

GI SPECIAL 2#21



Army Chief Of Staff Caught Lying About Body Armor: Bush Regime Still Not Giving Troops Equipment; Soldier's Mother Denounces "Grave Injustice"

February 02, 2004, Rick Maze, Army Times staff writer

Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota says the Defense Department is still dragging its feet on providing upgraded body armor for troops serving in Iraq.

In a Jan. 30 letter to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, Senator **Daschle cited two South Dakota National Guard units that have been in Iraq since April and don't have enough body armor to go around, and two other units on the way to Iraq that also lack protective gear.**

The immediate problem, Daschle said, involves the 740th and 727th Transportation Companies that run supply convoys from Kuwait into Iraq. **The shortage in armor forces many to share body armor with fellow soldiers, leaving some with ill-fitting armor and others with none at all,** Daschle said in a statement.

Two other South Dakota units, the 2nd Battalion, 147th Field Artillery and the 153rd Engineer Battalion, are preparing to deploy to Iraq without body armor, he said.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker told the House Armed Services Committee last week that shortages of enhanced body armor among troops in Iraq had been resolved. (Command scum like Schoomaker are so used to everybody kissing their ass they can't grip the idea that their lies can be publicly thrown back in their worthless faces. This time, his own officers nailed his lies. See next sentence.)

But military officials said some units based in Kuwait that enter and leave Iraq may not have full armor protection. That seems to be the case with the two transportation companies cited by Daschle.

Schoomaker acknowledged some units rotating into Iraq do not have body armor and vehicles with improved armor plating. (Caught in the lie, now he has to admit he lied.)

In his letter to Rumsfeld, Daschle said he has received "a steady stream of reports" since the start of the conflict with Iraq about troops not having the best possible equipment available. **He said the only thing more troubling than the reports themselves is the fact that they persist "nearly 10 months after our troops began their effort to topple Saddam Hussein, and well after Defense Department officials provided assurances to Congress that these shortfalls would be addressed,"** he said.

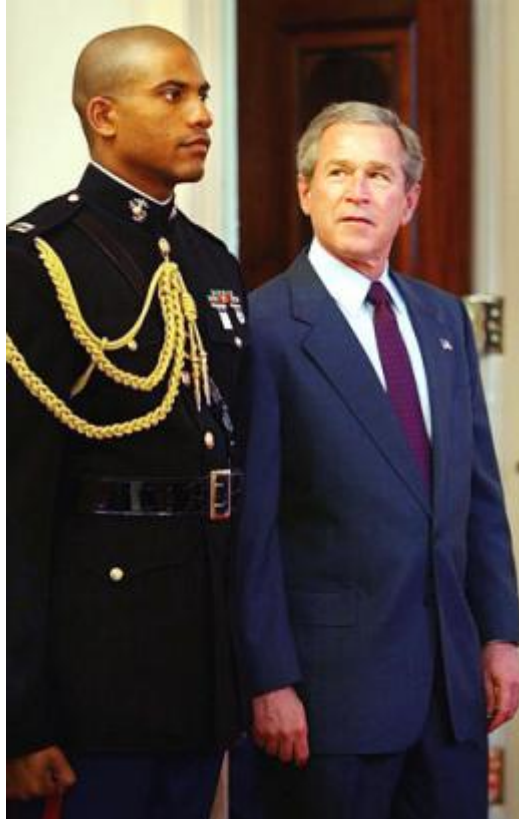
Reports about shortages of body armor, Humvees with enhanced armor protection and electronics jammers that can stop remotely triggered explosives from detonating near military convoys is causing concern among families and well as lawmakers.

Eva Perpruner of Charleston, S.C., the mother of a soldier stationed in Iraq, said it is a "great injustice" that the United States has sent troops into battle without full protection.

Her son, Army Spc. Robert Green, is deployed with the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment and is due home in March. "He has enhanced body armor but not the other protective devices," she said. "I know because I asked him."

Perpruner said she can handle the fact there might be casualties in Iraq, but “what I cannot handle or accept is the fact that our soldiers die on hostile foreign land without our country supplying them with the best protective armor or gear we can manufacture.”

THANKS TO B WHO E-MAILED IN THIS PHOTO: B WRITES:
“Soldier killer in chief sizing up his next victim.”



(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais Feb. 2, 2004 in Washington.)

Dogs Get Body Armor While Soldiers Die

Marines Act To Protect Dogs On Duty

\$1,000 suits help safeguard dogs

[Atlanta Journal-Constitution, February 2, 2004, Pg. 10]

U.S. Marines have begun outfitting their military dogs with Kevlar body armor, made from the same material soldiers wear, to protect the canines while on duty in dangerous places like Iraq.

GET SOME TRUTH: CHECK OUT THE NEW TRAVELING SOLDIER

Telling the truth - about the occupation, the cuts to veterans benefits, or the dangers of depleted uranium - is the first reason Traveling Soldier is necessary. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance - whether it's in the streets of Baghdad, New York, or inside the armed forces. Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces. If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers. <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/>

“Bring Them Home;” “It’s Too Late For My Son, But Not For All The Others”

By RALPH R. ORTEGA and JANE H. FURSE, NEW YORK DAILY NEWS WRITERS
Monday, February 2nd, 2004

A young soldier from the Bronx who dreamed of becoming a cop was mourned yesterday by family and friends as his mother appealed to President Bush to pull out of Iraq.

Pfc. Luis Moreno, 19, was removed from life support at a hospital in England on Thursday, six days after he was shot while guarding a Baghdad gas station. He was the 13th soldier from the city and the 43rd from the state killed in the war.

Moreno's mother, Francisca de la Cruz, said that while it was "too late for my son," she had a message for Bush:

"Mr. President, the war is over, but people are still dying," she said. "They're getting slaughtered like animals. Please, bring our soldiers home. It's too late for my son, but not for all the others."

When Manuel Moreno flew to England to visit his son in the hospital, he still had some hope the youngest of his four children would pull through.

Only after the father arrived at the Lakenheath Medical Treatment Facility in Suffolk, eastern England, did he learn that his son was on life support and not expected to recover.

Military officials said Moreno's death is still under investigation, but the family has said the lack of information made their loss more difficult.

Yesterday, as a steady stream of mourners came to pay their respects, Manuel Moreno fought back tears. He stood next to a photograph of Luis and dozens of burning votive candles, and talked about his last moments with his youngest son.

"I blessed him and I told him, 'I'm with you,'" he said.

He left before doctors took Luis off life support because he couldn't stand the pain of watching his son's life slip away.

"This is a horrible loss. I'll never get over it. He was 19 years old," the father said.

Luis, a graduate of Taft High School, enlisted in the Army last year and had been stationed in Baghdad for three months with the Army's 1st Armored Division.

His family last spoke to him about two weeks ago, before he was shot, when he called home to reassure them he was safe.

"I told him, 'Keep your eyes open and be careful,'" his father said. "And he said, 'I will, Dad. Hopefully, they'll be pulling us out in March or April and I'll be home.'"

Luis hoped to become a police officer after his military service.

"He liked to joke around and sometimes ride people," said his sister Michelle, 21. "But no one ever held it against him because he was a good guy."

Though the young soldier was born in the Dominican Republic, he immigrated to the United States with his family in 1991 and was very much an American, his father said. "My son was a hero. He died like a hero. He died fighting," he said.

To his mother, however, the hero was "my little one."

"My son was a good son, a hard worker. He was so loving. If this is the way God wanted him, what can one do?" she asked.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS:

Bomb Kills U.S. Soldier Outside Baghdad

2/3/2004 A.P.

An American soldier was killed and a second was wounded Tuesday when a roadside bomb exploded during an operation to clear such weapons, the U.S. military said.

The explosion occurred near Iskandariyah, 35 miles south Baghdad, the statement said.

Soldier Killed, Two Injured In Vehicle Rollover Accident

Release #040201e Combined Joint Task Force 7

AR RAMADI, Iraq - One soldier was killed and two others were injured when the high-mobility multi-purpose wheeled vehicle, or HMMWV, they where traveling in rolled over while operating near the town of Haditha at approximately 11 am. today.

The injured soldiers were evacuated to area military facilities for further treatment. Their condition is not known at this time.

Grenade Hits Stryker During Wolfowitz Iraq Visit

Dow Jones Newswires, 2 Feb 2004

MOSUL, Iraq (AP)--Attackers fired a rocket propelled grenade at an army vehicle Monday as Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz met with local officials across town.

No one was hurt and the Stryker infantry carrier vehicle was only slightly damaged, said Brig. Gen. Carter Ham.

Wolfowitz at the time was on the opposite side of town meeting with officials in the newly refurbished City Hall.

He also visited a police station and court house Monday morning after traveling into the city in a convoy of Stryker vehicles. However, Ham said, the targeted vehicle was not connected with the Wolfowitz visit.

Three months ago, on a visit to Baghdad, the hotel where Wolfowitz was staying came under rocket attack.

Rockets Fired Into Baghdad Airport; Another Breathtakingly Stupid Lie From Command

2.3.04 middle-east-online.com

BAGHDAD - Two rockets were fired into the sprawling US military base at Baghdad international airport Tuesday morning, but caused no casualties, an army spokesman said.

"Two rockets were fired at 6:15 am (0315 GMT) on Baghdad international airport.

There was no counter attack because the point of origin was a populated area " in eastern Baghdad," a spokesman said.

Dense fog and poor visibility prevented military planes or helicopters from investigating the source of the attack, the source said.

(Well, which is it?)

It was not immediately clear if the direct hits caused any damage.

Baghdad's airport has been open only to limited commercial traffic since the fall of Saddam Hussein last April because of the continuing threat by insurgents who have frequently fired on aircraft in the area.

Explosion In Western Baghdad

BAGHDAD, Feb. 2 (Xinhuanet) -- A loud explosion was heard in western Baghdad on Monday, ensued by gunfire, but the exact location was unknown, local witnesses said. A spokesman of the US-led coalition could not immediately confirm the incident, which took place around 3:30 p.m. (1230 GMT).

TROOP NEWS

“We Just Want To Get Out Of Here” U.S. Soldier Says; “They Want Our Oil” Iraqi Police Cadet Says

Wall St. Journal, 2.2.04

“Also frustrated are American military police, who’ve borne the brunt of training Iraqi police so far.

“We sit here at the bottom hearing about all the wonderful things that are going to happen. We just want to get out of here,” said Marcus Friedman, a California reservist serving in the 18th Military Police Brigade. To increase the number of “trained” Iraqi police quickly, the military cut its three-week course for them to one week.

On the parade ground of the Baghdad police academy, Mr. Gilway [the teacher] struggled to form hundreds of young Iraqi cadets into orderly lines ahead of registration for flights to Jordan. It took a whole day.

Asked about America's stated goal of bringing democracy to Iraq, freshly processed cadets giggled and pointed to the nearby Ministry of Oil, the only big ministerial building U.S. troops saved from looters. "They want our oil," said Hassan Muhned, 20. "We have no democracy now. Maybe we will have it if the Americans leave."

"Don't Tell Me Another Rumor"

February 02, 2004, By Robert Hoderne, Army Times staff writer

Home? Veteran scout platoon has heard it before

No one wants to get killed in war. **No grunt wants to go through a year of dirt and scorching heat and freezing rain and buddies with arms and legs blown off and things much, much worse than that — and then get killed on the last day.**

But these men of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) have heard before that they were going home.

So on this particular Sunday morning, the men of the scout platoon approached the prospect that this was their last patrol with the paranoid caution of someone accepting a present that might be booby-trapped.

"They told us they'd have a parade and we'd be home by the Fourth of July. Then they said they'd fly us out in September," said Staff Sgt. Derrick Garner, 32, of New Orleans.

"Don't tell me another rumor."

Soldiers from another company, Charlie, of the 3rd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, began a shop-by-shop search in one of Mosul's most crowded business districts, blocking streets and creating a monumental rush-hour traffic jam. The Iraqis were more annoyed by the inconvenience than overtly hostile, but the soldiers kept a wary eye on everyone.

The number of bombs set to kill soldiers had spiked sharply in the past few days and it was just a few blocks from here that one of their sergeants lost a hand in a rocket-propelled grenade attack.

"We don't say, 'Last one,'" Spc. Josue Batista, 23, of San Juan, Puerto Rico, said. "We just say, 'One more.'"

The scout platoon, accompanied by the mortar platoon of Headquarters and Headquarters Company of 3-502, set out to search for the bombs insurgents had been planting with increasing frequency along streets near their base. The bombs, often

artillery shells detonated by remote control, are hidden in the garbage, rubble and sewer openings that line the main roads. They are set off when American vehicles pass. **But the scouts found a bomb three days earlier that appeared as if it were intended to kill soldiers on foot. It was hidden at the spot where the men usually loaded back on their vehicles after completing the foot patrol.**

Spc. Adam Wright, 21, of Milan, Tenn., rested his M4 carbine in the crook of his left elbow, which he propped on the roof of the truck's cab. He made a quick adjustment to his sight and, as the truck pulled out, the smile disappearing from his face. **The sergeant in the passenger seat shouted to the men in back: "Weapons oriented out of the truck."**

Wright shot him a disgusted glance. "No shit," he said sarcastically.

The scouts and mortarmen, on their patrol looking for hidden bombs, spread out on both sides of the street, keeping a good interval. They walked past the spot where Nguyen took a round to the head, past where another of their men lost a leg in a grenade attack, past the garbage heaps from which they had been ambushed at least three times.

As it turns out, whether Wright jinxed it or not, it was not the scouts' last patrol. They had moved out of the concrete-walled building on the grounds of a palace said to have belonged to Saddam Hussein's wife and set up temporarily near the airport waiting for their ride out of the country. Their bags were packed, they were ready to go.

But intelligence agencies kept coming up with more targets and they specifically asked for the 101st to take on the task. So, one more time, the scouts shouldered their gear and on a night lighted by a sliver of a moon they drove to a walled building that supposedly housed five suicide bombers.

This night, they didn't plan to knock. They blew the gates open and 15 scouts rushed into the house. As Staff Sgt. Charles Everhart, 23, of Columbia, Miss., started up the stairs, an AK47 opened up on him from the second floor. A second later a grenade, pin pulled, bounced at his feet. But the enemy had forgotten to uncase the spoon and it just sat there. **Two more grenades came tumbling down the stairs, but by the time their crashing explosions echoed through the concrete house, the combat veteran had taken cover.**

In the confusion, the two enemy fighters upstairs escaped but none of the scouts was injured.

Afterward, Garner, who had stopped calling his wife before missions, said, "I probably should have called her before that one."

And not one of the scouts was saying it was the last patrol.

Maj. Gen. Petraeus (Finally) Tells The Truth; “They’re Going To Keep Coming;” Bremer Keeps On Lying

(After nearly a year of blathering, bragging and boasting about how he had smashed the resistance, Petraeus finally glimpses reality.)

February 02, 2004, By Robert Hoderne, Army Times staff writer & February 04, 2004, By Robert Burns, Associated Press

Maj. Gen. David Petraeus, who commands the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), the unit responsible for the four-province region of northern Iraq that includes Mosul, arrived at the police station minutes after the explosion. **He said of those responsible, “They’re out there and they’re going to keep coming. You can’t put a stake through this kind of thing. You hope to disrupt them before they get organized.”**

(This is what one of his silly colleagues had to say Dec. 27, “Maj. Gen. Raymond Odierno, commander of the 4th Infantry Division, said, “The former regime elements we’ve been combating have been brought to their knees.”)

Col. Joe Anderson commands the 2nd Brigade of the 101st and has responsibility for the city of Mosul. He said, “The bottom line with the cops is, as much as they have been equipped and trained, they are still presenting a soft target in front of those police stations. They’re easier to attack than we are.”

One of the reasons attacks against Americans have been declining, Anderson said, is there are fewer American posts these days to attack. (Good thinking. So Bring All The Troops Home Now, and there will be no attacks at all.)

L. Paul Bremer, U.S. civilian administrator of Iraq, said Tuesday he still believes security has improved. “I think the situation has improved importantly since the capture of Saddam Hussein,” he said.

But on Tuesday, Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt, deputy chief of operations for the U.S. military in Baghdad, told reporters that the daily average had climbed back to 23 in the past week.

Wolfowitz: Dead American Soldiers Prove War A Success

[USA Today, February 3, 2004, Pg. 11]

Paul Wolfowitz said insurgent attacks in Iraq show that efforts to build a new country are succeeding and that extremists are using violence to stop the process.

(Too bad the Iraqi resistance didn't blow him into small body parts during his visit to Iraq. That no doubt would have proven the war is over.)

Even More Soldiers Expected To Die In Iraq

[Washington Times, February 2, 2004, Pg. 10]

Attacks on U.S. forces and their allies, already numbering dozens per day, are likely to increase as the handover of power to an interim Iraqi administration comes closer to completion.

Fools In Action; General Optimistic Over Iraqi Policing

[Washington Times, February 3, 2004, Pg. 6]

Maj. Gen. Martin Dempsey, the commander of allied forces in Baghdad, said handing over Baghdad's security to newly trained Iraqi units should produce more arrests of foreign fighters thought to be behind a series of deadly bombings. (Fucking idiot. At least half the new police belong to the resistance. Reporters have interviewed them and they are proud to say so. Who does this shithead think is helping make the bombings such a success?)

16,000 Air Force Layoffs Coming

Jumper Says Cuts To Swollen Service Mean Some Forced Exits

[Air Force Times, February 9, 2004, Pg. 22]

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper said the service must return to its authorized troop level of about 359,000 members. **That means about 16,600 troops must be cut from the ranks.**

Senator Asks Military To Reconsider Use of "Dangerous" Anti-Malaria Drug

By Deborah Funk, Army Times Staff Writer 12.1.03

A California senator is asking the Defense Department to rethink its use of a particular malaria prevention drug because of reports psychological problems in some users.

Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein wrote to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld asking him to **"consider revising the department's policies" on prescriptions of Lariam, also known as mefloquine, based on complaints from constituents and "growing evidence" about its "dangerous side effects."**

In the short term, — Feinstein wants other anta-malarial drugs, such as Doxycycline and Malarone, given to service members, and wants them to be told of Lariam's possible side effects. She also asked that troops who receive Lariam be more closely monitored.

Feinstein's office has heard from several troops and federal civilians overseas who took Lariam as protection against malaria and say they "suffered significant side effects," she wrote.

Pentagon officials did not respond to a request for comment on the letter, and referred questions on the use of anti-malarial drugs to the individual services. Decisions by military commanders on when to use an antimalarial drug and which to choose depend largely on the threat of malaria in a particular region, and whether the drug still is effective in that area.

Nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, headache, insomnia and vivid dreams are the most common side effects of mefloquine according to Lariam maker Hoffman-LaRoche.

But in an update of its warning label in late 2002, the company advised doctors not to prescribe it to patients with a history of convulsions, depression or other major psychiatric disorders.

"Rare cases of suicidal ideation and suicide have been reported, though no relationship to drug administration has been confirmed," the company advised doctors.

Do you have a friend or relative in the service? Forward this E-MAIL along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war, at home and in Iraq, and information about other social protest movements here in the USA. **Send requests to address up top. For copies on web site see:**<http://www.notinourname.net/qi-special/>

The Tomb Of The Unknown: Money-Making Tourist Attraction?

Army Times 12.1.03

A plan by a Colorado marble quarry to give Arlington National Cemetery a free, \$31,000 stone to replace the cracked tomb of the Unknowns and copy the famous crypt for display at a Marble, Colo. visitors' center is drawing fire.

Some believe the replica and for-profit museum would desecrate one of America's most sacred monuments. "That leaves a sour taste in my mouth," said Charles H. Atherton, secretary of the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts. which

Cheney's Halliburton Caught Ripping Off Soldiers Food Money

February 03, 2004, By Robert Burns, Associated Press

The Wall Street Journal reported Monday that Pentagon auditors are questioning more than \$16 million in alleged overcharges by Kellogg Brown & Root for meals at Camp Arifjan, a huge U.S. military logistics base south of Kuwait City.

The Journal reported that rather than repay the \$16 million directly, Kellogg Brown & Root agreed to deduct the sum from future bills to the government. (If you get caught stealing U.S. Government property, be sure and try that one.)

The Houston Chronicle, meanwhile, reported in Tuesday's editions that the dispute potentially covers more than \$27 million for meals in both Kuwait and Iraq.

The Pentagon already has in progress a criminal inquiry into possible overcharging involving another Halliburton contract: the company's deal to supply gasoline to Iraqi civilians.

Houston-based Halliburton has complained repeatedly that criticism of its work in Iraq is politically motivated, in part because of its past ties with Vice President Dick Cheney, the company's chairman from 1995 to 2000.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Iraqi Resistance Plans Ahead For Liberation

February 04, 2004, Associated Press

RAMADI, Iraq — **A coalition of insurgent groups has vowed to take over cities vacated by U.S. troops**, and warned of "harsh consequences" for Iraqis who resist them, according to pamphlets circulating in this Sunni Triangle city.

The pamphlets, signed by Muhammad's Army and other insurgent groups, began appearing Saturday in Ramadi and nearby Fallujah — both centers of anti-American resistance.

"America is getting ready to withdraw its forces from our country with its tail between its legs ... pressured by rockets and explosive devices," the statement said.

The pamphlets, replete with Koranic verses, said that Iraqis who did not collaborate with the Americans would be allowed to form city councils once U.S. forces are gone. Every council will name candidates to run in general elections, the pamphlet said.

Once the Americans withdraw, a three-day curfew will be imposed in “liberated areas,” the statement said, adding that hospitals and humanitarian organizations would be excluded.

“Anyone who would fire at the mujahedeen while they spreading out will face harsh consequences,” it said.

The statement said the coalition would secure populated areas against looting.

The Army has said it will gradually reduce its presence in Iraqi cities and hand over control to Iraqi security forces. The Army has so far given a detailed withdrawal plan only for the capital, Baghdad, which it envisages to be virtually free of U.S. troops by May.

**OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION
BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME NOW!**

Classic Resistance Tactic: Attacks On Collaborators Cutting Off Intelligence Flow

February 02, 2004, By Chris Brummitt, Associated Press

The attacks against civilians have yet to reach a level that would seriously disrupt or even inconvenience U.S. operations here, officers say. **But they frighten many Iraqis away from any contact with coalition forces — something commanders say is vital in gathering intelligence to root out the insurgency.**

Working for U.S. forces in Tikrit, a hotbed of anti-occupation activity, is especially perilous.

Muhammad said assailants have shot at his car three times since he started work here in May. Saddam loyalists also recently killed his cousin, who worked as a contractor on the base.

Targeting civilians working for occupying forces or vassal regimes is a classic rebel tactic used with varied success in many parts of the world.

In South Vietnam in the late 1950s and early 60s, Vietcong communist rebels killed hundreds of people associated with the Saigon regime, such as tax collectors, police officers and government officials. It led to the South Vietnamese government losing control of much of the countryside, paving the way for the U.S. intervention. (And defeat, when the Vietnamese drove out the U.S. invasion and won their independence. They were right to do so, as the Iraqi resistance is right to fight this U.S. invasion.)

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

“Tools Of Obfuscation”

The wars in Vietnam and Iraq must be viewed in the context of wealth protection and wealth expansion of the few against the needs of the many both here and around the world.

One war failed and the other is not succeeding. Is it not amazing that so many permit so few to proceed so far in destruction of lives and planet to satisfy personal desires -- personal desires that have turned more and more criminal? We must see thru their tools of obfuscation over what they do. Bush is but one tool. The Democratic Party is another. The AFL-CIO Union Bureaucracy is another. The elections are another.

David W. Staub

The Rich Guys' Election

"John Kerry's victory over Howard Dean has completely changed the presidential race around. Now instead of the rich white guy from Yale who lives in the White house facing off against the rich white guy from Yale who lives in Vermont, he may have to face the rich white guy from Yale who lives in Massachusetts. It's a whole different game." Jay Leno

Platform of the American Anti-Imperialist League

(THANKS TO TOM CONDIT WHO E-MAILED THIS IN:)

(October 18, 1899)

We hold that the policy known as imperialism is hostile to liberty and tends toward militarism, an evil from which it has been our glory to be free. We regret that it has become necessary in the land of Washington and Lincoln to reaffirm that all men, of whatever race or color, are entitled to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We maintain that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed. We insist that the subjugation of any people is "criminal aggression" and open disloyalty to the distinctive principles of our government.

We earnestly condemn the policy of the present national administration in the Philippines. It seeks to extinguish the spirit of 1776 in those islands. **We deplore the sacrifice of our soldiers and sailors, whose bravery deserves admiration even in an unjust war. We denounce the slaughter of the Filipinos as a needless horror. We protest against the extension of American sovereignty by Spanish methods.**

We demand the immediate cessation of the war against liberty, begun by Spain and continued by us. We urge that Congress be promptly convened to announce to the Filipinos our purpose to concede to them the independence for which they have so long fought and which of right is theirs.

The United States have always protested against the doctrine of international law which permits the subjugation of the weak by the strong. A self-governing state cannot accept sovereignty over an unwilling people. The United States cannot act upon the ancient heresy that might makes right.

Imperialists assume that with the destruction of self-government in the Philippines by American hands, all opposition here will cease. This is a grievous error. Much as we abhor the war of "criminal aggression" in the Philippines, greatly as we regret that the blood of the Filipinos is on American hands, we more deeply resent the betrayal of American institutions at home. The real firing line is not in the suburbs of Manila. The foe is of our own household. The attempt of 1861 was to divide the country. That of 1899 is to destroy its fundamental principles and noblest ideals.

Whether the ruthless slaughter of the Filipinos shall end next month or next year is but an incident in a contest that must go on until the declaration of independence and the constitution of the United States are rescued from the hands of their betrayers. Those who dispute about standards of value while the foundation of the republic is undermined will be listened to as little as those who would wrangle about the small economies of the household while the house is on fire. The training of a great people for a century, the aspiration for liberty of a vast immigration are forces that will hurl aside those who in the delirium of conquest seek to destroy the character of our institutions.

We deny that the obligation of all citizens to support their government in times of grave national peril applies to the present situation. If an administration may with impunity ignore the issues upon which it was chosen, deliberately create a condition of war anywhere on the face of the globe, debauch the civil service for spoils to promote the adventure, organize a truth-suppressing censorship, and demand of all citizens a suspension of judgement and their unanimous support while it chooses to continue the fighting, representative government itself is imperiled.

We propose to contribute to the defeat of any person or party that stands for the forcible subjugation of any people. We shall oppose for re-election all who in the white house or in congress betray American liberty in pursuit of un-American ends. We still hope that both of our great political parties will support and defend the declaration of independence in the closing campaign of the century.

We hold with Abraham Lincoln, that "no man is good enough to govern another man without that other's consent. When the white man governs himself, that is self-government, but when he governs himself and also governs another man, that is more than self-government--that is despotism." "Our reliance is in the love of liberty which God has planted in us. Our defense is in the spirit which prizes liberty as the heritage of all men in all lands. Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves, and under a just God cannot long retain it."

We cordially invite the co-operation of all men and women who remain loyal to the declaration of independence and the constitution of the United States.



DEAD FOR BUSHES' IMPERIAL OIL WAR AND NOTHING MORE: National Guard Sgt. Keith Lee Smette's coffin in Makoti, N.D., Tuesday, Feb. 3,. Smette was killed in Iraq Jan. 24, 2004. Robert Smette, front left, brother of the deceased was serving in Iraq with his brother. The brothers were both part of the 957th Multi-Role Bridge Company. (AP Photo/Will Kincaid) **BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE!**

Liberals and Israel

Palestine and the Anti-War Movement

By LEE SUSTAR, Weekend Edition, January 31 / February 1, 2004

Should the antiwar movement take up the question of Palestine? Or, to put the question another way, can the movement oppose one element of U.S. domination of the Middle East, the occupation of Iraq, while ignoring the other--the increasingly savage Israeli occupation of Palestine that's funded, armed and politically supported by Washington?

Founded by mainly European Jewish settlers, known as Zionists, in British-controlled Palestine in 1948, Israel was based on the expulsion of 750,000 Palestinians through killing and terror, including massacres of entire villages. Jews, who owned 6 percent of the land in 1947, established their state on land that was 94 percent owned, farmed and used by Palestinians.

Israeli historian Benny Morris, whose research has uncovered a series of Israeli massacres in 1948, recently declared that "from my point of view, the need to establish this state in this place overcame the injustice that was done to the Palestinians by uprooting them. Even the great American democracy could not have been created without the annihilation of the Indians."

The Zionists, who justified their demand for a Jewish state by pointing to the horrors of anti-Semitism and the Holocaust, created Israel through the oppression of another people. In the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, Israel seized more territory, and Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza have lived under Israeli military occupation ever since. Some 2,200 settlers gained control of 40 percent of the land in Gaza; in the West Bank, 55 percent of the land and 70 percent of the water was seized for Jewish settlers.

ISRAEL COULD never have come into existence without the backing of imperialist powers. The Israeli newspaper Haaretz made this point in 1951: "Israel is to become the watchdog... if for any reasons the Western powers should sometimes prefer to close their eyes, Israel could be relied upon to punish one or several neighboring states whose discourtesy to the West went beyond the bounds of the permissible."

There have been frictions in the U.S.-Israeli relationship stemming from Washington's need for Arab allies--but never a serious conflict that threatened Washington's most important alliance in the Middle East.

Since Oslo, Israeli settlements in the Occupied Territories have expanded by 200 percent. Moreover, Oslo would give Palestinians just 22 percent of historic Palestine. Such plans deny the right of return to more than 4.9 million Palestinian refugees and their descendants displaced by Israel's conquests.

To consolidate Israel's grip, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is building a "security fence"--a 100-mile concrete wall--aimed at ghettoizing 4.6 million Palestinians in the Occupied Territories. Even Avraham Burg, a leading Israeli Labor Party politician, wrote recently, "After 2,000 years of struggle for survival, the reality of Israel is a colonial state, run by a corrupt clique which scorns and mocks law and civic morality."

LONGSTANDING U.S. economic and strategic support for Israel has given rise to military-tactical collaboration; the Israeli military assists U.S. armed forces in Iraq. Thus the similarity of tactics used in occupations in Iraq and Palestine: mass detention of suspects, midnight raids, demolition of houses of suspected resisters, the use of air power and tanks in residential areas, torturing prisoners and more.

This collaboration is the result of a common strategic aim of dominating the Middle East--in which Israel openly acts as deputy to the U.S. sheriff. This relationship is well understood by the antiwar movement around the world, which puts support for the Palestinian struggle at the heart of their demands.

In the U.S., unfortunately, Zionists and their supporters have long succeeded in sidetracking the issue of Palestine in the peace and antiwar movement. So during the 1 million-strong 1982 demonstration against the arms race in New York, protest organizers kept silent about the barbaric Israeli invasion of Lebanon, which then Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin called the "final solution" to the "Palestinian problem."

The radical left, by contrast, has built solidarity with the Palestinians even when it was highly unpopular to do so. Socialist Worker has always supported Palestinian national liberation and self-determination--and argued for a democratic and secular Palestinian state with equal rights for Jews and Arabs.

If liberals prefer that U.S. antiwar and peace groups don't address Palestine, it's because many have close ties to the Israeli state and its allies. For example, most U.S. unions that support antiwar efforts oppose taking up the Palestine issue--not because their members aren't "ready" for the issue, but because many unions invest in Israeli government bonds.

AFL-CIO President John Sweeney spoke at the openly racist "Israel Solidarity Rally" in April 2002. And both Republican and Democratic party officials are closely tied to Israel--not because of the so-called "Israel lobby," but because of the convergence of strategic, economic and political interests between the U.S. and Israel. It's this relationship--more exposed today than ever--that compels the antiwar movement to address the question of Palestine.

WASHINGTON'S PLANS to "remake" the Middle East are based not only on the occupation of Iraq, but Israel's escalating attempts to crush all Palestinian resistance. A recent statement to the antiwar movement signed by more than 40 Palestinian and Muslim groups focused on this point.

During the U.S. drive towards the invasion of Iraq, it was important to focus on the key issue--trying to stop the invasion--to mobilize a broad opposition to the war. Today, opposing the occupation of Iraq will require the movement to challenge the entire U.S. imperialist drive in the Middle East--including Israel's central role.

The international antiwar movement will look to the U.S. for allies--and we would be judged harshly if we were to ignore the Palestinian struggle. Years went by before the Vietnam War was taken up in the civil rights and labor movements--a mistake that we can't repeat.

Certainly, the Palestinians' legitimate demands can't be ignored by a movement that claims to stand for peace and justice. Putting forward Palestinian issues can't be accomplished by an ultimatum--demanding full support for the Palestinian struggle before people are "allowed" to participate in the antiwar movement.

Taking up the question of Palestine is not about limiting or restricting those involved, but broadening the movement's political understanding. The lies and distortions of the U.S. media about Palestinians will require antiwar activists to carry out systematic education and organization on the issue in the months and years ahead.

For example, military families and soldiers in the U.S., horrified by the U.S. occupation of Iraq, will find that they have much in common with Israeli military resisters. Our challenge is to develop from a movement against the invasion of Iraq into one that can oppose the entire U.S. imperialist agenda. Making an end to the occupation of Palestine a demand of our movement is a key step in that process.

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What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Send to the E-mail address up top. Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential.

OCCUPATION REPORT

Occupation Plans Warsaw Ghetto Model: Pull Out Of Baghdad, Surround It With Troops

[New York Times, February 2, 2004, Pg. 1]

U.S. military commanders ordered a sharp reduction in the presence of occupation troops in Baghdad. The most visible policing of the city will be turned over to local forces while American troops pull back to a **ring of bases at the edge of Baghdad.**

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Rats Leave The Sinking Cheney

[Philadelphia Inquirer, February 3, 2004, Pg. 1]

Cheney Key To Iraq Probe, Critics Say

An inquiry into intelligence failures must include his and the Pentagon's handling of spy data, officials said. **Current and former unidentified government officials said the inquiry into what went wrong with intelligence on Iraq won't be complete unless it includes the role played by Vice President Cheney and Pentagon hawks.**

THIS IS HOW BUSH BRINGS THE TROOPS HOME



A framed picture Keith Smette sits beside his coffin at his funeral, Feb. 3, in Makoti, N.D. Smette, 25, a staff sergeant with the North Dakota National Guard's 957th Multi-Role Bridge Company, died Jan. 24, when a bomb exploded next to his vehicle in central Iraq (AP Photo/Will Kincaid)

OOPS: Bush “War On Terror” Buddy Knew Of Nuke Tech Sales To “Axis Of Evil”

Musharraf Named In Nuclear Probe

[Washington Post, February 3, 2004, Pg. 13] The Pakistani scientist responsible for selling nuclear technology to three countries has told investigators that senior military officers, including **President Musharraf, knew about the illegal sales of nuclear weapons technology to Iran, Libya and North Korea.**

Evildoer Knowingly Came Clean on WMD's, President Charges

In his weekly radio address, President George W. Bush leveled his harshest charge ever at fallen Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, accusing the former dictator of

“knowingly telling the truth” about not possessing weapons of mass destruction in the months leading up to the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.

“After years of lying about his weapons, Saddam Hussein willfully decided to tell the truth about them,” Mr. Bush said. “His treachery knows no bounds.”

After Mr. Bush excoriated Saddam for his “wanton truth-telling,” he reminded his radio audience that “thanks to the work of our coalition, Mr. Saddam Hussein will never be free to tell the truth again.”

Mr. Bush argued that while the invasion of Iraq had turned up no weapons of mass destruction, preventing the former Iraqi strongman from telling the truth in the future was reason enough to go to war.

“In the wrong hands, the truth can destabilize regions and even destroy entire civilizations,” Mr. Bush said. “In that respect, the truth itself is a weapon of mass destruction – one that Mr. Saddam Hussein will never be able to use again.”

The President closed his speech with tough words for North Korea’s Kim Jung-il, whom the President accused of telling the truth about his own weapons program.

Naming Mr. Kim a member of what he called “The Axis of Veracity,” Mr. Bush urged the North Korean madman to cease and desist telling the truth and to “join the community of truth-fearing nations.”

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