

Citizens Electoral Council of Australia

National Office: 595 Sydney Rd Coburg Vic 3058
Postal Address: P O Box 376 Coburg Vic 3058
Phone: 61 3 93540544 **Fax:** 61 3 9354 0166
Home Page: <http://www.cecaust.com.au> **Email:** cec@cecaust.com.au



SUBMISSION7.....

31 July 2003

The Secretary
Parliamentary Joint Committee on ASIO, ASIS and DSD
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600



Dear Secretary,

RE: INQUIRY INTO INTELLIGENCE ON IRAQ'S WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION (WMD)

The Citizens Electoral Council of Australia with this submission bring to the attention of the Committee, the overwhelming evidence that the intelligence of weapons of mass destruction used to justify the Iraq offensive was a fraud perpetrated by elements inside the U.S. administration, associated with, and led by, Vice President Dick Cheney.

This evidence was first unveiled by 2004 Democratic Party Presidential Candidate Lyndon LaRouche on March 10, in a release entitled "Powell Apparent Victim of Hoax". LaRouche's statement documented the fraudulent nature of British Prime Minister Tony Blair's so-called Dossier on Iraq's weapons capacity, immediately after that dossier was cited as evidence in a presentation to the U.N. Security Council by U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell.

LaRouche's campaign further documented the fraudulent evidence in its LaRouche in 2004 campaign pamphlet, entitled "Children of Satan: the Ignoble Liars behind Bush's No-Exit War".

That pamphlet (see attached) revealed Vice President Dick Cheney's role as the leader of a faction of neo-conservatives, widely dubbed Chickenhawks, who seized on the terrorist attack of Sep. 11 2001 to implement a longstanding agenda of using pre-emptive military strikes against any potential threat to U.S. military and economic hegemony in the post-Cold War world.

As exposed by LaRouche in that publication, the Cheney-led neo-conservatives, including Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, Undersecretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz, Defense Policy Board Chairman Richard Perle, Cheney Chief-of-Staff Lewis Libby and others, are noted neo-conservative followers of the American political philosopher Leo Strauss, who advocated the "noble lie" as public policy, to use deception in order to achieve political ends. The evidence confirms that policy was in effect in the drive for the war against Iraq.

LaRouche has called for Cheney's impeachment and/or resignation over his role in this affair. For Australia, it raises the question of the level of complicity of the Australian Government in this scandal, and therefore what similar level of accountability must be exercised by Australian officials, including the Prime Minister, for their role in committing Australian troops to an illegal preventive war on the basis of forged evidence.

The following is a rough chronology of events around the Niger yellowcake fakery, as known to date:

CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS AROUND THE FAKED YELLOWCAKE EVIDENCE

* Within days of the September 11, 2001 attacks, the decision was made by the Bush Administration to go to war against Iraq—something that Dick Cheney, Paul Wolfowitz and others had been pushing since 1991.

* In October 2001, Rumsfeld and Wolfowitz established a special unit in the office of the Deputy Secretary of Defense for Policy, Doug Feith, to cook up intelligence to provide a pretext for war on Iraq, by-passing the

CIA and the DIA (Defense Intelligence Agency). The unit, called the Office of Special Plans (OSP), was headed by Straussian Abram Shulsky and former Cheney aide William Luti. According to the London *Guardian*, Cheney “was at the shadow network’s sharp end,” and he was the primary customer for OSP “product.”

* Around the same time, a parallel unit was set up in the office of Israel Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, for the purpose of by-passing the Israeli Mossad, and feeding information into the Pentagon’s OSP.

* In late 2001, stories began circulating about an alleged attempt by Iraq to purchase yellowcake from Niger, and Cheney and his national security adviser, Lewis “Scooter” Libby, are believed to have made at least one visit to CIA headquarters, to press the CIA to get more information on the story; according to one source, Cheney and Libby had gotten the information from the OSP.

* On January 1-2, 2002, a break-in occurred at the Niger Embassy in Rome.

* In February 2002, as a result of Cheney’s pressure, the CIA dispatched former Ambassador Joseph Wilson to Niger, to check out the Iraq/yellowcake story. The current U.S. Ambassador tells Wilson that she has already sent reports to Washington debunking the yellowcake story. Wilson interviews numerous current and former Niger officials; when he returns, he tells the CIA that the story is almost certainly bogus, and the CIA informs various government agencies and offices, including the Office of the Vice President.

* On February 24, 2002, a second U.S. official, General Carlton Fulford, was sent to Niger to determine the status of Niger’s uranium supply. He reported back, to the Defense and State Departments, that Niger’s uranium stocks were kept under tight control by a French consortium.

* Some time in mid-2002, the Italian intelligence agency SISMI obtained a set of documents purporting to show that Iraq was trying to purchase some 500 tons of yellowcake from Niger. The Italian government notifies the U.S., Britain, and, by some accounts, Israel.

* During 2002, Cheney, Libby and Newt Gingrich (of Richard Perle’s Defense Policy Board) all pay numerous visits to CIA Headquarters to press CIA analysts to come up with incriminating evidence against Iraq.

* On August 26, 2002, Cheney, in a speech to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, declares that Saddam Hussein “has resumed his efforts to acquire nuclear weapons,” and he announces: “Many of us are convinced that Saddam will acquire nuclear weapons fairly soon.” This speech launches a campaign by the Bush Administration to portray Saddam Hussein as being on the verge of acquiring nuclear weapons—despite the complete lack of any current, reliable intelligence to this effect.

* On Sept. 24, 2002, Tony Blair’s government releases a dossier stating that “Iraq has sought the supply of significant quantities of uranium from Africa.” Shortly after this, the CIA advised the British government of its doubts on the matter.

* On Oct. 7, 2002, President Bush delivered a major speech in Cincinnati. In the days preceding the speech, CIA Director George Tenet personally intervened and persuaded Deputy National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley to delete not only any claim regarding Niger, but all references to Iraq attempting to obtain uranium from Africa.

* On October 11, 2002, Italian journalist Elisabetta Burba obtains the bogus Niger documents. She provides them to the U.S. Embassy in Rome, which sends them on to Washington. State Department intelligence (INR) provides them to other agencies (but apparently not to the CIA), with the caveat that they are “highly dubious.” Meanwhile, the CIA station in Rome, knowing that the yellowcake story has already been discredited, doesn’t even bother to send them to headquarters.

* A December 2002 State Department "Fact Sheet" says that Iraq failed to disclose attempts to purchase uranium oxide from Niger. The Fact Sheet was not cleared by State Department INR. The CIA objects. In cabling the Fact Sheet around the world, the Niger reference is dropped.

* January 27, 2003: In the days preceding the President's State of the Union address, CIA proliferation expert Alan Foley discovers that the White House is attempting to revive the Niger yellowcake claim, and objects. NSC aide Robert Joseph, a long-time crony of Richard Perle and Frank Gaffney, insists that the claim must go in. After negotiations, a compromise is reached, by which the claim will be attributed to the British government.

* On January 28, President Bush delivers the State of the Union address, stating: "The British government has learned that Saddam Hussein recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa.... Saddam Hussein has not credibly explained these activities. He clearly has much to hide."

* Within days of the State of the Union address, the CIA obtains copies of the original Niger documents, by some accounts, having sent a representative to Rome to get them.

* On February 5, Secretary of State Powell delivers a presentation to the UN Security Council on Iraq's WMD programs. He omits any reference to the Niger yellowcake claim. The claim had been included in the first draft of his speech, reportedly written by Cheney's aide Lewis Libby, but was thrown out during an intensive, four-day review at CIA headquarters, during which Powell is reported to have labelled the Libby draft as "bullshit" and discarded most all of it.

* On February 5, the State Department gives copies of the Niger documents to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) with the warning that the documents are likely fraudulent. Within one to two hours, the IAEA easily determines that the documents are forgeries.

* On March 7, 2003, in a presentation to the UN Security Council, IAEA Director-General Mohammed ElBaradei announces to the world that the Niger documents are forgeries.

* On March 16, 2003, on NBC's "Meet the Press," Dick Cheney stated, when asked about ElBaradei's statement: "I disagree.... we know that he [Saddam] has been absolutely devoted to trying to acquire nuclear weapons. And we believe he has, in fact, reconstituted nuclear weapons. I think Mr. ElBaradei frankly is wrong."

* On March 19, 2003, the U.S. launched the war on Iraq.

The Citizens Electoral Council urge the Committee to give due consideration to this evidence, and act to bring any Australian officials involved to account, and to demand U.S. President George W. Bush dismiss Vice President Dick Cheney and his collaborators from their positions in the U.S. administration.

Yours sincerely,

Craig Isherwood
National Secretary
CEC Australia