



Is Niger the smoking gun?

Blair under fire as White House rejects British intelligence claiming Iraq tried to buy uranium

BY BEN HURRELL AND
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in Washington

THE WHITE House has dealt a devastating blow to Tony Blair by rejecting as flawed British claims that Saddam Hussein attempted to buy uranium from Africa to restart his nuclear weapons programme.

The Bush administration was in full retreat yesterday with officials admitting that the allegation should not have been included in President George Bush's State of the Union address. The American admission represented the first serious split between London and Washington over the case against Saddam and exploded into a full-scale row in Westminster as Mr Blair told senior MPs that the Government was standing by its story.

In the US last night, there were signs that the admission over Niger may be about to generate the kind of political fury over weapons of mass destruction that the UK has seen - as senior Democrats immediately demanded a full account of the US's pre-war intelligence efforts. "This is a very important admission," said Tom Daschle, the Democratic leader in the Senate. Carl Levin, senior Democrat on the Armed Services Committee, joined the call for the inquiry.

In the UK, Conservatives, Liberal Democrats and Labour backbenchers demanded that the Prime Minister release the intelligence behind the allegation to an independent inquiry.

In his address to Congress in January, Mr Bush said: "The British Government has learnt that Saddam Hussein recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa."

But a statement approved by the White House on Monday said: "Knowing all that we know now, the reference to Iraq's



Tony Blair returns to Downing Street yesterday after appearing before a Commons committee where he denied misleading Parliament

Scott Barbour

'The British Government has learnt that Saddam Hussein recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa'

George Bush
28 January 2003

'Knowing all that we know now, the reference to Iraq's attempt to acquire uranium from Africa should not have been included in the State of the Union speech'

Senior Bush aide
7 July 2003

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How to become a freelance writer

Freelance writing can be a lucrative career. It offers the freedom of working from home, setting your own hours, and the potential to earn a full-time income. To succeed as a freelance writer, you need to be organized, disciplined, and proactive. Here are some key steps to get started:

1. Develop your skills: Invest in your education and training. Take courses in writing, editing, and marketing. Practice writing regularly to improve your craft.

2. Build a portfolio: Create a collection of your best work. This can include articles, blog posts, and other pieces of writing. A strong portfolio is essential for attracting clients.

3. Network: Connect with other writers and industry professionals. Attend conferences, workshops, and networking events. Building relationships can lead to new opportunities.

4. Find clients: Look for freelance writing opportunities on job boards, freelance marketplaces, and through referrals. Reach out to potential clients and pitch your services.

5. Manage your business: Treat your freelance writing as a business. Keep track of your income and expenses, and consider hiring an accountant. Set boundaries and stick to them to avoid burnout.

With such demand, there's always room for new writers. But as Mr. E. H. MacCallie, president of the Writers' Bureau, says, "It's not just about writing; it's about business. You need to be organized, disciplined, and proactive. You need to be able to sell your work and manage your time effectively. Freelance writing is a business, and you need to run it like one."

The Writers' Bureau offers a comprehensive course in freelance writing. The course covers everything from finding clients to managing your business. It's a great resource for anyone looking to start a freelance writing career.

Why not be a writer?

Freelance writing is a flexible career option that allows you to work from home and set your own schedule. It's a great way to combine your passion for writing with your need for financial independence. If you're a creative and hardworking individual, freelance writing could be the perfect career choice for you.

For more information, visit www.writersbureau.com or call 01203 200000. The Writers' Bureau is a leading organization for freelance writers, offering a wide range of services and support.

The Writers' Bureau

Freelance writing courses and services. The Writers' Bureau is a leading organization for freelance writers, offering a wide range of services and support. We provide comprehensive training and resources to help you succeed in your freelance writing career.

For more information, visit www.writersbureau.com or call 01203 200000. The Writers' Bureau is a leading organization for freelance writers, offering a wide range of services and support.

The Government received a report yesterday in its dispute with the BBC over a report claiming Downing Street "went up" in flames on Iraq's WMD. The report, which was published in the Sunday Times, claimed that the White House had sought to purchase it - was based on sources who saw a copy of the report at the Ministry of Defence. The report was written by a reporter for Andrew Gillian, a well-known journalist who has been involved in several high-profile investigations. The report was widely criticized for its lack of evidence and its sensationalist tone.

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The information which was included in the dossier and as a result of the report, the Blair administration has been accused of misleading the public. The report claimed that the White House had sought to purchase the report, which was a clear attempt to suppress the truth. This has led to a loss of trust in the administration and a demand for greater transparency.

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Mr Blair said yesterday the intelligence services were standing by their allegations. He said that the report was a "hoax" and that the White House had sought to purchase it. He also accused the report of being a "hoax" and of being a "hoax". He said that the report was a "hoax" and of being a "hoax". He said that the report was a "hoax" and of being a "hoax".

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Conjoined twins die during surgery to separate them

LADAN AND LALEKH BIKANI, the Iranian sisters joined at the head, died on a hospital operating table yesterday shortly after almost two days of complex surgery to separate them.

The 20-year-old twins were born in Iran and had been living together in their parents' home in Tehran. They were born with a rare form of conjoined twinning, sharing a brain and other vital organs. The surgery was performed at a hospital in London and was one of the most complex and risky operations ever attempted. The twins were separated at the head, but the surgery was not successful, and they both died during the procedure.



Ladan and Lalekh Bikani, conjoined twins, died during surgery to separate them.

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Protest may be halted
A United Nations report predicted that the number of people trying to survive on less than a dollar a day could be halved in just over a decade. World, page 11

Conjoint murdered wife
A businessman described by judges as "the ultimate conman" was jailed for life for killing his wife and trying to claim £500,000 on a death policy. Home, page 8

Alert girl shows up
Britain's first 18-year-old child abuse victim was found after a six-year-old girl disappeared from home, only to be found under a cot four years ago. Home, page 2

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