portions of the NIE, and eventually made the decision to declassify them. The Vice President advised that he was unaware of any objections to the declassification coming from the CIA.

Issues relating to those portions of the NIE had been publicly discussed on several prior occasions, including with the publication of a White Paper in the Fall of 2002 and in Secretary Powell's speech to the United Nations prior to the Iraq war. Therefore, the White House made the decision to declassify the portions of the NIE mentioned above. The Vice President recalled again that after the declassification, Steve Hadley provided a background briefing and the Vice President believed Communications Director Dan Bartlett attended the briefing. When advised that the NIE was declassified on 7/18/03, the Vice President stated that he believed it was declassified before that date. He recalled, "secret" declassification of the NIE by him, as he would not have kept such a decision from the other principals mentioned above.

(U) With respect to dissemination of the information contained in the NIE to the press, the Vice President advised that it is possible to talk about something contained in a classified document without violating the law regarding declassification. For example, the Vice President has made numerous public statements about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction which were based on and, in some cases tracked, his reading of classified information, including the NIE. However, he did not violate any relevant laws or rules in making these statements because he did not reveal the confidential sources or methods involved in gathering the classified information. Vice President Cheney advised that he believed it was justifiable to rely on classified information to shape and inform what one says publicly. He further advised that his own public statements at times tracked the NIE and were
informed by data within the NIE. Vice President Cheney believed this was a perfectly appropriate way to use the NIE.

(U) The Vice President advised that no one ever told him of a desire to share key judgments of the NIE with a news reporter prior to the NIEs declassification on 7/18/03. The Vice President advised that the only person on his staff who would have made such a request was Scooter Libby who was familiar with the governing rules for utilizing the information contained in the NIE. Libby knew it was appropriate to use the information in the NIE derivatively, without attributing it to its source and without disseminating the actual NIE document itself. The Vice President cannot specifically recall having a conversation with Scooter Libby during which Libby advised the Vice President that he wanted to share the key judgments of the NIE with Judith Miller. Although the Vice President cannot recall having such a conversation, if one did occur, he would have advised Libby only to use something if it was declassified. He believed Libby would have told him about any attempts to put something out to the media prior to its declassification and the Vice President cannot recall such a discussion. However, the Vice President does recall having a conversation at some time with Libby about the NIE.

(U) When asked if he ever had a conversation with Scooter Libby wherein Libby informed the Vice President that certain material within the NIE needed to be declassified before it could be shared externally, Vice President Cheney advised that he does not recall. When asked if he ever advised Libby that the President had decided to declassify the NIE, the Vice President declined to answer in view of his concerns about sharing potentially privileged conversations between himself and the President. It was clarified for the Vice President that he was not being asked to comment on the substance of his conversations with the President, but rather, only whether he ever told Libby that he had such a discussion with the President. In response, Vice President Cheney repeated his assertion that he must refrain from commenting to the investigators about any private and/or privileged conversations he may have had with the President.

(U) Finally, the Vice President reiterated that it should be noted that a distinction existed in the NIE between information located in the summary judgement portions of the NIE and those portions in the body of the report dealing with Iraqi efforts to obtain uranium from Africa. All of the summary judgement information in the NIE, about a wide range of topics, was
declassified, while only that part of the body of the NIE regarding Iraqi efforts to obtain uranium from Africa was declassified, with the balance of the NIE remaining classified.

(U) After the Vice President again mentioned that he was pressed for time, two separate requests were made to Vice President Cheney in an effort to assist the DOJ/FBI investigation into this matter. First, an FBI waiver form was presented to the Vice President and copies were given to his attorneys. It was explained to Vice President Cheney that his signature was being sought on the waiver form in order to release any reporters with whom the Vice President may have had conversations about the subject matter of this investigation, from promises of confidentiality arising from any such conversations. Vice President Cheney acknowledged receipt of the FBI's waiver form but declined to sign until his attorneys have had sufficient time to review it.

(U) Secondly, it was requested of Vice President Cheney and his lawyers that all parties to this interview agree to refrain from any external discussion of this subject matter with any unauthorized persons. It was specifically requested that no discussions take place with other witnesses in this case and that the classified nature of the subject matters discussed in this interview be properly protected. In response to this special request, the Vice President's attorney, Terry ODonnell, advised that he understood the FBI's request, but said he could not make a binding commitment to refrain from discussing the interview with persons who may need to help him properly advise and represent his client. The Special Counsel explained that it was important to ensure that everything be done to keep the recollections of other witnesses from being influenced.
Field File No.  
Serial # of Originating Document  
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Date Received 5-8-94  
From RICHARD B. CHENEY  
(Name of Contributor)  
WHITE HOUSE  
(Address of Contributor)  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
(City and State)  
By  
(Name of Special Agent)  
To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☐ No  
Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☐ No  
Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6(e), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure ☐ Yes ☐ No  
Title: 

Reference:  
(Communication Enclosing Material)  
Description: ☐ Original notes re interview of RICHARD B. CHENEY  

1A-24Z
5-4-04 AT WS IF-JE-TF
VP Cheney \\
/ Tenny OD. + E. Fezz

- Preceded by PF
- Privilege - Reporters B.D.A. - Preliminary authorized him re relating to inv.


- Doesnt know who talked w/ RV
- No one talked to him about talking w/ RV
- Other reporters - no one he knows has talked to him about talking to reporters
- No one
- No plan. Knowledge - if anyone or anyone tell him they talked to

1st heard of Wilson - news reports - ex every plane we have attempts to acquire 103
VP - knew about trip - VP

- 2/02 inquiry - he made official

- 1st article - NY times column - Kristoff editorial 3/2

Out of 2/03 - went to CIA - W/S - several times
visit to
CIA
- does not believe he discussed Wilson trip on any
visit to CIA - cant recall
- usually regular

2/03 - not aware of Wilson CNN appearance then
- Prices article in fact - press queries re what VP signed off on Wilson trip
- Prices may have called - not him - maybe staff
- 6/10 - no recollection of discussion w/ VP
- Admin. efforts on research Wilson - he called CT
  - CT didn't know what was going on
  - CT was expensive - one case
  - cordial nature of conversation
  - can't recall anything else in conversation w/ CT
doesn't recall i.d. of Wilson by CT or his wife's name
- Can't recall - may have mentioned to SC - would've shared w/ SC if anyone - their would not have probably been shared w/ him
- (6/13) Knute? (6/19) New Republic - can't recall article
- Writer may have talked to SL J. Key
7/6 - became aware of Wilson ed. - in Wyoming - for 7/11 weekend - read it there - just return to plane or when he got back (maybe on 7/12)

Reaction
- Amateur lawyer at CIA - didn't ask assessment - just VP didn't ask does, - thought confidentiality - written report for some VP more detail on trip then.
- Disturbed because all came from a question of air to Bolivian in 7/12.
- After we read - probably called someone - cannot recall.
- After trip came - sorry/布什 wrote letter - discussion back up - well culminated 7/17.
- Statement re Nyeri - killed down some of 7/15 assertion.

Editor - tore it out - 7/17 - writing on editorial
- Can't remember when he wrote - probably contemporary.
- At time he read and practiced to underline.
- He drew up the underlined portions as follows:
  - Yes but... we transferred.
  - It had happened.
  - Other lie or he read it - not a serious matter.
  - Last part of section - did not happen - rejets.
- Sometimes game does within few days - thought can't recall if he discussed it with others - didn't think it was anything special.

Till 7/14 - before Wartile at Wilson's wife no discussion of AT.
- wildly 'giggling' D to DCT to send Wilson on a trip - unrelated matter
- Wilson's wife became busy after 7/14

At some point

- [Briefed - 6/21 - Dave Lenn]
- Craig Schwall
- [CIA]

3 phone calls 6/7 - hand-delivered
- 1:19 pm 2:42 pm 3:53 pm
- BS 1445 at exp. (1465) - didn't recognize specifically
- On date - brief

[Recalls detailed figures - may have generated the compilation]

SECRET
p. 1450 - can't recall the doc. -
- can't recall what exactly triggered his
signing to try for jury
- converted to RSA
- He saw a memo from someone who
delivered it
p. 1456 - handwriting at top - doesn't recognize
at top

p. 1475 - 1481
p. 1475 - It's circled, underlined, and asterisked - not
done by him - doesn't know who did

1552-1553 - recognized as "Wilson's delivery"
- saw it by him later - his handwriting
- "Wilson" - "red flag"
- "red flag" underlined
- summer 03
- summer time, only
- doesn't show that person has thought they
been approached by vigils
- can't read all if before 7/6

1588 & 1590 - "Joe Wilson" - different format
(1589) missing
- place him

- has no idea why different format - may
have asked for another line to lose
p. 1784 - (copied in name here)
C. Joe Wilson - wait for
on 1/34 script could be libby's - not printed

- knowing that looks like an effort by CA to respond 2/12

Per OGA

Timing - after Wilson thing became public - when we saw/had knowledge that was only doc. he produced - widely disseminated - but never made to VP

- possibly after questions raised re VP involvement

- interview after 7/16 (speculated)
- knot off 1/17 - not as intense
- Albert going on 16 words - relates to some extent to this

- he doesn't take press calls - key
- wouldn't gone to key - possibly substantiation - State
- gave guidance to both of them - can't recall may/frime generally
  1. did ask questions
  2. got answer
  3. 
  4. didn't get answer
  5. never helped on results

- Some 16 words - can't draw distinction pre 7/16 after 7/16 signing
  in his mind
129-191 - VP can't recall seeing before
147-148
P. 162 - 3/25/03 doc.
165 - 3/25/03 doc.

P. Wilson/Wilson's wife -
Edelmann - ran NSC op. under Wiley - no
specific rec. - but possible
Patel -
we drafted - other side - wouldn't have publicly
disclosed w/lnc.
Farrar - Middle East - doesn't recall US telling
ntell. - poor - not likely
Martin - does re JW
more recalled w/vw

Can't recall KM telling him about
VW working at Agency -
re AJR/Patterson/Hadley deal - CA

Recall tension between

Effort to get statement out - CA/WSC
can't recall this matter w/letter CA or SA
Wolfowitz - back in FOI - 8
Wife didn't figure prominently - wife not
invited on maiden screen

Probably several w/CN re JW - not recall of his
wife

Wald - would've re JW - not VW
SECRET

-8-

- Morning briefing - Portal UP card/CR
  Tent/Zone Brief
  You will discuss cause of takeover - [recall after it]
  Become public - press - 7/6 - probably press 7/6
  PM on 7/7

- wouldn't have discussed on Sunday 7/6 - Powell
  doesn't recall discussing ever with wife
  for us

- Powell, Austage - more recall from staff letter
  medium - more
  April natural - press - discussed w/her
  possessive

- Mary Natural - press - discussed w/her
  doesn't know detail about egg
  doesn't know detail about
  didn't discuss detail about

- her known Natural for yrs -
  met much contact
  interview w/Natural - transition - O'Neill
  may have done TV interviews
  doesn't talk on phone
  never discussed with him

- Meet the Press appearance

- wanted to meet someone - maybe discussed
  Man, and situation

SECRET
- Can't recall disc w/mr  re vw - possible

SL - assumes he discussed JW w/obby when it came up
- Can't recall discussing VW pre 7/14 w/sc

SC - never told Mr. about corp. w/m. Kincaid or R.
   Fleischer re Wilson/wife
   - would've wanted w/press office briefed

SC called 7/14 - not accurate

Contractual obligation re JW w/CR - he didn't make
   inquiry - someone must have asked - not CR

... and paperwork inquiry

Prior to 7/14 - SC talking w/reporters - re JW - SC
doesn't clearly know
   - other than Kuhn, 7/14 press - no other reporters
   - he recalled - not trying to generate coverage
     - only response
   - SL w/rd - not same prior to 7/14
     - didn't tell him about the inquiry
   - SOTU outline - not aware

[Chris Matthews] - unfavorable coverage - always - that
week - he doesn't recall [Chris] ever being a
partic problem - but it's possible
They were not aware of any plan or if he did talk to
[Name] - [Name is someone else]
[Name] - not aware of any plans, not did [Name] talk

- The next trip - 7/7 to 7/12 - discussion re Wilson issue - [Name] telling to CR
- CT statement - CT statement addressed Wilson controversy - i.e. - Agency sending
  him out on their own - was brief to VLO / etc.
- CT statement cleaned up re sending
  can't recall specific date. - [Name] / CT / Wilson

- only phone call w/ anyone on AT / - CR

CT - statement - didn't feel statement went as far
as it could've
- The content of NIE de-classified
- Wilson report/cable declines + included in CT Statement
- Conceivable he would've discussed Wilson statement covered fully:
  - CIA sent on it's own
  - Approve any Resp. > 9/16
  - Results of trip not lifted

- CH to Press "mistake"

At next senior you have

Practice of briefing -
May 30th at VP Residence
8am - in Oval Office briefing

Per OGA

SL asks us days this week
7/12 briefing - can't recall the topics or that particular brief

- handwriting - WJ - Wilson (?) - note
- edited but similar to previous doc. he saw
- if so - refer back to this report
- can't recall the brief by looking at doc, looks like a doc. however might have kept - but not positive he kept this one
- can't recall keeping this specific document

- may have gotten the doc. from SC
  - 9/1538 - his handwriting - underlining
  - 1539 - underlining on W/E

and 7/12 - not very sure of which reporters called that well w/

- on 152 to Norfolk
- remember day - mission he began - looked forward
to doing it
- spent day W/ NR - old friend - Yale
- plane ride - wife - family member
- can't recall SC - family

- arrived - went to Admiral's house - met NR there
  (Pennsylvania House)
- spent time on carrier where Ceremony
- recalls helicopter ride to plane - about trip back
- can't recall trip back
- pos. - can't specifically recall discussed
- pos. inquiries
- wouldn't be surprised
- sees him several times a day - can't recall specifics - we may have given strategy
- strategy re questions from particular reporters - Kessler / Cooper
- unknown / doesn't know
- pos. told Scooter to call rather than Waters
- soldiers, policy, situation, experience
- capability - good in getting things done - follow thru
- doesn't have SC's experience

- on AF 2 - possibly talked about calling points again
- MT statement out
- would've expected
- logical - we should've dictated
- ad calling points re JW's wife - can't recall
- if he or Scooter did he discuss her and voter point

7/12 - he didn't know what SC knew
- about JW
- doesn't recall him telling SC Scooter
- talking him about Wilson's wife
SECRET

14

- He heard of Wilson's wife - conv. w/GT - then didn't hear about her again until Novah column
- + notation on NYT times he made
- Never told by hand of Novah piece or knew Novah or any other reporter Washington

Library notes:

- After VP revealed - would be something's points we'd like to make - took SL's words there are 912 notes
- Not sure who SL talking to in Press - written
- Not sure if followed up + results of his

SL judge of "deep background" use - see rule
- VP ever to not be critical
- Same info as Teveret statement

On record - use & attribute it
Background - Adm. Official
Deep Background - use - don't attribute
Off record - can't use

- d. of Matt Cooper - not known to harm

Collections:

- True May - SL - on read quote - dispute - incorrect
- + Article - change made
- True - Newseum - balance - he can't convince but
Notes sound like him - can't specifically recall
- SL made three "on record" & "background"
decisions himself

NIE discussion w/SL on 7/12 - no

- SL seemed as remarkable - any discussion w/PL
definitely he said or press read - nothing told by
SL to win

7/14- RT column - read in paper - can't recall discussing
w/ anyone -
- only recall - class info - discussion in paper at
that time

VIEW of Wilson - something of an aggregation
- hard to separate feelings then from now
- largest problem w/agency - by expertise
  w/ CIA - As Sec. / Legislative / NSC
- admin
- but this was "anatomalous" cause
- mindset - what was going on at Haigley
- Wilson was built a career on this niche

- Nepotism - thought triggered his role or crm
- in July - not viewed as part of
- 1st thought - triggered by CT phone - call - nova
- no one ever told him he went because things
- he still doesn't know why JW was picked to go
- nor never been told

7/6 column

on TV the other night he said things which have been pounded over time

- poss. discussions w/SC about JW's credentials
  but no specific recollection or nepotism

- looking at his qualifications - OK
  but CIA didn't go about the mission

- assume SC aligned view of CIA "anatomically"

- poss. can't recall "pinket/brandyke" discussion
  w/SC
  (same meaning)

- no pushback discussion re how he got trip
  no talking points re JW

7/16 - Ford b-day party
- ocupancy attended - A. Mitchell - hosted
  can't recall any conv. w/A. Mitchell

SECRET

EET
- Social occasion - A. Mitchell doesn't mix social + business
- Can't recall if Sec. Powell at event - not available

After 7/14 → late September -  
Can't recall much discussion of TX issue
Post 7/14 S. Hadley - background to press - after declassifying
- addressing WMD question + NIE
- July - dealt with Iraq WMD + NIE

Learned of investigation - Gonzales - re DOJ - preserve docs.

Dr. 13 - recollection - everybody told basically - investigation
- influence - preserve docs - don't discuss investigation
- Anyone coming to him re prior discussion iw/ anyone
- No one told him anyone talking to reporters about

SECRETS
- McClellan's press statement - exaggerated
- Press office putting down Bush - not happy
- doesn't know if SC tried to get clearing statement or not.

- SC may have told VP not source - he never suspected.

- Can't recall SC telling him how he heard about VW - never told him about VP - never anything.

- Can't recall SC telling him to tell him everything.

- Can't recall.

- Poor. SC told him he'd learned about VW from VP - I can't recall specifically.

(Copied at call)

- SC telling him from reporters - no recollection - someone else in admin. knew.

- SC told him - he'd reported to reporters and been told by reporters about VW's wife.

[Handwritten note: "MEET AGAINER document - printing - SC studied - Nathan redaction - his recollection this comes from con. w/SC that above"]

[Handwritten note: "SECRET"]
- SL came to mini - meets who suggested talking pts to McClellan

- read the quote - the cross out - can't read it - doesn't know

- can't pass it's the Pres. (struck out)

- tell Pres. has -

- stick with in meetings - SL have to answer
  question generated
  - conference at Agency

- SL + EA being left out there

- Terr. Wilson man - V1's handout - no telling

- assume it was post briefing - on KR
  + before information of EA + SL

- doesn't work - email in office or home

- weekly 1/2 - can't recall if staff met w/ Judith Miller - can't recall SL meeting when

- discussion of key indicators - of NIE with Miller -
  period of time - declassifying NIE

- Baghdad pull out reach out for WP
SECRET

- 20 -

- declassified portion of NIE summary judgments
  + portfolio in body re Iraq + WMD in africa

- declas. process - POTUS
  - Agency oversight
  - VP

- wanted to declas. summary judgments of NIE - made by WH. Can't recall CIA constraint.

- a lot out earlier - White paper

- decision at WH to declasify

- beiever declasified before

- secret declasification he wouldn't have kept from other principals

- to release to press - talk from classified info. "out it being declasified - thanks NIE"
Anyone else tell him -21-
key judgments of NIE w/reporter prior to its
declassification on 1/18

Knows when NIE was declassified

SL would have been the only one to be so-
appropriate to use the info. in the NIE-
different than handing out the document
itself

W CON. w/SL re Judith Miller - share key
judgments w/NIE

- Would have only told him to use something if
declassified -
can't recall

- SL would've told him - can't remember putting something
out because it was declassified - has a
recollection of CON. w/SL re NIE -
- Distinction between Iraq/Africa/Syria
judgments

DOB - 1-30-41
SSN -
Date Received
From (Name of Contributor)
(Address of Contributor)
(City and State)

By (Name of Special Agent)

To Be Returned □ Yes □ No
Receipt Given □ Yes □ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6(e), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure □ Yes □ No

Title: White House / CIA Tech Investigation

Reference: (Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: [Original notes re interview of Vice President Richard B. Cheney]
CHENEY OUTLINE (MAY 7, 2004)

INITIAL OVERVIEW (ONE TO TWO HOUR COVERAGE)

GET HIM TALKING IN HIS OWN WORDS
TEST WHETHER MILLER AND NIE COMES UP WITHOUT PROMPTING
DO WE THINK HE HAS SEEN LIBBY NOTES?
CATHIE M NOTES?

INTRO:

NOT INTERESTED IN POLITICS FOR PRURIENT REASONS
BUT DO NEED TO KNOW STATE OF MIND

BOTTOM LINE:

DOES HE KNOW WHO TALKED TO NOVAK ABOUT WILSON'S WIFE?

DOES HE KNOW ANYONE WHO TALKED TO ANY OTHER REPORTERS ABOUT WILSON'S WIFE BEFORE JULY 14?

AFTER JULY 14?

GENERAL, WILSON RELATED QUESTIONS:

WHEN LEARNED ABOUT WILSON'S ROLE EVEN IF NOT NAME?
WHEN LEARNED NAME?

2002?
2003?

WHEN LEARNED ABOUT WILSONS' WIFE? FROM WHOM?

MARCH 03

[VP AND LIBBY VISIT PRIOR TO WAR
WILSON HAD BEEN ON CNN
ANY DISCUSSION OF WILSON TRIP?]
RUMSFELD? No
WOLFOWITZ? No
ANDY CARD? He would have been involved in conversations.
KARL ROVE? J.W. possibly. St. Pat's. Springfiled, Illinois. Reminds me of speaking to Novak via J.W. Does it sound that I was talking to Novak re. W's wife?
KEN MEHLMAN? No.
POWELL? No recollection. Either J.W. or V.W.
ARMITAGE? No recollection?
GROSSMAN? No recollection?

ANY RESEARCH DONE ON WILSON, WILSON'S TRIP OR WILSON'S WIFE?

VP HAVE ANY RELATIONSHIP WITH NOVAK?

SPEAK?

GO TO NOVAK FORUM?

LIBBY RELATED QUESTIONS:

WHEN DISCUSSED WITH LIBBY?

RE: WILSON GENERALLY

RE: KRISTOF?

[LIBBY NOTES: SHOW?
JUNE NOTES RE: FUNCTIONAL OFFICE AT CPD]

RE: PINCUS
DISCUSSED JUNE INR?

EXHIBIT

WHEN DISCUSSED 4/03 CIA REPORT?

EXHIBIT

OTHER CIA DOCUMENTS?

JUNE 9 DOCUMENTS

WHEN FIRST SAW?

WHAT CAUSED?

MULTIPLE COPIES

WHO DISCUSSED WITH?

LIBBY?

HANNAH?

IDENTIFY HANDWRITING?

1456
1538 [later]
1552
1588
1784

3 FAXES ON JUNE 9: 1:19 PM; 2:42 PM; 3:53 PM

1445-1465: Heiden production contains document dated 6/9/03 from Hannah to VP transmitting 3/03 CIA report:

1456: handwriting on p. 7: "Did CIA have it in their document?"

1472: same document from Cathie Martin production [header also from CIA 6/9/03]

1475: p. 2: underline and asterisk near section about Wilson (did not

SECRET
name Wilson)

1480: p. 7 also underlined in section that refers back to p. 2

1552: "Wilson" handwritten on copy of CIA report

1588 - "Joe Wilson" written on cable

1784: on CIA report handwritten "Joe Wilson [print]
Wilson [script]"

WHEN DISCUSSED WILSON COLUMN?

COLUMN WITH HANDWRITTEN NOTES?

JULY 6 WILSON OP ED

WHERE WERE YOU?

REACTION?

UPSET?

WHO DISCUSSED WITH?

ARE THESE 'IP'S NOTES?

WHEN WROTE NOTES ON ARTICLE?

ASK FOR ORIGINAL

WHY IN SAFE?

JULY 6 ANNOTATED

"Have they done this sort of thing before?"
"Send an Amb to answer a question?"
"Do we ordinarily send people out pro bono to work for us?"
"Or did his wife send him on a junket?"
[IF WROTE RIGHT AWAY:
SO KNEW ABOUT WILSON'S WIFE BEFORE
NOVAK?
HOW?]

[IF WROTE LATER:
WHERE DID NEWSPAPER COME FROM?
WHY WAIT UNTIL LATER TO WRITE?
WHAT NOT WRITTEN ABOUT IT THAT LEARNED
LATER?]

ASK FOR ORIGINAL VP ARTICLE
HANDWRITING ON ORIGINAL PAPER?
IS THIS FROM WYOMING?
WRITTEN ON PLANE
[DO NOT ASK. WHAT DOES "WK" MEAN?]
CUT OUT WITH PENKNIFE
SHOWN TO ANY ONE ELSE?

UNDERLINING:
WHO DID THE UNDERLINING?

DISCUSS WITH LIBBY ANY CONVERSATIONS HE HAD WITH
Rove OR OTHERS?
GROSSMAN?
ARI FLEISCHER?
[DAVID ADDINGTON?]

EVER DISCUSS WITH YOU WHETHER WILSON BROKE HIS CONTRACT

6
BY TALKING ABOUT TRIP
EVER TALK ABOUT PAPERWORK HE WOULD FILL OUT
DISCUSS LIBBY CONVERSATIONS WITH NOVAK
DID NOVAK ASK LIBBY FOR OUTLINE OF PROCESS BY WHICH
STATE OF THE UNION PREPARED

RUSSERT CONVERSATION

[CHRIS MATTHEWS] OVER THE TOP?
TICKED OFF ABOUT IT?
Scooter ticked off?
Scooter tell you he was going to complain to [ruSSERT] about [CHRIS MATTHEWS] COVERAGE

TELL YOU HE MADE THE CALL?
TELL YOU [RUSSERT] TOLD HIM ANYTHING

JULY 7 TO JULY 14

WITH TENET?
ANY DISCUSSION ABOUT RUSSERT?
ANY DISCUSSION ABOUT NOVAK?
ANY DISCUSSION ABOUT ANY CONVERSATION HAD WITH PRESS?
WITH NOVAK?

DISCUSSION WITH ANY PERSONS ON AFRICA TRIP RE: WILSON ISSUE:

POTUS NO
CARD NO
DISCUSSION WITH CATHIE MARTIN ABOUT WILSON'S WIFE?

CATHIE TELL YOU THAT WILSON'S WIFE WORKED AT CIA?

[IF DOES NOT RECALL: CATHIE MARTIN SAYS THAT HARLOW IS GETTING CALLS FROM ANDREA MITCHELL AND DAVID MARTIN - IT IS AGREED THAT SCOOTER LIBBY WILL RETURN CALL]

[IF NOT, RECALL THAT CATHIE MARTIN COMPLAINED THAT SHE WAS SUSPECTED OF TALKING TO MARTIN OR MITCHELL; CAME UP AT MEETING CHAIRED BY HADLEY IN THE MORNING]

KNOW IT ALREADY?

ANY REACTION?

AIR FORCE TWO:

MORNING BRIEFING

DOCUMENTS

DID YOU HAVE JULY 12 DOCUMENT FROM CIA WITH YOU?

WHY?

WHAT ELSE KEPT?

1537: “prepared by CIA
Received 7/12/03” [document similar to the 3/03 report]
1538: "Wilson?" written on copy of CIA report

WHOSE HANDWRITING? VP

Underlined 1999 trip

Underlined NIE

STATE OF KNOWLEDGE THAT DAY

AT THIS POINT DID YOU KNOW THAT REPORTERS WERE DISCUSSING WILSON’S WIFE?

WHAT DID SCOOTER TELL YOU ABOUT HIS CONTACTS WITH REPORTERS?

SCOOTER DISCUSS ANY CONVERSATION WITH TIM RUSSERT WITH YOU?

DISCUSS ROVE CONVERSATION WITH NOVAK?

DISCUSS WHAT TO SAY ABOUT WILSON’S WIFE?

THOUGHT IT OK FOR HIM TO TALK ABOUT WILSON’S WIFE?

ANY DISCUSSION WITH SCOOTER LIBBY ON AIR FORCE TWO ON WAY DOWN?

CONVERSATION UPON RETURN TRIP

WHAT DISCUSSED?

WHAT SAID?

WHO WAS LIBBY TO TALK TO?
WHAT TO SAY?

WHY LIBBY NOT CATHIE MARTIN?

EXHIBIT

[2892] Mags: Deny Wilson-VP link

On record?
On record [crossed out]

[continues with on record discussion of VP asking Qs about Niger]

WHY OFF RECORD? Amrt Recrd

[2893] VP [crossed out: did not know anything]
Written above [UI unaware Joe Wilson]
trip and didn't know about until
this year when became public
after SOTU

Deep background
Only written record of Wilson
trip included statement that “former
PM of Niger saying he had
been approached by
Iraqi officials in what he believed
to be an effort to acquire
uranium in 1999”

Didn't see until recently
saw NIE last fall, which
I took to be authoritative on right [on record]

Deep background as admin officials
Give straight report on NIE
[UI] report said
Vigorously pursue

WHAT ARE REFERENCES TO DEEP BACKGROUND MEAN?

WHY NOT ON RECORD?
[DO SOFTLY] NOTE: VP TELLS HIM TO GIVE STRAIGHT REPORT ON NIE "VIGOROUSLY PURSUE"

HAD IT BEEN DECLASSIFIED?

IF IT HAD BEEN DECLASSIFIED WHY "DEEP BACKGROUND"???

WILSON REPORT: HAD THAT BEEN DECLASSIFIED?

DID LIBBY GET BACK TO YOU ON HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH REPORTERS?

WHAT DID SCOTTIE TELL YOU HE SAID TO:

COOPER
KESSLER
MILLER
MITCHELL
THOMAS

[SOMEBWHERE: GET OUT THAT ISSUE DID NOT KICK UP AGAIN AFTER JULY UNTIL SEPTEMBER INVESTIGATION]

[SECRET]

CHENEY VIEW OF WILSON

PARTISAN
QUALIFIED
NEPOTISM
BOONDOGGLE
UNUSUAL

11
JULY 16 FORD BIRTHDAY PARTY

andrea mitchell

discuss novak column?

attended by drury

hand/newspaper

cannot recall conversation

12

SECRET
SEPTEMBER REPORTING/CLEARING QUESTIONS

WHAT HAPPENED WHEN INVESTIGATION BROKE?

ARE YOU AWARE OF ANY CONTACTS BETWEEN ROVE AND REPORTERS?

ARE YOU AWARE OF ANY CONTACT BETWEEN LIBBY AND REPORTERS?

WHAT DID LIBBY SAY ABOUT CONTACTS WITH:

- TERRI MITCHELL
- PETER WITT
- OPER
- KESSLER
- THOMAS

WAS THERE ANY DISCUSSIONS WITH ANY REPORTERS WHERE NIEHAN DISCUSSED WILSON'S WIFE?

HOW DID YOU FIRST LEARN OF PRESENTATIONS TO YOU?

WERE YOU TOLD HE WAS NOT REVEALING ANY INFORMATION?

TOLD YOU WHETHER HE KNEW ANYONE SPOKE TO NOVAK?

LIBBY TELL YOU THAT SHE LEARNED ABOUT WILSON'S WIFE FROM RUSSERT?

-ever told you all?

WERE YOU TOLD NO?

COME BACK AND OFFER TO TELL YOU ALL AGAIN?
CLEARINGS

HOW COME TO PASS THAT McCLELLAN CLEARS LIBBY TOO?

DID YOU CALL CARD?

FROM WYOMING

SCOOTER CALL CARD?

ANY CONCERNS ABOUT HOW CATEGORICAL CLEARING IS?
MEATGRINDER DOCUMENT

"Has to happen today"
"Call out to key press saying same thing about Scooter as Karl"
"Not going to protect one staffer and sacrifice the guy (the Pres? He has?)
that was asked to stick his neck in the meatgrinder because of the
competence of others"

WHAT WAS MEATGRINDER SCOOTER STUCK NECK IN? [PRESS]

WHAT IS "STICK THE NECK IN THE MEATGRINDER"


WHAT IS THE CROSSED OUT LANGUAGE

WHO GIVEN TO?

LIBBY LANGUAGE: FOCUS ON THE "CLASSIFIED" QUALIFIER

"WILSON TENET MEMO". WHO WROTE?

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

CAN WE HAVE ORIGINAL?

MAYBE:

OCTOBER 12 WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE

7/12 Wash Post reports (on 10/12) that senior administration official on July 12 told Post
that administration did not pay attention to trip because it was a boondoggle set up
by Wilson's wife, an analyst on weapons of mass destruction. Author notes that wife's name not mentioned, purpose seemed not to be to generate an article but seeking to discredit Wilson.

KNOW WHO POST IS REFERRING TO?

DISCUSS DECLASSIFYING NIE TO GIVE TO PRESS

JUDITH MILLER

LIBBY RAISE ISSUE RE: CLASSIFICATION?

TALK TO POTUS ONCE OR TWICE?

DISCUSS CONVERSATIONS WITH ADDINGTON?

NOTE-TAKING AND DOCUMENT PRESERVATION:

HIS NOTE TAKING AND KEEPING

DO WE HAVE ALL DOCUMENTS?

AWARENESS OF INVESTIGATION

AWARE OF IDENTITIES OF OTHER PERSONS INTERVIEWED?

AWARE OF SUBSTANCE OF SUCH INTERVIEWS OR TESTIMONY?

GET WAIVER FORM SIGNED