

OVPRM

From: Martin, Catherine J.
To: Anton, Michael N.
Cc:
Subject: comments on Q & A
Attachments:

Sent: Fri 7/11/2003 10:04 PM

Mike:

I have a few comments on the Q & A. First, I would more clearly debunk Wilson's allegation re the VP (see below). Second, I would include the Jan. 24 reference. It makes our case MUCH stronger. Third, in question 16, I would delete the following phrase from the last bullet: "while making clear that no such transfers had taken place." I think that phrase gives more credit to the Nigeriens' denials than any reasonable person would given them. Let me know what you think. I will be traveling with the VP tomorrow so call on AF2 or on my cell 746-7501. Have a good night!

Cathie

Wilson Q & A suggestions:

Joe Wilson has said that the CIA sent him to Niger at the behest of the Vice President's office and he is confident that his conclusions made their way back to the Vice President's office. Did the Vice President ask the CIA to send someone to Niger to check out the intel report?

No. The Vice President's office did not request the mission to Niger.

Did the CIA send Wilson to Niger in response to questions raised by the Vice President's office about the Iraq's purported attempts to buy uranium from Niger?

No. As Director Tenet said in his statement on Friday, the CIA sent Wilson to Niger on its own volition. It was not in response to a specific request by the Vice President's office.

Was the Vice President briefed about Wilson's trip to Niger and his conclusion that it was highly

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unlikely that Iraq had purchased uranium from Niger?

· The Vice President was not informed of Joe Wilson's mission.

· The Vice President did not brief on Mr. Wilson's mission.

· The Vice President was unaware of Joe Wilson, his trip or any conclusions he may have reached until this spring when it was reported in the press – over a year after Mr. Wilson's trip.

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