

Weapons of Mass Distraction

Only One American Newspaper Dared to Tell the Truth About Iraq . . .

How the major media failed America's troops by not telling the truth about Iraq—before the war began . . .

ALMOST A YEAR BEFORE PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH ordered the attack on Iraq, *American Free Press*, based on Capitol Hill in Washington, established itself as the one newspaper of record as far as the myths and disinformation about Iraq were concerned. AFP began reporting on weapons experts, high-ranking military officials, intellectuals and activists who were questioning the rationale for and the legality of attacking Iraq. Now, as a record of its work, in this special report, AFP is reprinting the best of these early stories in a handy eight-page informational supplement so the world can see that, contrary to what the mainstream media was saying, there were thoughtful critics who assailed the neo-conservative war planners and rejected sending U.S. troops into the Middle East to kill or be killed.

If only Washington had heeded AFP's words, the United States would not be facing the impossible task of trying to occupy an increasingly volatile and violent Iraq at a cost to taxpayers of over \$110 billion.

Today, we now know that Bush's reasons were nothing more than baseless fearmongering. No weapons of mass destruction have been found, Saddam's government was not reconstituting its nuclear weapons program and the Iraqi military was not much of a threat to any major military power in the area, let alone the United States.

No one can predict the fruit this needless war will bear. What we do know, however, is that Americans are no safer today than when Saddam Hussein was in power, and, perhaps worse still, the United States is now breeding a whole new generation of Arabs who hate the West for its bloody meddling into the affairs of other countries.

You be the judge. Who was telling you the truth about Iraq? *American Free Press* or the big "mainstream" media in America?



The U.S. secretly armed Saddam Hussein . . .

Not long ago, Donald Rumsfeld was pictured shaking hands with Saddam Hussein, assuring him that the Reagan-Bush administration would help him build his weapons arsenal. These days Rumsfeld prefers to forget this picture was ever taken. This picture, above all, demonstrates the hypocrisy of those who now say he was an enemy to be destroyed.

We now know Saddam was no threat to America and had nothing to do with 9-11 whatsoever . . .

But because the neo-conservatives are so powerful in Washington, the "W" Bush administration—eyeing reelection—decided to wage war against Saddam, since he was the Arab the neo-cons most loved to hate. However, the early celebrations of "victory" soured quickly . . .



Now, even Saddam's enemies in Iraq are warring against the United States . . .

Thanks to the devastating U.S. destruction of Iraq and the occupation which has followed, Iraq has become a madhouse. Americans are dying in growing numbers and a variety of once-competing Iraqi factions are now uniting. The "cakewalk" promised by the neo-conservatives has turned into an endless disaster.

Support our Troops. Bring Them Home—But Not in Coffins!

A lot of good Americans say that "Now that we're in Iraq, we need to win this war"—but this is not the kind of war that can be won because it is—as AFP was the first to say—a guerrilla war. The war was needless and should never have been started in the first place.



Newsmen Admit: Media Coverage Of Iraq War II Was 'Shameful'

But U.S. Army 'Happy' With Stranglehold on Information

By Christopher Bollyn

In the ongoing Iraq conflict, there is a growing realization among mainstream newsmen that they have failed the American public, but the U.S. military is happy with the way it controlled information through its program of embedding journalists with soldiers.

Those are just some of the outspoken assertions from a three-day *Media at War* conference at the University of California (Berkeley) School of Journalism. In attendance were Hans Blix, the former chief U.N. weapons inspector, Joseph Wilson, former U.S. ambassador to Iraq and a host of senior journalists and editors from the U.S. and abroad.

Serious criticism of the role of the U.S. media came from two leading journalists—Robert Scheer of *The Los Angeles Times*, who is a visiting professor at the journalism school, and John Burns, *The New York Times* bureau chief in Baghdad.

Scheer pulled no punches in making the following condemnation of his own profession: "This has been the most shameful era of American media. The media has been sucker-punched completely by this administration."

In making his contribution to the conference by phone from Baghdad, John Burns was equally forthright about where the blame should lie:

"We failed the American public by being insufficiently critical about elements of the administration's plan to go to war."

Maher Abdallah Ahmad of the Arab network, *Al Jazeera*, based in Qatar, said he felt that Americans still did not know what was happening in Iraq.

"Does anyone here know how many Iraqis were killed in the war? You make all these efforts to establish a democracy, and you don't give a damn how many people were killed?"

he added.

The U.S. correspondent for Italy's *La Repubblica* newspaper, Federico Rampini, told the conference he was amazed that American journalists have not investigated more deeply Vice President Dick Cheney's role in the Halliburton scandal. According to Rampini, such a story would have made the front pages for months in his native Italy.

"Frankly our job is to win the war. Part of that is information warfare. So we are going to attempt to dominate the information environment. Overall we were very happy with the outcome," Lt. Col. Richard Long told the conference. He was the former Marine Corps's public information director. In that role, he was responsible for the media "boot camp" at Quantico, Va. where 700 journalists were coached for the embedded process.

Responding to those comments, Todd Gitlin, professor of sociology and journalism at Columbia University, pointed out that "embeddedness" has a tendency toward propaganda because a reporter is effectively part of the military team. The reporter's life therefore depends on the soldiers with whom he is embedded, and his desire to write negative stories is "quite diminished."

The debate about the U.S. media's failure to confront the Bush administration's case for going to war and the inadequacy of the overall coverage of the conflict have also found their way into ongoing exchanges in some parts of the media, including *American Free Press*.

In an article entitled "Now They Tell Us" in *The New York Review of Books*, Michael Massing vented his frustration in the following comments:

"Where were you all before the war? Why didn't we learn more about these deceptions and concealments in the months when the administration was pressing its case for regime change; when, in short, it might have made a



ROBERT SCHEER
Honest journalist?



DICK CHENEY
Rapacious war profiteer.

difference?"

Massing particularly focused on *The New York Times* writer, Judith Miller, who wrote several front-page articles before the war about Iraq's alleged weapons of mass destruction (WMD), based on faulty information provided by Iraqi defectors of dubious credibility.

Massing pointed out that in an email to John Burns, the *Times* bureau chief, Miller wrote that Ahmed Chalabi, the indicted bank embezzler and head of the exile Iraqi National Congress, "has provided most of the front page exclusives on WMD to our paper."

According to Massing, it was not until Sept. 29, 2003 that *The New York Times* got around to informing readers about the controversy over Chalabi and the defectors associated with him.

"More than six months into the war and with no evidence of the alleged Iraqi WMD anywhere to be found, Douglas Jehl reported that most of the information provided by Chalabi and his defectors had been judged by the Defense Intelligence Agency as being 'of little or no value. The performance of the *Times* was especially deficient. Compared to other major papers, the *Times* placed more credence in defectors, expressed less confidence in inspectors, and paid less attention to dissenters," complained Massing.

When he personally asked Miller why she had not included more comments in her stories from experts who contested the assertions made by Iraqi defectors and the White House, she offered the following explanation:

"My job isn't to assess the government's information and be an independent intelligence analyst myself. My job is to tell readers of *The New York Times* what the government thought about Iraq's arsenal."

Miller's journalistic defense did not satisfy Rich Mercier of *The Free Lance Star* of Fredericksburg, Va. On March 28, he wrote the following:

"But even a cub reporter should know that if the government tells her the sky is blue, it's her job to check whether it might not be red or gray or black. And skepticism must be exercised most strongly when the matter at hand is whether the nation will go to war. By neglecting to fully employ their critical-thinking faculties, Miller and many of her colleagues in the elite print media not only failed their readers during the countdown to the Iraq invasion, they failed our democracy. And there's no excusing that failure."

In Massing's view, the *Times* set a pro-war tone on Iraq that many other papers followed. For him, that was the "pack mentality—one of the most entrenched and disturbing features of American journalism."

N.B. Web casts from the Berkeley conference are viewable online at the web site of Berkeley's school of journalism. ★

Against All Enemies Inside America's War on Terror

By Richard A. Clarke (pictured right). Clarke, the former counter-terrorism czar for both Bill Clinton and George W. Bush, has unleashed a scathing attack on America's "war on terror." The one person who knows more about Osama bin Laden and al Qaeda than anyone else in this country, Clarke has devoted two decades of his professional life to combating terrorism. He has served seven presidents and worked inside the White House. He knows why we failed to prevent 9-11. He knows the hidden successes and failures of the Clinton years. He knows how President Bush reacted to the attack and what happened behind the scenes in the days that followed. He knows whether or not Iraq presented a terrorist threat to the U.S. Most disturbing of all are Clarke's revelations about the administration's lack of interest in Al Qaeda prior to Sept. 11. *Against All Enemies* (hardback, 304 pages, #1128, \$31; just \$27 for AFP READERSHIP COUNCIL members.) is available from FIRST AMENDMENT BOOKS, 645 Pennsylvania Avenue SE, Suite 100, Washington, D.C. 20003. Order using the coupon on page B-8 or call 1-888-699-NEWS (6397) and charge to Visa or MasterCard.



McCain, Lieberman, Helms Head 'Get Iraq' Cabal

By Michael Collins Piper

Although Secretary of State Colin Powell and the chairmen of the House and Senate intelligence committees, Rep. Porter Goss (R) and Sen. Bob Graham (D-Fla.)—among many others—have firmly stated time and again that there is “no evidence” to suggest that Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein was involved in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11 or the recent anthrax scare, a pro-Israel clique in the Senate is demanding that President Bush expand the war on terrorism to include a strike against Saddam.

Republican Sens. John McCain (Ariz.) and Jesse Helms (N.C.) and Democrat Joseph Lieberman (Conn.) are leading the Senate charge for war against Saddam, implicating him in the terrorist attacks on the United States. The involvement of these “big name” characters in promoting this crusade is no surprise.

• McCain—who counts anti-Muslim agitators such as Bilderberger William Kristol—chief publicist for the anti-Saddam war-drive in “conservative” circles—as among the top boosters of his past and future presidential ambitions, is an obsequious patsy for Israel who hopes any public dissatisfaction with President Bush’s war on ter-



JOHN MCCAIN



JOE LIEBERMAN

Two prominent Senate war mongers.

rorism will give McCain’s White House dreams new impetus.

• Helms is a former outspoken critic of Israel who suddenly “converted” when publishing billionaire S. I.

“Si” Newhouse (a “rightist” supporter of Israel) is said to have arranged for some American Jewish financial interests to withdraw their support for Helms’ Senate opponent during his faltering 1984 re-election bid. Helms then managed an astounding and quite tragicomic and obvious flip-flop instantly converting himself into an outspoken Arab-hating cheerleader for Israel’s imperial ambitions.

• Lieberman, of course, is a Jewish religious fundamentalist coming from the Orthodox community in which a 1986 study for the American Jewish Committee by Prof. Steven Cohen found has considerable sympathy for Muslim- and Arab-hating hardliners. Perhaps not by coincidence, Lieberman has been mentioned as a possible running mate for the aforementioned McCain in some sort of “bipartisan” fusion ticket challenging George W. Bush in 2004.

Now this unusual trio is banging the drum for war against Saddam. Yet, ironically, by attacking Saddam, a U.S. strike would actually be in Osama bin Laden’s interests since *The Washington Post* acknowledged on Sept. 30 that bin Laden is actually hostile to Saddam and would like to bring his perceived “modernist” secular regime to its knees. ★

Saddam Suckered; Iraq Wrecked

First Reported by AFP April 22, 2002

By Michael Collins Piper

Although the American media spent months demonizing Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein in the six months that led up to the media-glamorized “Operation Desert Storm” launched by President George H.W. Bush, the major media never told Americans this salient fact: The U.S. ambassador to Iraq, April Glaspie (inset right), had actually given Saddam the Bush administration’s effective blessing for an assault on the oil-rich country of Kuwait.

That fact remains the biggest (among many) secrets about the war that remain largely unknown to this day.

The basic details surrounding this scandal were first publicly outlined by the late *Spotlight* correspondent Andrew St. George when he spoke on Sept. 3, 1990, before a gathering of the Board of Policy of Liberty Lobby, the populist Institution that published *The Spotlight*.

Addressing the topic of how the media suppresses major news stories of vital interest, St. George chose this topic because it was so relevant at the time, but was nonetheless being ignored in the major media which was otherwise rattling its sabers against Saddam.

Then, on Oct. 8, 1990, *The Spotlight* reported the basic facts about St. George’s discoveries (gleaned from diplomatic sources at the United Nations) in a front-page story entitled “Saddam was Bush-whacked on Invasion: Got green light for Kuwait grab.” *The Spotlight* story reported:

There is mounting evidence that the Bush administration gave Iraqi President Saddam Hussein a green light to

invade Kuwait.

The State Department has not challenged a transcript released by Iraq of a conversation between the U.S. ambassador to Baghdad, April Glaspie, and Saddam Hussein on July 25 in which she is said to have told the Iraqi leader that President George Bush desired better relations between the two countries and that the United States had no position concerning Iraq’s border dispute with Kuwait.

Further encouragement to Saddam was given in congressional testimony delivered by Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly on July 31, 1990, just two days before the Iraqi invasion. When asked by Rep. Lee Hamilton (D-Ill.) if the United States would come to Kuwait’s defense if it were attacked, Kelly replied: “We have no defense treaty relationship with any [Persian] Gulf country.”

Secretary of State James Baker has refused to be drawn into an argument over whether Miss Glaspie’s statements were appropriate. Baker said he would not deny the tolerant and friendly preinvasion U.S. policy toward Iraq.

SUPPRESSED TRUTH

The Bush administration, backed up by well-paid propagandists for the ruling family of Kuwait and supported by the Israeli lobby, did all in their power to suppress *The Spotlight*’s eye-opening story which cast a different light on the media’s repeated claim that Saddam was “another Hitler”

The Spotlight’s story was cited by the prestigious “Project Censored,” based at Sonoma State University in California, as being number one among the “top 10” vitally important news stories of 1990 that were, in the words of “Project Censored,” either “overlooked or under-reported by the national news media.” ★



First Reported by AFP April 1, 2002

Weapons Whiz Said Bush Wrong on Iraq

By Scott Ritter

Iraq is America’s phantom menace. If the United States attacks, it will be the result of a flawed policy by the West against Saddam Hussein. So let’s consider America’s obsession that Iraq is stockpiling weapons of mass destruction.

An “engineer” who worked on Saddam’s palaces spoke of underground tunnels and secreted documents. Inspectors found only a drainage tunnel and no documents. But Iraqi National Congress leader Ahmed Chalabi persuaded his American sponsors that the tunnels existed.

When the Americans needed a link between Iraq and Sept. 11, Chalabi trotted out a list of “defectors” who claimed that would-be hijackers were being secretly trained in the town of Salman Pak.

But America’s thinking is flawed on two counts.

Iraq has sought to embrace a Western model. And Saddam and Osama bin Laden are opposites in terms of ideology and motivation.

When Bush told Iraq to let in UN weapons inspectors or “suffer the consequences,” Chalabi conveniently produced another “defector.” He said Saddam planned to hide biological and chemical weapons.

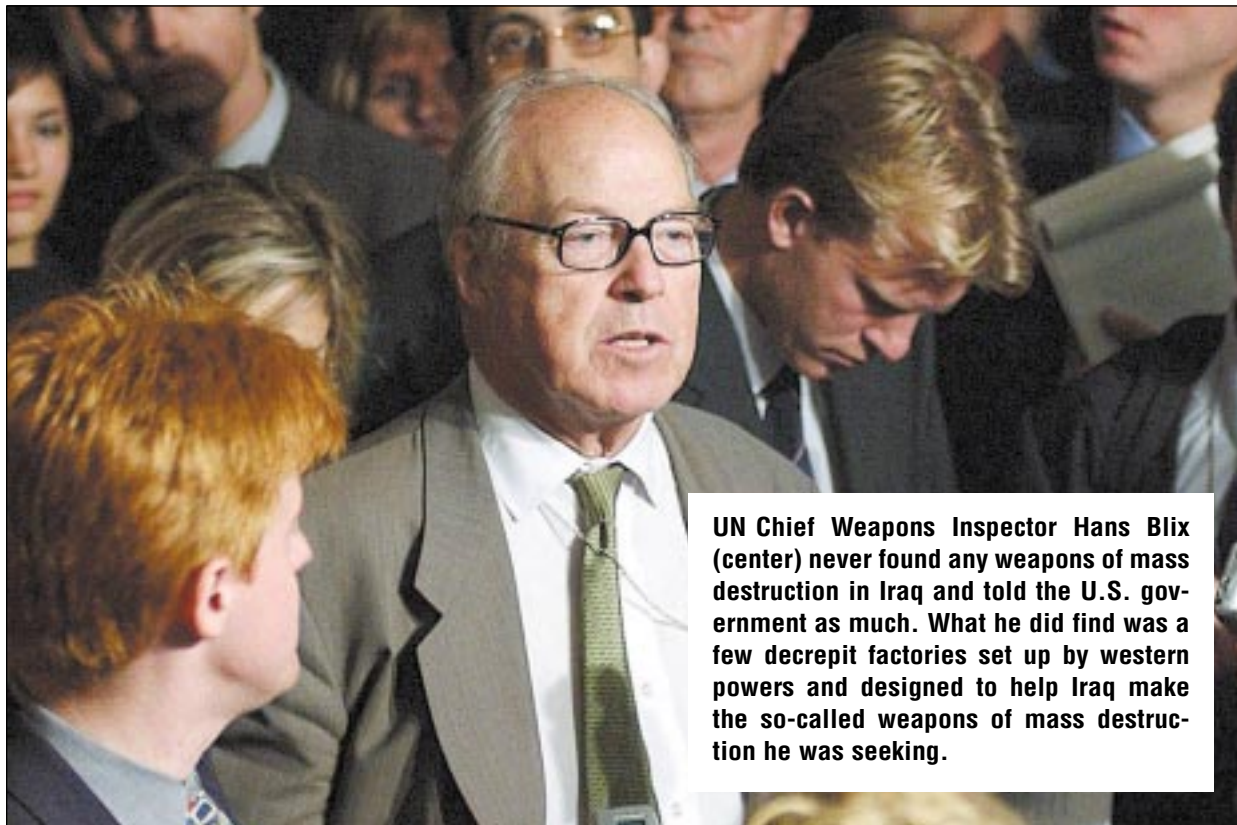
I spent more than six years investigating the organizations the defector claimed to work for.

The reality is that most of Iraq’s biological agents, along with its production facilities, have been destroyed. ★

Any WMDs Saddam May Have Had Were Provided by the United States

Washington elites warning of Iraq's supply of weapons of mass destruction should know all about it, as they were the ones who profited from supplying the "rogue state," exaggerating its stockpile and then pursuing bloody war.

By Stephanie Reich



UN Chief Weapons Inspector Hans Blix (center) never found any weapons of mass destruction in Iraq and told the U.S. government as much. What he did find was a few decrepit factories set up by western powers and designed to help Iraq make the so-called weapons of mass destruction he was seeking.

IN SOUNDING THE CALL FOR WAR AGAINST IRAQ, the United States and Israel are attempting to hide the truth behind allegations that Iraq has been surreptitiously stockpiling "weapons of mass destruction" for use against the West and its allies.

In February 1990, U.S. intelligence claimed that Iraq had completed the installation of fixed launching sites for modified versions of its Scud-B missile, as preparation for attacks on Israel.

The seizure in Greece of steel pipes slated to be components of Iraq's 1,000-mm supergun provoked speculation that this gun was to be used to lob large chemical or nuclear warheads into Israel.

Israel further alleged that both Iraq and Syria possessed waterborne biological agents capable of poisoning Lake Tiberia, Israel's chief source of water.

In sounding these alarms, the United States and Israel were attempting to conceal three realities.

First, it was that Iraq was developing these weapons as a defense against Israel, which had a massive arsenal of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

By 1988, Israel possessed nearly 200 nuclear weapons of various types, and a fleet of fighter aircraft designed for nuclear payloads. Israel's tactical nuclear arsenal at the time was protected by land mines planted along the Golan Heights.

Currently, Tel-Aviv's Nes Tziyona Biological Institute produces chemical and biological weapons, and its arsenal

features ballistic and cruise missiles designed for nuclear warheads, at least 200 neutron bombs and F-16 fighter jets designed to carry chemical and biological payloads.

The second reality was that as late as 1990, Iraq's arsenal of superguns, and nuclear, chemical and biological weapons was still at a rudimentary stage of development.

The third reality was that it had been U.S., British and other Western firms and agencies that sold much of the technology for these weapons to Iraq.

The Reagan administration's removal of Iraq from the list of states "sponsoring terrorism" granted Iraq the eligibility that every other "free world" state enjoyed to purchase high technology equipment from the United States.

Between Jan. 1, 1985 and Aug. 2 1990, the Commerce Department approved hundreds of license applications for exports of U.S. products to Iraq. Many of these products had potential military applications. A 1989 Commerce Department report highlighting areas of the Iraqi economy that were likely to prove lucrative to U.S. businesses pointed out that military hardware, and specifically state of the art weaponry and logistical supplies, were items that Iraq would require for replenishing its defense forces.

As late as 1985, Iraq possessed only one operative mustard gas plant, a small complex that the West German firm of Karl Kolb had built. More significantly, by the end of the 1980s, Iraq was still importing the precursors for mustard gas, thiodiglycol and ethylene oxide.

Iraq imported its thiodiglycol from the United States

throughout that decade, as well as from Western European firms.

In the late 1980s, Iraq still lacked facilities for the production of ethylene, a basic precursor for many petrochemical products, as well as for thiodiglycol and ethylene oxide.

Although Iraq had completed the construction of its first ethylene plant early in the decade, the Iran-Iraq war had postponed startup until 1989.

Not until 1988 did Iraq get contracts for the construction of a second plant for the production of ethylene oxide. The construction manager was Bechtel Corporation, to which former Secretary of State George Schultz had returned as a top executive at the end of Reagan's second term. Another U.S. company working on this plant was Lummus Crest, of Bloomfield, N.J.

As of 1988, Iraq's production capacity for the nerve agents Sarin and Tabun was small. The country's two West German-built pilot plants at Samarra were each capable of producing only 48 tons per year of these agents.

U.S. and other Western firms and agencies were extending considerable assistance to Iraqi research on infectious diseases, irrespective of whether or not this research was being conducted for military purposes.

One such agency was the American Type Culture Collection, which supplied Iraq with the cultures for Tularemia and West Nile fever, and no fewer than 17 shipments of cultures of various toxins and bacteria between 1985 and 1991.

By the outbreak of the 1991 war, other U.S. centers had transferred the strains for a number of viruses to Iraq for research, and the U.S. firm Sigma Chemie had provided Iraq with precursor viruses. In addition, this firm transferred mycotoxins to its two West German subsidiaries, Joseph Kuhn and Plato-Kuhn. These firms, in turn, delivered the toxins to Iraq.

Despite hair-raising alarms by President George H. W. Bush's administration about Iraq's alleged nuclear capabilities during the run-up to the 1991 Gulf War, the reality was that Iraq's nuclear achievements by that year were dismal, and many were traceable to U.S. equipment.

For example, U.S. companies played a significant role in the development of Saad 16, a complex for designing missiles and conducting nuclear weapons research. Iraq had imported fully 40 percent of the equipment used at this complex from the United States, including computers manufactured by Hewlett Packard Co., oscilloscopes made by Tektronix, Inc. and microwave measuring devices purchased from Wiltron Co.

Back in 1981, Israel had destroyed Iraq's French-built Osirak reactor before it became operational, due in part to U.S.-provided high-resolution satellite photographs.

During the 1980s, Iraq obtained 93 percent enriched uranium from France, conducted research on the various techniques for uranium enrichment and plutonium production, and was able to obtain components for these techniques from German and U.S. companies such as Maxwell Laboratories of San Diego.

Yet even by the end of the decade, Iraq possessed insufficient quantities of highly enriched uranium for building the most rudimentary nuclear device.

Producing a smaller weapon with the limited amount of enriched uranium that Iraq possessed would have required complex implosion technology that Iraq lacked.

Finally by the end of the 1980s, Iraq still lacked an effective delivery system for nuclear weapons.

At the time of Israel's attack on Osirak, Iraq was a signatory to the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, as it remains today. Israel has yet to sign. ★

Former UN Inspector Blasts U.S. for Provoking War

The Swedish diplomat who headed the UN weapons inspections in Iraq from 1991-97 recently confirmed Iraqi claims that the United States had "manipulated" the weapons inspections in order to spy and foment conflict by provoking Baghdad.

By Christopher Bollyn

As the American public is subjected to an increasingly aggressive media campaign about the "threat" that Saddam Hussein poses, European diplomats involved with Iraq are challenging the veracity of claims made by those who support military action.

Rolf Ekeus, the respected Swedish diplomat who directed the United Nations weapons inspections commission in Iraq from 1991-97, known as UNSCOM (United Nations Special Commission), recently confirmed Iraqi claims that the United States had staffed UNSCOM with spies and manipulated the inspections to provoke Baghdad. Ekeus also said he doubts the United States has any "hard evidence" that Iraq possesses weapons of mass destruction, telling the BBC on July 31 that "practically everything was found and destroyed."

Hans von Sponeck, UN humanitarian aid coordinator for Iraq from 1998-2000, recently returned from two weeks in Iraq.

If Iraq were to allow the inspectors back in, the U.S. case for war would be exposed as fiction, von Sponeck says.

"The U.S. Department of Defense and the CIA know perfectly well that today's Iraq poses no threat to anyone in the region, let alone in the United States. To argue otherwise is dishonest," von Sponeck said. "One does not need to be a specialist in weapons of mass destruction to conclude that these sites had been rendered harmless and have remained in this condition. Evidence of al-Qaeda-Iraq collaboration does not exist . . . why then, one must ask, does the Bush administration want to include Iraq in its fight against terrorism?"

The most obvious reason for a U.S.-British-led war against Iraq is to obtain control of Iraq's immense proven and probable oil reserves, estimated to exceed 300 billion barrels (bbl) if all unexplored acreage were drilled. This would make Iraq the number one holder of oil reserves in the world.

Iraq's proven reserves of 112-bil bbl and probable reserves of 214-bil bbl currently place it second after Saudi Arabia. Iraq hopes to be a major gas exporter but negotiations with neighboring Turkey on building a gas pipeline have not reached a conclusion. Oil exploration and development in Iraq has been halted since 1990.

"An entire region is being destabilized to suit American preferences for political change in Iraq," von Sponeck said.

In an interview on Swedish radio, Ekeus openly accused the United States of manipulating the UN inspections teams for their own political ends. Ekeus said the United States had tried to find information about the whereabouts of Saddam Hussein, Iraq's president.

"They pressed the inspection leadership to carry out inspections which were controversial from the Iraqis' view, and thereby created a blockage that could be used as a justification for a direct military action," Ekeus said.

Ekeus told the Swedish newspaper *Svenska Dagbladet* that after he left his UN position the U.S. had placed two of

its own agents in the group of inspectors.

The revelations made by Ekeus strengthen Iraq's argument against allowing UN inspectors back into the country. Since the U.S. administration has stated its intention to replace the Iraqi regime, officials in Baghdad argue that the return of inspectors will certainly lead to intelligence gathering and deliberate provocation to give legitimacy to a U.S.-led attack.

"Neo-conservative" Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz is behind the push for war with Iraq. On July 14 he stated in Istanbul: "President Bush has made it clear how dangerous the current Iraqi regime is to the United States and that it represents a danger we cannot live with indefinitely."

"The U.S. Department of Defense and the CIA know perfectly well that today's Iraq poses no threat to anyone in the region, let alone in the United States. To argue otherwise is dishonest. One does not need to be a specialist in weapons of mass destruction to conclude that these sites have been rendered harmless and have remained in this condition. Evidence of an Al-Qaeda-Iraq collaboration does not exist."

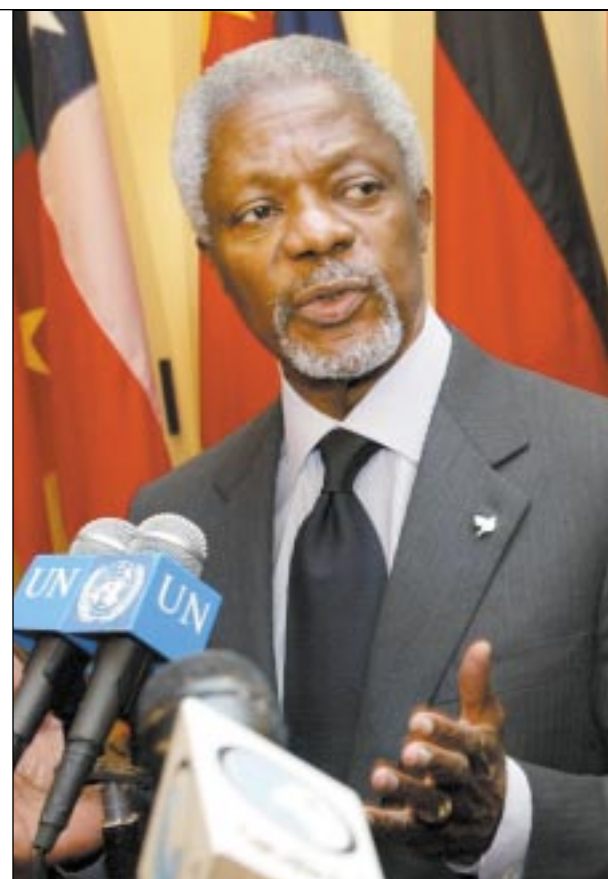
When AFP asked Pentagon spokesman Lt. Col. Dave Lapan for evidence that Iraq posed a serious threat or possessed weapons of mass destruction, Lapan was unable to provide any. Asked about the lack of evidence given the fact that the United States controls the skies over most of Iraq and is able to monitor activity on the ground by satellite, Lapan said, "Iraq in particular has been able to move underground."

ANNAN'S BILDERBERG CONNECTION

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and the new chief weapons inspector, another Swedish diplomat, Hans Blix, have tried unsuccessfully to negotiate a return of the inspectors with Naji Sabri, Iraq's foreign minister. Annan appointed Blix in January 2000 to head UNMOVIC, the new inspections regime for Iraq.

Iraqi officials have been frustrated by the Security Council's decision not to allow Blix to discuss with Baghdad the key remaining disarmament tasks before inspectors return to the country. Sabri says that Blix is under U.S. pressure not to agree to any compromise with Baghdad.

Inspections based on a U.S. agenda, Sabri said, are simply impractical. "They proved a complete failure. The inspectors were procrastinating, prolonging the sanctions and providing a pretext for action against Iraq."



UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan unsuccessfully attempted to negotiate a return of weapons inspectors to Iraq. Respected Swedish diplomat Rolf Ekeus confirmed Iraqi claims that the United States had peppered the weapons inspections teams with spies. Hans von Sponeck, a humanitarian aid coordinator, said that U.S. claims about Iraqi WMDs were fiction.

Annan's intimate relationship with the global elite has not been reported in the mainstream press. The control of Annan's globalist masters, however, is clearly evidenced by those he appoints to strategic positions.

Annan is married to the well-connected Swede Nane Lagergren, a niece of the missing diplomat Raoul Wallenberg. The UN and Annan exploit the accepted myth of "Swedish neutrality" and rely on elite Swedish diplomats to oversee the "globalist agenda" in the world's hotspots, such as Iraq and the Balkans. The Wallenberg family, which dominates Sweden's industry and economy, is a Bilderberg stalwart.

The Security Council decided that Annan should also appoint "suitably qualified experts" to serve as a College of Commissioners for UNMOVIC. The commissioners "review the implementation of Security Council resolution 1284 and other relevant resolutions." Annan duly nominated John Stern Wolf, who served as special adviser to the president and secretary of state for Caspian Basin Energy Diplomacy from 1999-2000. Wolf currently serves as assistant secretary of state in the Bureau of Nonproliferation.

Under the terms of UN resolutions, sanctions on Iraq cannot be lifted until the commission certifies that Iraq's chemical, biological and nuclear weapons have been destroyed—along with missiles to deliver them.

Ewen Buchanan, a spokesman for Blix, told AFP that under resolution 1284 Iraq must accept inspections again if it wants to see an end to the crippling sanctions.

"It is not our job to harass, provoke or humiliate, but the inspections must be credible," Buchanan said. ★

The Case AGAINST War on Iraq

By Rep. Ron Paul

For weeks I have been arguing that Congress needs to debate the wisdom of a war in Iraq. Recently I gave a speech before the House of Representatives outlining why I believe such a war would be exceedingly unwise.

First, there are practical military reasons not to initiate a war in Iraq. Our military has been severely weakened over the last decade. Conservative estimates call for 200,000 troops to mount a successful invasion of Iraq. Placing 200,000 soldiers in Iraq—with hundreds of thousands already deployed around the globe—will further dilute our ability to defend our own shores.

Remember, we do not know exactly how long this conflict will last. It could be a six-day war, a six-month war, or six years. We ought to listen to the generals and other military experts, including Colin Powell, Brent Scowcroft, Anthony Zinni, and Norman Schwarzkopf, who are now advising us NOT to go to war. They understand that our troops have been spread too thin around the world, and it is dangerous from a purely military standpoint to go to war today.

There are economic reasons to avoid this war. We can do serious damage to our already faltering economy. An invasion of Iraq may well cost over a hundred billion dollars, especially when we cannot know the outcome or duration of the conflict. Our national debt is increasing at a rate of over \$450 billion yearly, yet we are talking about spending a hundred billion dollars pursuing another nation-building adventure in Iraq. What will happen to the economy if oil skyrockets to \$30 a barrel



and lines form at gas stations? Will the current recession deepen? What will happen to the deficit?

We must not kid ourselves about the economic ramifications.

There are clear philosophical reasons for those who believe in limited government to oppose this war. "War is the health of the state," as the saying goes. War necessarily means more power is given to the state. This additional power always results in a loss of liberty. Many of the worst government programs of the 20th century began during wartime "emergencies" and were never abolished. War and big government go hand in hand, but we should be striving for peace and freedom.

Finally, there is a compelling moral argument against war in Iraq. Military force is justified only in self-defense; naked aggression is the province of dictators and rogue states. This is the danger of a new "preemptive first strike" doctrine. America is the most moral nation on

Earth, founded on moral principles, and we must apply moral principles when deciding to use military force.

If we once again wage war without a clear declaration of war by Congress, as we have done on so many occasions since World War II, we further damage the Constitution. I fear we will engage our troops in a haphazard way, by executive order, or even by begging permission from the anti-American United Nations. This haphazard approach, combined with the lack of a clearly defined goal for victory, makes it almost inevitable that true victory will not come. When Congress evades its responsibilities and allows war to be declared by the president or an international body, it ceases to represent the very people for whom the war supposedly will be fought. ★

First Reported by AFP October 14, 2002

Mainstream Censors Critics of Iraq War

Three retired four-star generals appeared at a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on Sept. 23 and warned about the dangers of attacking Iraq. *The Washington Post* blacked out the story, not because it was "scooped"—it was fully aware of the hearings. The *Post* suppressed the story because it is a tool of the North American wing of Bilderberg which, unlike its European counterparts, has long thirsted for the oil that a Gulf War would yield.

U.S. troops could face a "nightmare scenario" with high casualties on both sides as well as among civilians if Iraq digs in for block-to-block fighting in Baghdad, said Marine Gen. Joseph Hoar, who headed the U.S. Central Command.

Saddam Hussein has already said that, unlike 1991, Iraq forces will fight in the cities, not in the desert.

The United States would definitely win, Hoar said, "but at what cost?"

He said Congress should "slow down and be cautious" when committing military forces.

Hoar and a former NATO commander, Army Gen. Wesley Clark, both said an attack could cause huge increases in recruiting for terrorist networks and suggested that Saddam may be less inclined to use chemical or biological weapons if the UN or other nations supported a U.S. campaign.

A former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Army Gen. John Shalikashvili, urged the administration to try to get the UN Security Council to act, adding that "we should not be too quick to take no for an answer." ★

Soldiers Feared Gulf War II Would Be 'Another Vietnam'

First Reported by AFP September 23, 2002

By Jack Ross

"If the Israelis aren't secure enough to make a preemptive strike on Iraq, why should we be?" "The ones most eager for it are the ones who've never seen war, like Dick Perle and Paul Wolfowitz." "If we go after Iraq, Saddam will throw everything at us including the kitchen sink."

The talking points listed above are not excerpts from commentaries published in the independent media or even from the more reasonable talking heads on television. They are being said by America's troops—the soldiers and officers who will be charged with fighting the war with Iraq if the Bush administration calls for it.

According to the reports of civilians working in American military installations, the men and women of our armed forces in all ranks are privately expressing their reservations about the prospect of an American invasion of Iraq.

Civilian employees who spoke to AFP say that the most hawkish discussions heard on military bases around the United States are "if we go in, we need to do this right"—meaning, after toppling Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, there will be military occupation for years to come.



RICHARD PERLE



PAUL WOLFOWITZ

Two prominent neo-con armchair warhawks.

However, recent history suggests that the military is increasingly resisting pressure to spread U.S. forces around the world.

COMPLAINING

Reports in the mainstream press note that America's elite soldiers are complaining about being tasked with searching caves and holes in Afghanistan for suspected terrorists who they contend have long since left the region. ★

Many have also expressed concern about the increasing bias against Islamic nations in general and Arabs in particular following 9-11.

"If we are going to have any kind of coordinated counter-terrorist campaign we must have a lot of friends in the Islamic world," said Ernest Evans, a political science professor at Kansas City Community College who frequently lectures at Fort Leavenworth on counter-terrorist strategy. "People at the fort have served all over the world, we have over 100 foreign officers, several from Islamic countries."

When asked how accurate the portrayal of military life has been that has frequented the news in the past year, Evans maintained that military morale remains high.

"There are things at the fort that aren't talked about on the news that are vitally important to us and to the whole prospect of an invasion," Evans said. "A major at the fort will be totally oblivious to a lecture on the history of neo-conservatism and the political clique it represents, but they totally understand the notion of the loudest calls for war coming from men who have never served."

Evans said that the attitude of military officials toward the impending war with Iraq and the motivation behind it can be best summed up by the following quote: "If the civilian leadership wants us to attack Iraq, we'll attack Iraq. But if it blows up in their face, don't leave us holding the bag. The military community still remembers Vietnam." ★

U.S. Troops Will Face Guerrilla War

The war in Iraq is over. "Democracy" has triumphed. Now it's on to the next conquests by an imperial United States waging a never-ending aggressive war to eradicate terrorism from the face of the earth.

Hold it! Not so fast! The truth is that the war in Iraq is not over. Americans are getting killed every day often by snipers and sometimes by ambush and this situation is likely to continue. The Iraqi situation shows every indication of developing into a guerrilla war and a standing conventional occupation army is no match for a native guerrilla force. The Iraqis, be they Shiite, Sunni, Kurd or whatever do not like a foreign occupation force any more than you would. And they, as you would, will eventually cleanse their land of this alien force.

Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, army chief of staff (retiring this month), warned that in order for the United States to wage war on Iraq an army of several hundred thousand troops would be needed to stabilize post-war Iraq. He was severely criticized for saying this but his estimate is sure to be far more on the mark than Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's. The United States has deployed to Iraq 150,000 troops so far and Britain 40,000.

Bush II was bound and determined to get the United States into war in Iraq. He quickly bought into the scenario advocated since 1991 by Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz that Saddam Hussein had to be taken out at all cost along with his alleged stockpile of weapons of mass destruction.

Wolfowitz is a leading "neo-conservative" in the administration, among whose members is a powerful neo-con-

clique that constantly promotes the war-hawk, Zionist global agenda. Destroying the independence of Iraq is in Israel's interest, not America's.

AFP has always stood for peace over war—for neutrality and friendship among all nations. AFP deplors the fact that innocent GIs and Iraqis have been killed in this war, taking place in the cradle of civilization in the fabled valley of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers.

In the issue of March 3 & 10, 2003, AFP editorialized that "no good can come from this war." On March 31 AFP said, "[A]musing how the Bush administration attempts to mask its evil design by papering it over with promises of humanitarian aid to Iraqi survivors." And on May 12, 2003, AFP editorialized that "the situation [in Iraq] is looking more like Palestine, where an occupying army continues to savage a population with acts of violence."

The danger that Saddam posed for the United States was greatly overstated. The war was politicized to foster the agenda of those who would benefit from any war—Israel, the oil service companies like Halliburton (Dick Cheney's old firm) and international heavy construction firms like Bechtel.

It is worldwide common knowledge that the motive for the preemptive war on Iraq depends on the finding of weapons of mass destruction. This was the war mongers' excuse—including President Bush. Except for wild speculation that two rusty trailers could have been used to create WMDs, to date none have been found.

Nationally syndicated columnist Robert Novak wrote in a column of Dec. 26, 2002, that Israeli Prime Minister Ariel

Sharon indicated to Sen. Chuck Hagel (R-Neb.) and other members of Congress that "the greatest U.S. assistance to Israel would be to overthrow Saddam Hussein's Iraqi regime. That view is widely shared inside the Bush administration, and is a major reason why U.S. forces today [12-26-02] are assembling for war."

Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark met with Saddam Hussein early in March after which he wrote a commentary for *The Toronto Star*. In it Clark listed a series of threatening actions and utterances by Bush ranging from his war against Afghanistan to his promise to make Iraq a democratic paradise.

Of particular note is that the U.S. command in Iraq has ordered Iraqis to turn in certain weapons by June 14. Iraqis will be allowed to retain pistols, shotguns and rifles up to 7.62 mm, the caliber of the famed Russian AK-47, for self-defense, provided they do not take them out of their homes and businesses. Anyone who wants to carry a gun on the street will need a special permit from the occupation administration.

That they were allowed to own guns shows that Saddam had public support and feared them not. Mr. Bush wants to take and register their guns and give them "democracy" instead. It's interesting to note that as of the first week in June, Agence France Presse reported that no weapons had been turned in to the collection points run by the U.S.

Major U.S. cities like New York and Washington have "gun control." But the crime and murder rates are high.

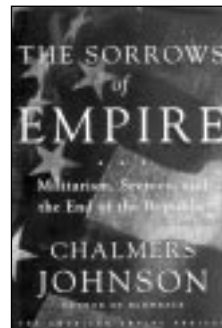
As we write this the U.S. handpicked panel of Iraqi citizens to shape and build the new democratic Iraq begins its work, but the U.S. and British government have stated that Iraq is not ready for "democracy" and have put off any elections.

Too bad Americans don't have some of this "democracy." We need it to force our government toward sanity.

The future will last for a very long time but how long will the patience of the American people last? ★

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