

## GI SPECIAL 3D21A:

# Report From Australia



## Rumsfeld In Australia

From: Stephen Darley  
To: GI Special  
Sent: November 20, 2005 4:15 AM  
Subject: Rumsfeld in Australia

As well as playing squash, Rumsfeld met with a series of demonstrations charging him with being an international war-criminal and telling him he wasn't welcome in our town (Adelaide).

**I have attached some materials relating to the demos, including my own speech (I don't have copies of the others by the two M.P.s and two activists who also spoke against Rumsfeld and the new 'anti-terror' laws brought in by the Australian government).**

**These laws will of course do nothing to stop determined bombers, but will no doubt be used against the anti-war movement.**

I enclose a press-release for your interest by radical Aboriginal lawyer Michael Mansell, which succinctly summarises aspects of the laws.

A few photos are also attached – note that these are from AAP. \

Stephen Darley

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# **War Criminal Rumsfeld Is Not Welcome In Adelaide: WE ARE NOT LAPDOGS, AND WE REJECT YOU AND ALL YOU STAND FOR!**

By Stephen Darley

**In town today is one of the world's biggest war criminals. He is here to tell the Australian government the expectations of the US self-appointed global policeman, to brief the Deputy-Sheriff.**

**Calling Rumsfeld an international war criminal is not a piece of rhetoric – the evidence is clear and damning of his career as a bureaucrat of torture and pre-emptive war.**

Rumsfeld is the director of the invasion and occupation of Iraq, which has so-far killed tens of thousands of Iraqis as well as over 2000 US and 100 British troops. That invasion has advanced the barbaric program of refining the technology of mass murder, such as the use of depleted uranium, which has been tested in Australia.

The Nuremberg war crimes trials after WW2 established the principle of command responsibility – that no senior Nazi officer, bureaucrat or politician could avoid responsibility for mass murder by pointing the finger at the underlings that actually killed the Nazis victims. The leaders who knew or should have known of what their subordinates were doing were just as guilty as those from whom direct orders to kill could be traced.

So Rumsfeld is responsible for what his subordinates have done – such as the sickening tortures and human degradation of Abu Ghraib, which have also occurred in other places in Iraq, in Afghanistan, at Guantanamo Bay, and now it seems in other parts of the world where the US has sub-contacted torture. And does anyone doubt that such barbarities continue today, hidden from view?

**But unlike Nuremberg, the only people convicted over Abu Ghraib were underlings—low-rankers like Lindy England, brutal and racist no doubt, but hardly chiefly responsible. That chief responsibility goes up the line, expanding as it rises, to Rumsfeld and his boss Bush. But Rumsfeld and his fellow neo-con V-P Dick Cheney are most responsible because they gave the signal by saying that the detainees in the US prisons weren't covered by the Geneva Convention—weren't prisoners of war. This was a green light to US soldiers and prison guards everyone to torture and degrade as they pleased—all rules were dropped.**

This is the record of Donald Rumsfeld—and it goes on. This man has a long record as a bureaucrat of war; he was in Richard Nixon's sordid government and US Secretary of Defence under Gerald Ford. Then he took that familiar US path, that interweaving of corporate, political and bureaucratic office, by becoming an executive in a series of transnationals. As a representative of a pharmaceuticals company and a Reagan presidential envoy he met and cemented relationships with Saddam Hussein while his government secretly sold chemical weapons to Saddam for use against the Iranians (and later against his own people).

**This latter is one of the indictments against Saddam Hussein at present—and he should be tried, but by the International Court of Justice, not by a US puppet court. And Donald Rumsfeld should be standing along-side or in front of him in the dock!**

Rumsfeld's career goes beyond these specific murderous events however. He is a leading neo-con—and these are very dangerous people, dangerous to the future health of this planet and the human race. Their plan, called "Project for a New American Century", is just that—a plan for this new century to be dominated by Transnational and US corporate interests and the military muscle and political hegemony to ensure it.

And they mean dominate—not discuss, not persuade, not enlist by peaceful acquiescence in American aims. Oh yes, if you are so spineless as to submit to perpetual MacDonald wages, Transnational destruction of the environment, US bases and subservient local polities, perhaps you may be allowed to enrol in this new world.

But be warned, this is not about the interests of the people.

**When I speak of American domination, we are not talking about the working and middle classes of the US. How Rumsfeld, Bush and the other neo-cons regard those people was graphically illustrated by the fate of New Orleans—let them swim or starve or drown, and then let Halliburton KBR rebuild the city for the needs of the wealthy. Don't complain about your National Guard being crippled - we need it and its equipment to better enforce our rape and pillage of Iraq and its oil, and Afghanistan and the gas to its north.**

**No, the New American century is to be in the interests of the corporate and political elite to which Rumsfeld belongs—and it will be enforced by military bases, by invasions and their threats, by economic coercion, and by enrolling subordinate countries like Australia in the project.**

Of course plans often go astray, and have the opposite effect to that intended, and that's what's happened in Iraq. In all their imperial arrogance, Rumsfeld, Bush and all rolled

into Iraq over the bodies of thousands, seized the oil-fields, and declared 'Mission Accomplished'- perhaps the biggest political miscalculation since Harold MacMillan's 'Peace in our time'!

Because the Iraqi people said no—you aren't stealing our resources, you aren't carving up our country like a joint of meat between your Halliburtons and your Bechtels and your other corporate thieves, and we won't accept your puppet governments installed by bogus elections.

They have fought back, and 2000 plus US deaths and thousands of casualties have ignited the American peace movement, and alerted American citizens to this illegal and unjust war founded on lies and deceptions and manipulations of fear.

The Vietnam war (remember Rumsfeld was in government then) ended MOSTLY because the Vietnamese fought them to a standstill.

**But it was greatly aided not only by the US and global peace movement but by the RITA—the Resistance in the Army. You can't fight an imperial war when your soldiers won't co-operate.**

This is starting to happen again, and Donald must be having nightmares. Because they haven't dared to bring back the draft, this is a so-called 'volunteer' war—volunteers from poverty or misguided patriotism. But even with this, the recruiting taps for cannon fodder are drying up fast in the US, and a President on 37% approval is in a bind about the tremendous unpopularity of bringing back the draft.

They're in a bind anyway however—the war can't be won, but they can't withdraw from the second biggest oil reserves in the world, and next door to the largest. Any new Iraqi government after such a withdrawal would quickly be like Vietnam - dead-set against the US and its interests. So they have a tiger by the tail.

**Their response is to try to enrol others to do more of their dirty work for them—their puppets in Iraq, and their lapdogs elsewhere—of whom some of the most loyal are here in Australia.**

**That is what Rumsfeld is here for—more use of training bases in Australia for US troops, more political support from Howard's faithful rat-pack, and more corporate access to Australia's resources and workforce for Halliburton KBR and the others.**

He is being fawned on and his ego is being flattered and his will is being catered to that Australia is behind him, no worries, Sir! by Downer and Hill and the other brown-noses.

**His visit coincides with the imminent passage of the 'terror laws'- they are part of the agenda, to cow and divide Australians to better enrol this country in the Project for a new American Century. They are not needed to protect Australia, and most people know it—but they are still insecure, subject to manipulation of their fears and knowledge gaps.**

**We must give a lead, and reject the atmosphere in place before these laws are even passed, demand and assert our right to protest, to say to Rumsfeld YOU ARE NOT WELCOME HERE, CRIMINAL, JUSTIFIER OF TORTURE, PLANNER OF**

**MASS-MURDER, AND YOUR AUSTRALIAN COURTIERERS ARE LYING TO YOU ABOUT THIS COUNTRY—WE ARE NOT LAPDOGS, AND WE REJECT YOU AND ALL YOU STAND FOR!**

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# **MANSELL SEES AUSTRALIAN ANTI TERROR LAWS BEING USED TO QUELL ABORIGINAL PROTESTS**

8th November 2005 Michael Mansell

**Aboriginal lawyer and activist Michael Mansell believes Aboriginal protestors will be targeted by the new anti terror laws as a new way to discredit Aboriginal leaders. "This is even clearer after the the so-called "counter terrorist" stage-managed media stunts in Melbourne and Sydney last night. The arrests were little more than an attempt to justify the rapid passing of anti-terror laws", he added.**

**Mr Mansell said "The specific reference to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in section 23CA (4) (a) of the Criminal Code (Anti-terrorism Act) makes it clear that the indigenous peoples will be targeted by the new anti-terror laws. Otherwise, why refer to us at all?"**

The new federal laws will override existing State and Territory laws, rules and protocols that evolved from the Deaths in Custody Royal Commission. These required police to initiate contact either with an Aboriginal legal service or a friend whenever an Aboriginal person is taken into custody. Now no-one will be contacted unless the Aboriginal detainee requests it, absolving police responsibility to have a representative present to ensure fairness.

In the case of Aborigines or Torres Strait Islanders, police must take that person before a "judicial officer" within two hours- s.23CA (4)(a). However the clock does not start running until the person is in a place where there are "facilities"-s.23CA 8 (a). In the case of the Torres Strait or a remote Aboriginal community, police can legitimately harass or use oppressive and overbearing tactics to extract a confession in however many hours it takes to get a detainee to "facilities".

The "judicial officer" can be a JP chosen by the prosecution. Most lawyers' experience is that JPs are putty in the hands of prosecutors when it comes to ordinary bail applications. If police oppose bail, JPs rarely grant bail.

**Police can refuse access to a lawyer of the person's choice on the ground that lawyer may be a security risk, and police can recommend their own lawyer.**

**Even when a lawyer is present, police can sit in on any discussion, and thereby the new law erases the common law right of legal professional privilege that attaches to information provided by a client to their lawyer, and advice given on the basis of it.**

The new laws are more about perceptions and innuendo than stopping violence against the public. The laws are more likely to harm a detainee's reputation and put the public in fear than stop terrorism.

**The expansion of the definitions of Sedition and Terrorist Organisations go as close as is realistically possible to outlawing thoughts of dissent. One person's terrorist is another's freedom fighter. It will be more difficult for citizens to oppose American (and likewise Australian) foreign policy under these laws.**

**An organisation can be listed as "terrorist" for stating publicly that "the 9/11 bombings in the US was a case of Americans getting a taste of their own medicine". Such expression is outlawed by s.102.1 (2), even although neither the person whom spoke the words nor their organization has lifted a finger to assist anyone.**

Dissenting opinions about the World Trade Centre event may be distasteful to some; but the right to express a different view has never been so challenged.

**Aborigines travelling overseas to conferences with indigenous peoples elsewhere may now be prohibited from even talking to other delegates. If the Australian government lists an overseas group as "terrorist", and the Aboriginal delegate is aware of the listing, talking twice to representatives of the listed group can bring 7 years gaol -s.80.2 (7).**

**This could apply to the Kanaks from New Caledonia who are fighting for independence from France, or the Mohawks from Canada who fought against the Canadian government and army to preserve their traditional lands from being made a golf course.**

**While sedition charges allow for criticism of policy in good faith, the onus is on a defendant to prove it- s.80.3 (1) (e) end note. The Aboriginal Tent Embassy and the Aboriginal Provisional Government, both of which publicly challenge the legitimacy claims to sovereignty by the Australian Government, could find themselves charged under the sedition laws.**

An Aboriginal leader accused under these laws could so easily be discredited as a consequence, even where their actions have legitimately been to promote the rights of their people. People's lives can be destroyed in more ways than with a gun.

**The Howard/Ruddock/Beazley troika has become the thought police, and police are now expected to act against political views rather than criminal activity. In one fell swoop, the troika has changed the face of law enforcement in Australia forever.**

These laws go well beyond any required to prevent organised violence in Australia.

The new laws attack freedom of expression by intimidation and suggestion. The policy underlining the new legal regime is to kill dissent. There is even a section that provides, George Orwell-like, for re-programming -s. 104.4 (3)(l)."



One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

Mike Hastie  
U.S. Army Medic  
Vietnam 1970-71  
December 13, 2004

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