

Press Release

Win Without War
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WMD REPORT REPORTS NO WMD

New Backgrounder at Misleader.org Raises Questions About Kay & Report's Credibility

250,000 Citizens Sign Up to Misleader.org at Record Pace

Wednesday, September 24, 2003 – A desperate five month search by a team of 1,400 U. S. investigators reportedly has failed to find any new physical evidence of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons in Iraq, despite President Bush's continuing insistence that weapons not only existed but posed an imminent threat to the United States.⁽¹⁾ Now, the Bush Administration is calling Kay's effort a "preliminary report." Win Without War today released a backgrounder at www.misleader.org raising questions about the credibility of the new report by David Kay.

Win Without War, America's largest antiwar coalition, called for accountability from the Bush Administration. "From the beginning, the Bush Administration has replaced intelligence gathering with politics," stated Tom Andrews, National Director of Win Without War. "The Kay Report appears to be part of a growing Bush pattern of manipulating intelligence to advance its political agenda."

The coalition called for three immediate actions:

- The full Kay Report should be released immediately.
- At the very least, the Kay team should turn over its results to UN weapons inspectors to make a final certification of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.
- Any further inspections of Iraq's weapons capabilities should be conducted under the authority of UN weapons inspectors.

The failure of the U.S. team, led by Bush appointee David Kay, seriously undermines the integrity of the President's assertion two days prior to the war: "Intelligence gathered...leaves no doubt that the Iraq regime continues to possess and conceal some of the most lethal weapons ever devised."⁽²⁾

It is clear that the Bush Administration effort led by David Kay, has been politicized.

Bush's bold declaration, according to a subsequent review, was based on old and faulty intelligence data. Former CIA official Richard Kerr, who helped with the review, said Bush's assessment ignored "caveats and disagreements" in the data⁽³⁾ and relied "heavily on evidence that was at least five years old."⁽⁴⁾ Even the Pentagon's intelligence agency had warned in a classified September 2002 report that "there is no reliable information on whether Iraq is producing and stockpiling chemical weapons."⁽⁵⁾

Bush continued to claim otherwise, saying inaccurately in May, "We found the weapons of mass destruction" and predicting, "we'll find more weapons as time goes on."⁽⁶⁾ The widespread search he initiated, however, now has turned up not a single weapon of mass destruction.

The backgrounder and additional information on the misleading Kay Report can be found at www.misleader.org. So far 250,000 journalists and interested citizens have signed up to receive daily "misleads" in their in-boxes.

Sources:

1. Inquiry Unlikely to Report Finding Iraq Arms, Reuters, 9/24/03, <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=SWEI0LED3UJ0CRBAE2SFEY?type=topNews&storyID=3502138>
2. Presidential Speech, 3/17/03, <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/03/20030317-7.html>
3. "U.S. Used 'Old' Data",
4. "Gauging a threat with little data; Withdrawal of UN inspectors created intelligence vacuum", New York Times, 7/22/03.
5. Defense Agency Issues Excerpt on Iraqi Chemical Warfare Program, State Department, 6/7/03, <http://usinfo.state.gov/topical/pol/arms/03060720.htm>
6. Interview of the President by TVP, Poland, 5/29/03, <http://www.whitehouse.gov/g8/interview5.html>

Win Without War members include: American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, Business Leaders for Sensible Priorities, Campaign for UN Reform, Conference of Major Superiors of Men, Council for a Livable World, Education for Peace in Iraq Center, Families USA, Feminist Majority, Fourth Freedom Forum, Global Exchange, Greenpeace, Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR), MoveOn, NAACP, National Council of Churches, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, National Organization for Women (NOW), NETWORK A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby, Pax Christi USA, Peace Action, Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR), Psychologists for Social Responsibility, Rainbow/Push Coalition, Shalom Center, Sojourners, Soulforce, The Tikkun Community, TrueMajority, Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations, United Church of Christ, United Methodist Church General Board of Church and Society, Us Foundation, USAction, Veterans for Common Sense, Veterans for Peace, Women's Action for New Directions (WAND), Working Assets, Artists United to Win Without War, Musicians United to Win Without War.

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[< back to Press Room](#)