

NOW WHAT? Questions that most Americans have.



Rockland Coalition
for Peace & Justice

Casualties of war (3/19/03 - 2/20/04), and still counting ...

- * U.S. soldiers : 547(died), over 3100 (wounded),over 11,000 (medical evacuated)
- Iraqis : over 13,000 (died)
- U.S. Cost 81 Billion (~\$810 per household) up to now
- Cost for Reconstruction \$87 Billion
- 43.6 Million Americans (15.2% of the population) lack health benefits
- 38 Million Americans (12.4% of the population) live below poverty level

How Has the War & Occupation of Iraq Had an Effect on Terrorism?

By Dana Priest , Washington Post Staff Writer, Friday, December 26, 2003; Page A23

“But the prevailing view among many U.S. intelligence agencies and terrorism experts is that **Hussein's capture, and indeed the U.S. war in Iraq, will have little discernible short-term impact on the web of al Qaeda-affiliated organizations that most threaten the United States and U.S. interests abroad.**

Some terrorism experts, including a few favored by the Bush administration, view Iraq as a key al Qaeda supporter and believe Hussein's capture serves as a deterrent for other terrorist organizations. The more common view, however, is that **there was never a strong link or even an ideological bond between Hussein's government and Osama bin Laden's terrorist network**, and that the capture could well push al Qaeda to prove it is still relevant.”

By Peter Bergen , Washington Post Thursday, December 25, 2003; Page A29

...’These various attacks may well represent the future of "al Qaeda" operations: Some attacks will continue to be planned by the terrorist organization itself, others will be carried out by affiliate groups acting in the name of al Qaeda and additional operations will be executed by local jihadists who have little or no direct connection to al Qaeda.

The last is perhaps the most worrisome development, because it suggests that **al Qaeda has successfully turned itself from an organization into a mass movement -- one that has been energized by the war in Iraq.**’

Was Iraq A Threat To America?

BBC News World Edition Thursday, 29 January, 2004,

The former senior US weapons inspector, David Kay, has **called for an independent inquiry into intelligence failures over Iraq. He told the Senate Armed Services Committee, he said 'we were all wrong and that is most disturbing'.**

Mr Kay said that it was important to see why intelligence had failed and how it could be improved.

By Walter Pincus and Dana Milbank Washington Post Staff Writers Wednesday, January 28, 2004; Page A01

U.S. weapons inspectors in Iraq found new evidence that Saddam Hussein's regime quietly destroyed some stockpiles of biological and chemical weapons in the mid-1990s, former chief inspector David Kay said yesterday.

The discovery means that inspectors have not only failed to find weapons of mass destruction in Iraq but also have found exculpatory information -- contemporaneous documents and confirmations -- from interviews with Iraqis -- **demonstrating that Hussein did make efforts to disarm well before President Bush began making the case for war.**

BBC News UK Edition Sunday, 25 January, 2004, 06:49 GMT

US Secretary of State **Colin Powell has conceded that Iraq may not have possessed any stocks of weapons of mass destruction before the war last year.**But in his latest remarks, he told reporters travelling with him that it was an "open question" whether Iraq had any stocks of weapons of mass destruction at all.

"The answer to that question is, we don't know yet," Mr Powell said on his way to attend the inauguration on Sunday of the new Georgian President, Mikhail Saakashvili.

By Thomas E. Ricks Washington Post Staff Writer, Monday, January 12, 2004; Page A12

A scathing new report published by the Army War College broadly **criticizes the Bush administration's handling of the war on terrorism, accusing it of taking a detour into an "unnecessary" war in Iraq and pursuing an "unrealistic" quest**

against terrorism that may lead to U.S. wars with states that pose no serious threat.

....Many of Record's arguments, such as the contention that Saddam Hussein's Iraq was deterred and did not present a threat, have been made by critics of the administration. Iraq, he concludes, "**was a war-of-choice distraction from the war of necessity against al Qaeda.**" But it is unusual to have such views published by the War College, the Army's premier academic institution.

By Mike Allen Washington Post Staff Writer Sunday, January 11, 2004; Page A13

Former Treasury Secretary Paul H. O'Neill charged in remarks released Saturday that President Bush began planning to oust Saddam Hussein within days of taking office and before the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Providing firsthand testimony bolstering a longtime contention of White House critics, O'Neill told Lesley Stahl of CBS News for a segment to be broadcast on "60 Minutes" Sunday night that **preparations to oust Hussein long predated Bush's articulation of his preemption doctrine in June 2002, when he said the United States must strike looming enemies before the worst threats emerge.**

"From the very beginning, there was a conviction that Saddam Hussein was a bad person and that he needed to go," O'Neill said, according to CBS. "For me, the notion of preemption -- that the U.S. has the unilateral right to do whatever we decide to do -- is a really huge leap."

Why is George W. Bush trying to prevent the public from finding out about 9/11?

By Dan Eggen Washington Post Staff Writer Friday, February 20, 2004; Page A03

9/11 Panel Head Assails Delay Chairman Warns That Inquiry Might Have to Be Limited

The independent commission investigating the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks will have to consider scaling back the scope of its inquiry and limiting public hearings unless Congress agrees by next week to give the panel more time to finish its work, its chairman said yesterday. Former New Jersey governor Thomas H. Kean (R) also said in an interview that the commission has not decided whether to accept an offer from the White House under which President Bush would meet privately with a small delegation, rather than with the panel as a whole. **White House officials have said Bush does not intend to meet with the entire commission -- which includes a number of outspoken Democratic critics -- but instead would meet with a few of its representatives.**

Questions Over Bush 9/11 Testimony WASHINGTON, Feb. 17, 2004 CBSNEWS.COM

(CBS/AP) In their latest disagreement, the White House and the panel proving the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks are at odds over whether President Bush will meet with the entire panel, or only a few members. Mr. Bush agreed Friday to meet privately with the federal commission reviewing the Sept. 11 attacks. **Mr. Bush previously has said he would "perhaps" submit to questions from the panel but would not say whether he would testify publicly.** Former President Bill Clinton and former Vice President Al Gore have indicated a willingness to provide private testimony about government missteps prior to the 2001 attacks. **The White House on Friday said the president was not likely to testify publicly.**

By Dan Eggen Washington Post Staff Writer Saturday, January 31, 2004; Page A02

The White House, already embroiled in a public fight over the deadline for an independent commission's investigation of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, is refusing to give the panel notes on presidential briefing papers taken by some of its own members, officials said this week.

The standoff has prompted the 10-member commission to consider issuing subpoenas for the notes and has further soured relations between the Bush administration and the bipartisan panel, according to sources familiar with the issue. Lack of access to the materials would mean that the information they contain could not be included in a final report about the attacks, several officials said.

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at Mddletown Rd. & Rt. 59 in Nanuet, every Saturday 1-3 pm.**

For info: www.rocklandaction.org,
or call The Fellowship of Reconciliation at 358-4601