

News Analysis
By Jake Asbin.

The Censoring Intoxication of President Bush.

The 12,000 page Iraqi weapons declaration report, recently delivered to the United Nations (UN), “has been whittled down to 3,000 pages by the United States”, reported Andreas Zumach of the Berlin-based newspaper *Die Tageszeitung*. The Bush administration quickly took control of the UN version by seemingly paying Colombia, the report’s initial recipient (*Secretary of State, Colin Powell recently completed a short one-day visit to Colombian officials and pledged an additional \$200 million in aid, to secure the Iraqi report, which Colombia received the only copy of, before the other four permanent UN Security Council members-France, Great Britain, Russia and China-the U.S. is the fifth member of the Council*) in order to edit and censor the report before the public could read the full declaration.

Based on portions of the report *Die Tageszeitung* obtained, the report reveals: at least 24 powerful American corporations that delivered raw materials to Iraq; the supplying of U.S. government nuclear research laboratory technology; as well as U.S.-based technical training of Iraqi military and armament experts that, since the mid 1970’s, illegally helped arm and develop Saddam Hussein’s nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, and ballistic missile programs --some of the corporations include Hewlett Packard, DuPont, Honeywell, Rockwell, Tectronics, Bechtel, International Computer Systems, Unisys, Sperry and TI Coatings. It is important to mention that after the first Gulf War U.S.-based Halliburton, which was headed by vice-president Dick Cheney at the time, was rebuilding destroyed Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil-drilling wells and production facilities. Cheney said at the time “sometimes you have to do business with people you would rather not do business with.”

The Bush administration felt publication of U.S. complicity would be “especially embarrassing for the USA” according to Susan Wright, a U.S. arms-control expert from the University of Michigan. Ms. Wright stated it would “remind people in the USA of a very dark chapter, which the Bush administration would rather forget about.” The uncensored report would have made clear the strong involvement of the Reagan and first Bush administration’s support in the arming of Iraq, from 1980 up to the Gulf War of 1990-91.

The Iraqi weapons declaration was supposed to be top secret. Iraq only produced two identical copies for international review. One was sent to the International Atomic Energy Agency and the other was delivered to the United Nations. The U.S. then, under the guise that Washington copiers could do a better job than UN copiers, made edited copies, deleting all reference to nuclear weapons production and all mentions of international corporations, of the report that the world was supposed to see.

But, to the dismay of this administration, *Die Tageszeitung* newspaper obtained hundreds of pages of unedited text and began publishing articles based on the leaked documents. According to the Berlin-based newspaper, “only one other country had more business ties to Iraq than the U.S.”. “That country was Germany”. As many as 80 German companies are also listed in Iraq’s report. The paper reported “that some German companies continued to do business with Iraq until last year”.

Substantial construction units for Iraqi nuclear weapon and rocket programs were supplied with the knowledge and permission, in some cases, of the United States government. The biological weapon Anthrax, that Iraq still presumably possess’, came from U.S. laboratories said *Die Tageszeitung*.

From information gathered from UN diplomats from two of the five Security Council nations *Die Tageszeitung* learned that this censorship “was agreed on primarily upon the urging of the United States”, and goes on to report “that among the five constant members of the Security Council it was the USA that stood out by giving the strongest support to Saddam Hussein’s regime by arming it with the means of mass destruction.”

This, then, could be the motivation behind the Bush administration’s rush to war. And why Bush and his gang’s agenda seem so focused on Iraq’s oil reserve, which is the worlds second-largest.

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