

## MEDIA MONITORING UNIT



### MEDIA BRIEFING

**0600 Edition – Thursday 29th May 2003**

#### IRAQ & WAR ON TERROR

##### WMDs - TB

TB heads for Iraq as criticism rages over claim that WMDs will still be found – Wolfowitz says decn to stress WMDs as justification for war was political war (BBC 0500) ... Carole Mitchell: doubt over whereabouts of WMDs casts shadow over visit TB convinced more will be found (BBC 0500)

Blown apart, the case for war – TB stands accused of misleading Parlt & the people over Saddam's WMDs & claims that threat justified war . Cook says Rumsfeld statement 'breathtaking' & 'blows an enormous gaping hole in the case for war' . Lab rebels incl Kilfoyle, threaten to rpt TB for misleading Parlt . Keetch says even troops in Iraq 'sceptical' abt threat of WMDs (Indy splash) . War of lies - TB accused of joining a war based on lies .. Cook leads anger saying 'this war cld have been avoided' (Mirr) .. TB faces revolt as US admits doubts – TB's tour of Iraq runs into trouble before he sets foot in country as Cook serves notice TB faces growing crisis over failure to uncover WMDs (Guard splash) TB walks into Gulf war storm – visit to Iraq overshadowed by confusion over prospect of finding WMDs .. embarrassing divns btwn W'ton ' Ldn (Tele splash) . Blair versus USA – TB head to head with Rumsfeld on weapons hunt (Expr) . TB hit by friendly fire – furious row over failure to find WMDs (Mail) ... Inquiry into Saddam arms dossier claims – HoC inquiry to investigate UK intelligence claims Saddam stockpiling WMDs .. no weapons found at site in dossier .. TB says he remains 'absolutely confident' they will be found but Rumsfeld admits WMDs may never be found .. remarks spark surprise among W/hall officials .. FCO officials say do not expect to find 'bunker full of missiles' (Ti p1)

##### WMDs - US

We've been conned – Rumsfeld admits WMDs may not exist (Mirr splash) .. Saddam destroyed nukes before war – US admits no weapons fallen tyrant blew up weapons before war .. US admits it may never find nukes (Star p2 id) .. Rumsfeld concedes banned weapons may not exist – after 7 wks of fruitless search, Bush admin close to conceding there may not be any WMD in Iraq (Indy) .. Trailers 'strongest evdce' of bioweapons – a/c to US intelligence rpt, mobile trailers 'strikingly similar' to info provided by CIA source (FT) .. 2 'clean trucks' – the evidence so far – CIA/DIA rpt concedes no traces of bio weapons found in trucks . abrupt scaling down of expectations over prospect of sgnt arsenal suggests even Pent losing hope .. Iraqi detainees telling interrogators WMDs destroyed not just before war, but yrs ago (Guard p1)

##### Comment

Steel: New type of Gulf War Syndrome that atkks the nervous system . makes anyone defending the last Gulf War see piles of imaginary weapons (Indy op-ed) ... Correlli Barnett: The biggest exercise in con-trickery of modern times tdy even Rumsfeld has virtually given up claiming any such weapons will be found con has served its purpose & can be quietly forgotten (Mail op-ed) Richard Wallace Good thing Saddam is gone, but that wasn't why we went to war .. we were told he was abt to do his worst against us (Mirr)

##### Leaders

Mirr: There is no disputing the success of the war, but doubts remain abt its legality . Indy: Turns out there was no serious threat to pre-empt in Iraq . true even if weapons found bese when he needed them most, Saddam did not use them w/out any weapons, legal argument for the war fades away not too late to demand a searching inquiry into TB's decns .. his credibility will never be the same . Star: Each day brings fresh proof that it was absolutely right to depose Saddam . WMDs? Look no further than Saddam & his sons . TB & Bush have done Iraq & world a grt service . Expr: As arguments continue abt WMDs must not forget British forces have brought Iraqis priceless gift of freedom

##### TB visit

TB optimistic abt Iraq reconstruction – acknowledges lot to be done but says rots from people there grt deal more optimistic than some of the reporting' (FT p2) . TB will be told abt the achievements of the British forces . will only be ½ the story will not hear abt the babies dying in Khalis bese of lack of clean water & electricity (Guard) . PM jets to Iraq to see heroes – thanks British troops for helping topple Saddam (Sun) . Historic Iraq visit salutes UK's brave forces (Expr) Baghdad? We're here first – gap yr students beat TB to Iraq by 4 days 2 19 yr olds register as 1st tourists to postwar Iraq (Expr) .. Baghpack holiday (Star) ... Tr TB shld pt tactfully to British experience in S Iraq as he & Bush draw up framework for Iraq govt must persuade public & US that pacifying & stabilising Iraq is worth the cost & those costs as demanding as prep for war . has already made clr he wants rich Gulf states to do more as they will gain most from democratic & prosperous Iraq .. Guard: TB wise to tread carefully in Iraq . this is not a moment for triumphalism insecurity & lawlessness remain endemic in Baghdad in this galloping cook-up. UK is complicit but not in charge .. Thanks to TB, UK having waged war w/out cause in Iraq has incurred responsibility w/out pwr

##### Iran

UK warns Iran not to meddle in Iraq – TB takes tough stance on terror grps & inspax .. tells Iran to cease spptg terrorists & cooperate with IAEA hardens his position, bringing him closer to WHO suggests he is losing patience . expected to urge Iraqi ldrs to move swiftly to democratic govt .. Rumsfeld says US will 'aggressively put down' attempts to install theocracy in Iraq (Ti splash) Warning to Iran – UK & US issue grave warning to Iran (Mirr)