

Tony Blair's "Deal In Blood" with George W. Bush To Attack Iraq One Year Before the March 2003 Invasion.

By [Felicity Arbuthnot](#)

Global Research, October 19, 2015

Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)

Theme: [Intelligence](#), [US NATO War Agenda](#)

In-depth Report: [IRAQ REPORT](#)

Mislead: "to give false or misleading information to" (Collins Dictionary.)

In what The Mail on Sunday (1) has described as a "bombshell White House memo", leaked classified correspondence from then Secretary of State General Colin Powell to President George W. Bush, of 28th March 2002, alleges that Tony Blair had done what the newspaper calls "a deal in blood" with Bush to support him, come what may, in the attack on Iraq - a full year before the invasion.

Blair at the time was claiming to be seeking a diplomatic solution in the Iraq crisis. "We're not proposing military action", he told the public, as he prepared: "to act as spin doctor for Bush", states the Mail which also reveals Powell's affirmation that: "the UK will follow our lead."

SECRET/NOFORN
DECL: 4/01/12

Classified by DAS, A/GIS, DoS - Class
Confidential- Reason: B1, 1.4 (D), 1.4
(B) Declassify on: 04-01-2022

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Colin L. Powell

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Theodore Sellin, Senior
Reviewer

SUBJECT: Your Meeting with United
Kingdom Prime Minister Tony Blair,
April 5-7, 2002 at Crawford

Tony Blair is looking forward to the time he and his family will spend with you at Crawford to deepen their personal relationship with you and Laura. Buckingham Palace's approval of the trip despite The Queen Mother's death attests to the importance the British government ascribes to Blair's meeting with you. Blair will want to discuss: Afghanistan; Iraq; the Middle East; Russia and NATO enlargement; and trade and development.

Blair continues to stand by you and the U.S. as we move forward on the war on terrorism and on Iraq. He will present to you the strategic, tactical and public affairs lines that he believes will strengthen global support for our common cause.

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Blair and the UK are in Afghanistan with us for the long haul. He readily committed to deploy 1700 commandos, even though his experts warn that British forces are overstretched. The UK welcomes the active political, military and financial aid the U.S. has provided to persuade Turkey to take on ISAF leadership.

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1.4(D)
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On Iraq, Blair will be with us should military operations be necessary. He is convinced on two points: the threat is real; and success against Saddam will yield more regional success. Aside from his foreign and defense secretaries, however, Blair's Cabinet shows signs of

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Classified by: Secretary of State Colin L. Powell
Reasons: E.O. 12958 1.5 (b) & (d)

division, and the Labour Party and the British public are unconvinced that military action is warranted now. Blair may suggest ideas on how to (1) make a credible public case on current Iraqi threats to international peace; (2) keep Iraq's neighbors on our side; (3) handle calls for a UNSC blessing that can increase support for us in the region and with UK and European audiences; and (4) demonstrate that we have thought through "the day after."

The UK will follow our lead in the Middle East, but Blair may seek greater U.S. engagement [redacted]

[redacted] He will argue that continued terrorist violence and Israeli military action are rapidly sapping European and Arab support for a tough line against Baghdad.

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[redacted]

1.4(E)
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We do not expect Blair to dwell on the steel decision, although it was a bitter blow for him, as he indicated in his recent letter to you. It is clear that Britain will not fight our fight within the EU on this. He may instead stress with you, as he did recently with the Vice President in London, the urgent need to insulate our broader relationship from this and other trade disputes. He may also raise a warning flag about the international trading system, urge the U.S. to continue its trade leadership role and encourage development assistance.

Blair has hit some domestic turbulence. Blamed at home for failing to fix inadequate public services, his (unpublished) poll numbers have fallen to below 50 percent. He is sharply criticized by the media for being too pro-U.S. in foreign and security policy, too arrogant and "presidential" (not a compliment in the British context) and too inattentive on issues of concern to voters.

Blair knows he may have to pay a political price for supporting us on Iraq, and wants to minimize it. Nonetheless, he will stick with us on the big issues. His voters will look for signs that Britain and America are truly equity partners in the special relationship.

Blair continued to claim to have made no decision regarding military action for most of 2002, a diplomatic solution was being pursued he stated. Since there was no US or UK Embassy in Baghdad and UK Ministers and their US counterparts refused to travel there or engage with the Iraqi government, his assertions never rang even vaguely true. Powell's memo proves the lie. Headed: "Memorandum to the President; Subject: Your Meeting with United Kingdom Prime Minister Tony Blair, April 5-7, 2002, Crawford, Texas", he states:

"Blair continues to stand by you and the US as we move forward on the war on terrorism and on Iraq. He will present to you the strategic, tactical and public

affairs lines that he believes will strengthen global support for our common cause.”

The paragraph confirms Blair’s integral part in the planning and all round strategy of the illegal invasion, whilst telling both Parliament and the public something quite else.

It should also be noted that whilst the line to Parliament and the public had been to tie Saddam’s government to the events of 11th September 2001, in the Powell, Bush, Blair circle they seems to be entirely separated, note: “the war on terrorism and on Iraq.” No mention of their numerous public allegations of Iraq and international terrorism being inter-linked.

Powell confirms: “On Iraq, Blair will be with us should military actions be necessary.”

Pointing out that Blair was not quite unfettered in his entirely illegal plans, Powell writes: “Aside from his foreign and defence secretaries (sic - no capital letters) however, Blair’s Cabinet shows signs of division, and the Labour Party and the British public are unconvinced that military action is warranted now.”

However: “Blair may suggest ideas on how to make a credible public case on current Iraqi threats to international peace” and how to handle demands for any action to be sanctioned by the UN Security Council.” Thus there was full awareness by the Bush and Blair regimes of the lawlessness of attacking a sovereign nation posing them no threat, and whose “sovereignty and territorial integrity” was guaranteed by the UN.

Also notable is that so keen was Tony Blair to ally George W. Bush in invasion plotting that he left the UK during the ten days national mourning for Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother. The longest living member of the Royal family had died on 30th March 2002. Queues lined to pay their last respects as she lay in state in Westminster Abbey, the Monarchy grieved and Her Majesty’s Prime Minister, Blair, boarded a plane to the US.

In September that year Blair claimed that Saddam Hussein’s government could release weapons of mass destruction on the West “within forty five minutes”, which Colin Powell used in his Iraq war speech to the UN the following February.

Blair would also: “demonstrate that we have thought through ‘the day after’ “, states the communication. Not only had “the day after” not been “thought through”, but the weeks, months, years as Iraq continues to implode and Iraqis continue to die in their uncounted thousands. Even Iraq Body Count - whose estimates of Iraqi deaths are so sanguine and understated that they are used by the US and UK governments - released a Report early this year (2) stating Iraqi deaths from violence are doubling year on year.

Blair, wrote Powell: “ ... is sharply criticized by the media for being too pro-US, too arrogant and ‘presidential’ (not a compliment in the British context) and too inattentive on issues of concern to voters.”

“Blair knows he may have to pay a political price for supporting us on Iraq and want to minimize it. Nonetheless he will stick with us on the big issues. His voters will look for signs that Britain and America are truly equal partners in the special relationship.”

Powell had not been paying attention. The majority of British voters wanted no “equal

partnership” and nothing to do with the Iraq assault or general US global belligerence.

After George W. Bush left office and Barack Obama was elected with such (now dashed) hopes, numerous Americans living in the UK interviewed in the media repeated similar phrases, that they had tried to keep silent on public transport and in public places, ashamed of their American accent, so strong was the anti-American feeling over the treatment of and further threats to Iraq.

Today’s revelations have not come at a good time for Blair, scrutiny of whose hands in Iraq’s tragedy has only grown over the years. Currently circulating is a petition to Britain’s Parliament demanding his impeachment (3) and a poll asking: “Should Tony Blair Stand Trial for War Crimes?” (4) the affirmative in the latter ranges between 95 and 96%.

Further, it seems Mr Blair also was not entirely truthful with the £10 million, six year long Chilcot Inquiry in to the Iraq invasion – publication still awaited. (5) Sir John Chilcot has given varying reasons for the delay, including 2002 correspondence between Bush and Blair which has been withheld from the Inquiry. It will not be published for another year. He surely has now all he needs to know. Also according the Mail on Sunday:

“During his appearance before the Chilcot inquiry in January 2010, Blair denied that he had struck a secret deal with Bush at Crawford to overthrow Saddam. Blair said the two men had agreed on the need to confront the Iraqi dictator, but insisted they did not get into ‘specifics’.”

In the real world, was he not a long time associate of Blair, that should surely get Sir John going. British MP David Davis, a former Shadow Home Secretary is clearly stunned at the memo, writing (6):

“This is one of the most astonishing documents I have ever read.“It proves in explicit terms what many of us have believed all along: Tony Blair effectively agreed to act as a front man for American foreign policy in advance of any decision by the House of Commons or the British Cabinet.“He was happy to launder George Bush’s policy on Iraq and sub-contract British foreign policy to another country without having the remotest ability to have any real influence over it.”

He adds:

“Judging from this memorandum, Blair signed up for the Iraq War even before the Americans themselves did. It beggars belief.“Blair was telling MPs and voters back home that he was still pursuing a diplomatic solution while Colin Powell was telling President Bush: ‘Don’t worry, George, Tony is signed up for the war come what may – he’ll handle the PR for you, just make him look big in return.’ “

Further:

“What is truly shocking is the casualness of it all, such as the reference in the memo to ‘the day after’ – meaning the day after Saddam would be toppled.”

Davis concludes by linking the terrorism scourging Iraq and the Middle East directly to the actions in which Blair had such an integral part:

“We saw the catastrophic so-called ‘de-Baathification’ of Iraq, with the country’s entire civil and military structure dismantled, leading to years of bloodshed and chaos. It has infected surrounding countries to this day and created the vacuum into which Islamic State has stepped. “This may well be the Iraq ‘smoking gun’ we have all been looking for.”

Anthony Charles Lynton Blair’s final untruths before the invasion were an address to Parliament on 18th March 2003. They included:

“And now the world has to learn the lesson all over again that weakness in the face of a threat from a tyrant, is the surest way not to peace but to war.” And: “The real problem is that, underneath, people dispute that Iraq is a threat; dispute the link between terrorism and WMD; dispute the whole basis of our assertion that the two together constitute a fundamental assault on our way of life.” Should the UK not enjoin the attack: “And then, when the threat returns from Iraq or elsewhere, who will believe us? What price our credibility ...” “To retreat now, I believe, would put at hazard all that we hold dearest ... stifle the first steps of progress in the Middle East ...” “This is the time for (Parliament) not just this government or indeed this Prime Minister, but for this House to give a lead, to show that we will stand up for what we know to be right, to show that we will confront the tyrannies and dictatorships and terrorists who put our way of life at risk, to show at the moment of decision that we have the courage to do the right thing.”

How wrong, devious and duplicitous can one man be? For how long can he now avoid justice?

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 LONDON 002066

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/20/2015
TAGS: PREL, MOPS, PGOV, UK
SUBJECT: IRAQ COALITION-BUILDING: UK LABOR PARTY NOT YET
CONVINCED

REVIEW AUTHORITY:
Theodore Sellin, Senior
Reviewer

CLASSIFIED BY: DCM GLYN DAVIES. REASON: 1.6X6

SUMMARY AND COMMENT
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1. (C) FOR NEARLY A MONTH, PM TONY BLAIR HAS MADE PUBLICLY
CLEAR HIS COMMITMENT TO A MORE PROACTIVE IRAQ POLICY.
REFLECTING THE POLLED SENTIMENTS OF VOTERS, HOWEVER, A
SIZABLE NUMBER OF HIS LABOR PARTY MPS REMAINS AT PRESENT
OPPOSED TO MILITARY ACTION AGAINST IRAQ. A MAJORITY INDICATE
THEY WOULD CHANGE THEIR MINDS IF THEY HAD PROOF OF IRAQI
INVOLVEMENT IN SEPTEMBER 11 OR ANOTHER TERRORIST ATROCITY.
SOME WOULD FAVOR SHIFTING FROM A POLICY OF CONTAINMENT OF
IRAQ IF THEY HAD RECENT (AND PUBLICLY USABLE) PROOF THAT IRAQ
IS DEVELOPING WMD/MISSILES OR THAT IRAQ'S WMD STATUS HAS
CHANGED FOR THE WORSE. MOST SEEM TO WANT SOME SORT OF UN
ENDORSEMENT FOR MILITARY ACTION. BLAIR'S CHALLENGE NOW IS TO
JUDGE THE TIMING AND EVOLUTION OF AMERICA'S IRAQ POLICY, AND
TO BRING HIS PARTY AND THE BRITISH PEOPLE ONBOARD, SO THAT
THE UK -- THE KEYSTONE OF ANY COALITION WE SEEK TO BUILD --
CAN BE FIRMLY IN PLACE. END SUMMARY.

Classification Extended on : 09/27/2013 ~ Class: CONFIDENTIAL ~ Authority: DSCG 11-1

 Declassify on: 04-02-2022

LABOR MPS BALK AS GOVERNMENT ARTICULATES IRAQ POLICY

2. (C) FOR A NOTICEABLE TIME AFTER THE PRESIDENT IDENTIFIED IRAQ'S DEVELOPMENT OF WMD AND MISSILES AS A SERIOUS THREAT IN THE STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS, TONY BLAIR'S GOVERNMENT ESSENTIALLY KEPT QUIET ON WHETHER IT AGREED. THIS CHANGED AT THE END OF FEBRUARY AS BLAIR SPOKE OUT FORCEFULLY IN PREPARATION FOR, AND AT, THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING IN AUSTRALIA. THE FOLLOWING WEEK, ON MARCH 5, THE GOVERNMENT RELEASED TO THE PARLIAMENTARY LABOR PARTY (PLP) A
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FOREIGN OFFICE-SPONSORED BRIEFING PAPER THAT OUTLINED THE CASE AGAINST IRAQ. A DAY LATER, "THE TIMES" CARRIED A FOREIGN SECRETARY JACK STRAW BYLINER HIGHLIGHTING THE IRAQI WMD THREAT; THE NEXT DAY, THE MASS-CIRCULATION TABLOID "DAILY MAIL" PRINTED A SIMILAR PIECE BY THE PRIME MINISTER. DEBATE ON THESE ISSUES IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS THAT WEEK WAS SHARP, WITH FOREIGN OFFICE JUNIOR MINISTER BENJAMIN BRADSHAW BRANDING EXTREME-LEFT LABOR MP GEORGE GALLOWAY AS AN APOLOGIST AND PAID MOUTHPIECE FOR IRAQ, AND GALLOWAY RETORTING THAT BRADSHAW IS A LIAR.

3. (C) OPPOSITION TO MILITARY ACTION AGAINST SADDAM HUSSEIN GOES, UNFORTUNATELY, WELL BEYOND THE "USUAL SUSPECTS" SUCH AS GALLOWAY. WITHIN A DAY OF RECEIVING THE FOREIGN OFFICE BRIEFING PAPER, 117 MPS SIGNED AN 'EARLY DAY MOTION' (SIMILAR TO A SENSE OF THE CONGRESS RESOLUTION IN THAT IT SIMPLY EXPRESSES AN OPINION, BUT DIFFERENT IN THAT IT DOES NOT COME TO A VOTE) THAT OPPOSED SUPPORTING U.S. MILITARY ACTION AGAINST IRAQ. THE NUMBER OF SIGNATORIES HAS SINCE GROWN TO MORE THAN 130, OF WHICH WELL OVER 100 ARE LABOR PARTY MEMBERS (I.E., ABOUT ONE-QUARTER OF ALL LABOR MPS). ORDINARILY, EARLY DAY MOTIONS DO NOT MEAN MUCH; MANY MPS DON'T BOTHER WITH THEM. THE RELATIVELY LARGE RESPONSE IS THEREFORE SIGNIFICANT, AND WE HEAR THAT MANY MORE MPS DID NOT SIGN BUT DO AGREE WITH ITS THRUST.

4. (C) THESE MPS APPEAR TO BE REFLECTING OVERALL VOTER OPINION: 51 PERCENT (ACCORDING TO A GUARDIAN/ICM POLL RELEASED MARCH 19) ARE AGAINST UK POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR A U.S. MILITARY ACTION AGAINST IRAQ, WITH 35 PERCENT IN FAVOR. VIRTUALLY ALL MPS WE HAVE CONTACTED MAKE A POINT OF
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CONTRASTING THE BROAD SUPPORT FOR ACTION IN AFGHANISTAN (74 PERCENT OF VOTERS IN FAVOR) WITH THE DEEP UNEASE THAT MPS FEEL ABOUT WAR WITH IRAQ. SEVERAL MPS SAY THAT POST-9/11 SYMPATHY FOR THE U.S. IS "EBBING AWAY," AS PERCEPTIONS GROW OF ALLEGED U.S. UNILATERALISM, PROTECTIONISM, AND ONE-SIDED SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL. LABOR MPS WHO CONSIDER THEMSELVES TO BE MODERATE AND STRONGLY PRO-U.S. TELL US THEY NEED MORE EVIDENCE OF IRAQ'S CONNIVANCE WITH TERRORISM AND/OR

WILLINGNESS TO USE WMD BEFORE THEY COULD SUPPORT HMG COOPERATION WITH MILITARY ACTION. (NOTE: IN THE SAME POLL, THIRD-PARTY LIBERAL DEMOCRAT VOTER OPINION IS 67 PERCENT AGAINST BACKING U.S. MILITARY ACTION; A SIZABLE NUMBER OF LIBDEM MPS HAVE ALSO SIGNED UP TO THE EARLY DAY MOTION. THOUGH CONSERVATIVE VOTER OPINION IN THE POLL IS MARGINALLY OPPOSED TO SUPPORTING THE U.S. ON IRAQ, NO TORY MP HAS SIGNED THE MOTION.)

CONCERNS

5. (C) THERE IS SIGNIFICANT UNEASE IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS AS WELL. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] ALSO TOLD US THAT

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DCP-01 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OMB-01 OPIC-01 PA-00 PC-01
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 LONDON 002066

NOFORN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/20/2015
TAGS: PREL, MOPS, PGOV, UK
SUBJECT: IRAQ COALITION-BUILDING: UK LABOR PARTY NOT YET CONVINCED

LABOR PEERS WANT EVIDENCE THAT IRAQ PROMOTES TERROR ATTACKS, OR THAT ITS WMD POSE A CLEAR AND PRESENT THREAT. HE SAID PROOF THAT IRAQ HAS DEVELOPED SUCH WEAPONS IS PROBABLY NOT ENOUGH, IN ITSELF, TO SWING A MAJORITY IN LORDS BEHIND THE
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MILITARY OPTION.

6. (C) LABOR MPS ESPECIALLY RAISE CONCERNS ABOUT THE REACTION OF THE ARAB WORLD, CLAIMING THAT ACTION AGAINST SADDAM WOULD UNDERCUT VITAL ARAB COOPERATION IN THE WAR ON TERRORISM. THEY ARE NOT CONVINCED THAT THE IRAQI OPPOSITION FORMS A CREDIBLE ALTERNATIVE OR THAT MILITARY ACTION WOULD BE QUICK AND EFFECTIVE. SEVERAL MPS TOLD US THAT PROGRESS IN THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS COULD DEFUSE SOME OF THEIR CONCERNS. ANOTHER ELEMENT RAISED WAS THAT THERE WOULD BE LESS NEGATIVE FALLOUT IF MILITARY ACTION WERE TAKEN ONLY AFTER ALL OTHER OPTIONS WERE SEEN TO HAVE BEEN EXHAUSTED. VIRTUALLY ALL MPS WITH WHOM WE SPOKE WANT THE UNSC TO ENDORSE ANY MILITARY ACTION. THEY SUPPORT ADDITIONAL PRESSURE TO COMPEL IRAQ TO ADHERE TO EXISTING OBLIGATIONS, BUT DO NOT BELIEVE EXISTING UNSCRS OFFER A SUFFICIENT LEGAL BASIS FOR ATTACK.

7. (C) OTHER ELEMENTS OF PARLIAMENTARY CONCERN WE HAVE PICKED UP RELATE TO THE PERCEIVED UNILATERALISM OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY. FOLLOWING RELATIVELY QUICK SUCCESS IN AFGHANISTAN, MPS WORRY THAT THE U.S. IS "LOOKING FOR ANOTHER FIGHT" AND WILL "IGNORE EVEN ITS CLOSE FRIENDS" IF THEY OBJECT. THEY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT MANY HAVE NOT RETHOUGHT BASIC UK AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY SITUATIONS SINCE SEPTEMBER 11, AND THEY ALSO ACCEPT THAT U.S. ACTIONS SINCE 9/11 HAVE BEEN MEASURED AND TAKEN IN CONSULTATION WITH ALLIES. NONETHELESS, THERE IS THE IMPRESSION THAT U.S. FOREIGN POLICY IS INCREASINGLY DRIVEN BY TOO-NARROW SECURITY INTERESTS, AND THAT THE U.S. IS NOT ACKNOWLEDGING THE RELEVANCE OF THE UK TO THE U.S. AGENDA.

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CONSTRAINTS ON BLAIR

8. (C) MANY LABOR (AND LIBDEM) MPS HAVE INSISTED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER CONSULT PARLIAMENT (AND SOME HAVE DEMANDED A VOTE) BEFORE OFFERING SUPPORT TO THE U.S. ON IRAQ. BLAIR IS NOT COMPELLED TO DO SO; NEITHER MARGARET THATCHER NOR JOHN MAJOR ASKED PARLIAMENT TO VOTE BEFORE TAKING MILITARY ACTION IN THE FALKLANDS AND IN OPERATION DESERT STORM. STILL, BLAIR WOULD PAY A POLITICAL PRICE FOR IGNORING BACKBENCHERS COMPLETELY OR FAILING TO CONSULT HIS CABINET. IT IS OFTEN RECALLED THAT, IN THE 1990'S WHEN LABOR WAS IN OPPOSITION, LEFT-LEANING CLARE SHORT, WHO IS NOW SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, QUIT THE SHADOW CABINET TWICE OVER THE ISSUES OF INTERVENTION IN IRAQ AND SOMALIA. PRESSED ABOUT THIS IN A MARCH 15 INTERVIEW, SHE SAID, "THERE ARE CONDITIONS IN WHICH I WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO SUPPORT ACTION, BUT I DO NOT EXPECT THEM TO BE PROPOSED." SHE WAS MORE EXPLICIT TWO DAYS LATER WHEN SHE DECLARED OPPOSITION TO "A BLIND MILITARY ATTACK ON IRAQ." ALSO IN THE CABINET, HOME

SECRETARY DAVID BLUNKETT HAS REPORTEDLY WARNED FELLOW MINISTERS PRIVATELY THAT BRITISH PARTICIPATION IN AN ATTACK ON IRAQ COULD LEAD TO A SERIOUS RISE IN RACIAL TENSION IN BRITAIN OR EVEN RIOTING.

9. (C) THERE HAVE BEEN A FEW SPECULATIVE PIECES IN THE MORE FEVERISH PRESS ABOUT LABOR UNEASE RE IRAQ POLICY (AND UNHAPPINESS WITH AN "ARROGANT" TONY BLAIR WHOSE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET DELIVERED ON SOCIAL POLICY), WHICH HAVE GONE ON
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TO IDENTIFY THE BEGINNINGS OF A CHALLENGE TO BLAIR'S LEADERSHIP OF THE LABOR PARTY. MOST POLITICAL COMMENTATORS AND MPS SCOFF AT SUCH RUMORS. FORMER CABINET MEMBER PETER MANDELSON, STILL AN INSIDER, CALLED IT ALL "FROTH." NONETHELESS, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE 1997 ELECTION THAT SUCH A STORY IS EVEN BEING PRINTED.

TOLD US THE INTENTION OF THOSE FEEDING THE STORY IS NOT TO BRING DOWN BLAIR BUT TO INFLUENCE HIM ON THE IRAQ ISSUE.

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10. (C) UNDER PARTY RULES, REBEL MPS CAN ONLY TRIGGER A VOTE OF NO-CONFIDENCE AT A PARTY CONFERENCE WITH THE SUPPORT OF UNION LEADERS AND THE BACKING OF THE CONSTITUENCY PARTY ORGANIZATIONS. IN OTHER WORDS, A LABOR PARTY LEADER CANNOT BE CHANGED JUST BY THE PARTY CAUCUS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, NOR CAN A CHANGE HAPPEN OVERNIGHT. IN FACT, THERE IS NO SIGN OF A REAL EFFORT TO UNSEAT BLAIR. MOREOVER, BLAIR AND HIS TEAM ARE WORKING TO MANAGE DISSENTING MP VIEWS. HE IS CONFIDENT THAT HE OCCUPIES THE POLITICAL CENTER AND SEEMS NOT OVERLY CONCERNED WITH BACKBENCH SNIPING -- THOUGH HE CANNOT HELP BUT NOTICE THAT HIS PERSONAL-POPULARITY NUMBERS HAVE APPRECIABLY SLIPPED.

WHAT BLAIR NEEDS TO MAKE HIS CASE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 03 LONDON 002066

NOFORN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/20/2015
TAGS: PREL, MOPS, PGOV, UK
SUBJECT: IRAQ COALITION-BUILDING: UK LABOR PARTY NOT YET
CONVINCED

11. (C) WHAT WOULD IT TAKE TO CONVINCCE LABOR
PARLIAMENTARIANS TO SUPPORT MILITARY ACTION AGAINST IRAQ?
REVULSION WITH THE IRAQI REGIME IS ALREADY WIDESPREAD, BUT
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THAT DOES NOT NECESSARILY TRANSLATE INTO SUPPORT FOR WAR.
SOME MPS WOULD ENDORSE ACTION IF THEY HAD PROOF THAT IRAQ HAS
CONTINUED TO DEVELOP WMD SINCE UN INSPECTORS LEFT. MORE
WOULD FOLLOW IF CONVINCED THAT IRAQ HAS SUCCEEDED IN
DEVELOPING SIGNIFICANT WMD CAPABILITY (NOT JUST CW, BUT BW
AND/OR NUCLEAR/RADIOLOGICAL) AND THE MISSILES TO DELIVER IT.
MANY MORE WOULD FOLLOW IF THEY SEE COMPELLING EVIDENCE THAT
IRAQ INTENDS AND PLANS TO USE SUCH WEAPONS. A CLEAR MAJORITY
WOULD SUPPORT MILITARY ACTION AGAINST IRAQ IF SADDAM IS
IMPLICATED IN THE 9/11 ATTACKS OR OTHER EGREGIOUS ACTS OF
TERRORISM. OTHER FACTORS OF INFLUENCE INCLUDE SUCH VARIABLES
AS: ARAB SENTIMENT, PROGRESS IN THE MEPP, UN SUPPORT,
CIVILIAN CASUALTIES, AND HAVING A PLAN THAT WORKS.

12. (C) SINCE MAKING HIS DECISION TO MOVE TO A MORE ROBUST
PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ON IRAQ, BLAIR PLUS STRAW AND DEFENSE
SECRETARY HOON HAVE MADE A STRING OF TOUGH STATEMENTS. BLAIR
WAS ESPECIALLY FORTHRIGHT WHEN STANDING ALONGSIDE VP CHENEY
ON MARCH 11.

[REDACTED]

MOREOVER, BLAIR, STRAW, AND BRADSHAW HAVE LATELY SHOWN SOME
INTEREST IN THE IRAQI OPPOSITION. NORMALLY RECEIVED BY
LOW-RANKING FCO OFFICIALS, BOTH THE INC AND THE "GROUP OF 4"
OPPOSITION GROUPS WERE RECEIVED BY BRADSHAW WITHIN DAYS OF
EACH OTHER EARLIER THIS MONTH, AND BLAIR HAS REPORTEDLY ASKED
FCO FOR A RECOMMENDATION ON WHETHER HE SHOULD MEET WITH
OPPOSITION LEADERS.

13. (C) BLAIR HAS PROVED AN EXCELLENT JUDGE OF POLITICAL
TIMING, AND HE WILL NEED TO BE ESPECIALLY CAREFUL ABOUT WHEN
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LONDON 02066 03 OF 03 021705Z
TO LAUNCH A RAMPED-UP CAMPAIGN TO BUILD SUPPORT FOR ACTION
AGAINST IRAQ. HE WILL WANT NEITHER TO BE TOO FAR IN FRONT,
OR BEHIND, U.S. POLICY. AS ONE FCO OFFICIAL POINTED OUT TO

1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1

US, IF BLAIR UNLEASHES A FULL-SCALE CAMPAIGN IN PARLIAMENT AND WITH THE GENERAL PUBLIC WHEN PARLIAMENT RETURNS FROM THE EASTER RECESS, AND U.S. POLICY TURNS OUT TO BE ON A LONGER-TERM TRAJECTORY, WHEN THE TIME COMES FOR ACTION, THE PM MAY FIND THAT HIS PREPARATIONS HAVE COME UNGLUED. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF HE WAITS TOO LONG, THEN THE KEYSTONE OF ANY COALITION WE WISH TO BUILD MAY NOT BE FIRMLY IN PLACE. NO DOUBT THESE ARE THE CALCULATIONS THAT BLAIR HOPES TO FIRM UP WHEN HE MEETS THE PRESIDENT AT CRAWFORD APRIL 5-7.
FARISH

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Having read the above, ask yourself the question is Tony Blair a War Criminal? Click image below to sign petition

Petition

Arrest Tony Blair for war crimes in the middle east and misleading the public.

Tony Blair led us into a war, using lies and deception, resulting in the death of thousands of our soldiers and hundreds of thousands of civilians. His actions have given rise to instability in the region and terror groups the freedom to rise. He should be arrested and put in prison.

[Sign this petition](#)

3,352 signatures

10,000

 **At 10,000 signatures...**

At 10,000 signatures, government will respond to this petition

[British Citizens and British Residents can sign the petition \(click the above image\)](#)

Notes:

1.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3277402/Smoking-gun-emails-reveal-Blair-s-deal-blood-Geor>

[ge-Bush-Iraq-war-forged-YEAR-invasion-started.html](#)

2. <https://www.iraqbodycount.org/analysis/numbers/2014/>
3. <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/108495>
4. <http://atrueindependentscotland.com/poll-should-tony-blair-stand-trial-for-war-crimes/>
5. <http://www.globalresearch.ca/iraq-chilcot-inquiry-complete-whitewash-of-the-tony-blair-regime-on-going-criminality-of-her-majestys-government/5469712>
6. <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-3277403/DAVID-DAVIS-stunning-memo-proves-Blair-signed-Iraq-Americans.html>

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