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


SUBMISSION 1

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Dear Sir

**Iraq War Intelligence Inquiry**

Your Committee has an important role to perform in the maintenance of our democracy, given the behavior of the Australian and United States Governments in relation to this war. I have followed the events leading up to and during the course of the war with some interest and wish to draw a number of matters to the attention of the Committee.

The intentions of the US Administration concerning the invasion of Iraq were set out in an article "The Next World Order" by Nicholas Lemann, Published in The New Yorker, April 1, 2002. I recommend that your Committee obtain and read this article, which outlines the following:

- Vice President Cheney, Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld and their acolytes had plotted the invasion of Iraq in the dying days of the earlier Bush (41) Administration in 1992 and produced an official Defense department document to that effect.
- These people saw the events of September 11, 2001 as providing a window of opportunity to obtain the support of the normally reluctant US electorate for war with Iraq.
- The objectives of the war were:
  - projecting the US as the sole superpower;
  - removing the Iraqi Regime prior to politically reshaping the Middle East in order to protect US (oil) interests; and
  - removing the Iraqi Regime so as to facilitate a settlement between Israel and the Palestinians.
- Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) were seen only as forming part of the rhetoric to generate support for the intended war. A relevant consideration may have been that Mr. Rumsfeld provided WMD to Iraq for use against Iran when he was in the Reagan Administration (he was also a partner-in-crime with Mr. Cheney in the Nixon Administration).

During the northern summer of 2002, The US Department of State expressed concerns about "winning the peace" following such a war and advocated the need for involvement by other nations, preferably through the United Nations.

Even the coalition of the willing required some legal basis for starting a war (only superpowers can effectively participate in illegal wars) and so, as has since been admitted by Deputy Secretary of Defense Wolfowitz, WMD were agreed upon "for bureaucratic reasons" (interview in Vanity Fair). Mr. Rumsfeld obliged in addressing the lack of evidence of remaining WMD in Iraq through establishing the Office of Special Plans (staffed by "The Cabal") within The Pentagon

(Seymour M Hersh in The New Yorker, May 12, 2003). This was a group of people whose task was to sift information from the CIA and the DIA to find material, even from sources proven to be unreliable such as Iraqi refugees, which could be misrepresented as "evidence" of WMD in Iraq.

The information from these two New Yorker articles is available in public libraries and the same was known in Washington defence and diplomatic circles, so it seems reasonable to assume that at a minimum this should have been known to DSD, who should have briefed The Office of National Assessments (ONA) accordingly. If the Prime Minister was not informed then heads should roll in either DSD or ONA. Did "nobody tell the Prime Minister"? – we know he is hard of hearing from the previously investigated "truth overboard" stunt. It would appear that in his eagerness to go to war for purposes of domestic political fear-mongering, our Prime Minister may not have been particularly interested in whether Iraq had WMD – he has expressed confidence in the information provided to him, but has not said what ONA actually told him.

Another matter of relevance is the misrepresentation of this propaganda to the American public through the mass media. It has been documented how misleading information is released with great fanfare through the electronic media and then, when finally obliged some time later, the US Administration admits its "error" through the pages of the quality press. By this means 72% of Americans, who are not informed of the misleading nature of the information, believe that Saddam Hussein was involved in the events of September 11, 2001. This is so even though not a shred of evidence has been produced and significant ideological differences are known to exist between Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden. No doubt this approach has had some impact on public opinion in Australia, given that we share News Ltd (aka The "Pentagon Press") with the United States, although fortunately News Ltd has little electronic media in Australia.

As Reichmarshal Hermann Goering told the US Army psychologist at Nuremberg "...the people do not want war.... the policy to go to war is decided by the Government...then the people are told that they are being attacked...it works the same way in any system of Government". Messrs. Howard, Bush and Bliar have now demonstrated how Third Reich principles and standards may be transferred to other political systems.

Your Committee has an important role to play in assuring that the Australian electorate is in a position to decide whether it is prepared to accept Third Reich standards of behavior by the Government or whether it expects to be told the truth, which fundamentally underpins our democracy.

Yours faithfully

D. J. Coates