

7/12/03



f. Urandum

On the Record

- The Vice President heard in his regular intelligence briefing that Iraq was trying to acquire Uranium from Niger. As part of the regular briefing process, the Vice President asked a question about the implication of Iraq trying to acquire Uranium from Niger. (Note: During the course of the year, the Vice President asks the Agency many questions.) The Agency responded within a day or two. The Agency said that they had reporting suggesting the possibility of such a transaction but the reporting lacked detail. The Agency pointed out that Iraq already had 500 tons of yellowcake, portions of which came from Niger according to the IAEA.
- The Vice President was unaware of the Joe Wilson trip and did not know about it until June of this year, when it was first discussed in the press.
- The Vice President did not see Wilson's trip report until recently.
- The Vice President saw the NIE last fall, which he took to be authoritative.

Deep Background (as Administration Official)

- The only written record of Joe Wilson trip included that "the former Prime Minister of Niger said he had been approached by and met with a delegation of Iraqi officials in what he believed to be an effort to acquire more Uranium in 1999."

Notes

- Give straight report on NIE.
- Mention "vigorously pursue."

DECLASSIFIED

Treated as
~~SECRET/SCI~~

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