



A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

ON TARGET



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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance -

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

"He who marries the spirit of the age soon finds himself a widower." – G.K. Chesterton.

"... it is certainly true that the neocons' foreign policy fits well with a plausible version of Jewish interests, but is arguably only tenuously related to the interests of the U.S. Also, neocons oppose the isolationism of important sections of traditional American conservatism. And neocon attitudes on issues like race and immigration differ profoundly from those of traditional mainstream conservatives – but resemble closely the common attitudes of the wider American Jewish community."

– Professor Kevin MacDonald in *"Culture of Critique"*

ITS OFFICAL – JOHN HOWARD A 'NEO-CON' by Betty Luks:

John Howard spelt out the Grand Plan, we in Australia, are to follow, at a recent address to the Institute for Public Affairs, "Iraq: The Importance of Seeing It Through" 19/5/04. It appears, from a number of articles which have appeared analyzing the speech, that some journalists are finally doing their homework, rather than looking up their own slanted newspapers' files. But while they have written that Howard's Grand Plan is the same blueprint as that of the neo-Conservative camp in control of the Bush regime – what they can't bring themselves to report is that it is a Jewish (neo-Conservative) Plan for the Middle East – and *their* 'regime change' is much grander than mere changes in the Middle East.

The Grand Plan was spelt out for them 50 years or more ago by such writers as Alfred L. Lilienthal "What Price Israel?" "There Goes the Middle East", and "The Zionist Connection".

Joshua Frydenberg, senior adviser to Minister for Foreign Affairs, Alexander Downer, announced it was time for the next phase of the Plan at a Sydney Jewish Community Appeal function in July 2002 – "Moral division of good vs evil" says Downer's adviser."

"Since September 11, there is now a moral division of "good against evil", a battle of biblical proportions..." Frydenberg also just happened to meet up with Clinton's former national security adviser Sandy Berger in Sydney at the time (*Australian Jewish News*, 5/7/02).

Greg Sheridan, whilst finally appearing to support Howard, wrote: "At last the truth is out – John Howard is a fully paid-up neo-conservative. This is the inescapable conclusion from Howard's speech (to the Institute for Public Affairs) last night." *The Australian*, 20/5/04.

Brian Toohey in *The West Australlian*, 24/5/04, wrote: "P.M. ponders regime change", "Mr. Howard

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embraced the Bush administration's "neo-conservative" rationale for the invasion (regime change to redraw the political map of the Middle East) just as it is losing favour in the U.S. The neo-conservative's goal was to bring a market-orientated (read monopoly capitalism...ed) democracy (read Jewish-American ideals...ed) to Iraq.

Brian Toohey reminded his readers: "In an address to the National Press Club shortly before the invasion, Mr. Howard explicitly ruled out regime change as a policy goal for the invasion..."

It is reported because of the dismal polling showing the Coalition are losing voter support, Howard is considering holding off the federal elections till he has buttered us up some more.

JEWISH-AMERICAN 'DEMOCRATIC' IDEALS?

The other prisoners: We asked a U.K. friend to check the following report for accuracy, concerned it could be another *Daily Mirror* 'scam'. It was considered reliable, but, at the same time, our U.K. friend asked: **"What about the three, or more, highly reputable Iraqi female doctors who had compiled detailed dossiers over the years of the effects of depleted uranium."** It seems they also have 'disappeared'.

Readers will remember it was our 'highly moral' western leaders who approved of depleted uranium bombs reigning down on the Iraqi people. Read on...

"The other prisoners" by Luke Harding, *The Guardian*, May 20th, 2004: Most of the coverage of abuse at Abu Ghraib has focused on male detainees. But what of the five women held in the jail, and the scores elsewhere in Iraq? Luke Harding reports:

"The scandal at Abu Ghraib prison was first exposed not by a digital photograph but by a letter. In December 2003, a woman prisoner inside the jail west of Baghdad managed to smuggle out a note. Its contents were so shocking that, at first, Amal Kadham Swadi and the other Iraqi women lawyers who had been trying to gain access to the U.S. jail found them hard to believe.

The note claimed that U.S. guards had been raping women detainees, who were, and are, in a small minority at Abu Ghraib. Several of the women were now pregnant, it added. The women had been forced to strip naked in front of men, it said. The note urged the Iraqi resistance to bomb the jail to spare the women further shame.

Late last year, Swadi, one of seven female lawyers now representing women detainees in Abu Ghraib, began to piece together a picture of systemic abuse and torture perpetrated by U.S. guards against Iraqi women held in detention without charge. This was not only true of Abu Ghraib, she discovered, but was, as she put it, "happening all across Iraq".

In November last year, Swadi visited a woman detainee at a U.S. military base at al-Kharkh, a former police compound in Baghdad. "She was the only woman who would talk about her case. She was crying. She told us she had been raped," Swadi says. "Several American soldiers had raped her. She had tried to fight them off and they had hurt her arm. She showed us the stitches. She told us, 'We have daughters and husbands. For God's sake don't tell anyone about this.'"

The Targuba Inquiry: Astonishingly, the secret inquiry launched by the U.S. military in January, headed by Major General Antonio Taguba, has confirmed that the letter smuggled out of Abu Ghraib by a woman known only as "Noor" was entirely and devastatingly accurate. While most of the focus since the scandal broke three weeks ago has been on the abuse of men, and on their sexual humiliation in front of U.S. women soldiers, there is now incontrovertible proof that women detainees – who form a small but unknown proportion of the 40,000 people in U.S. custody since last year's invasion – have also been abused. Nobody appears to know how many. But among the 1,800 digital photographs taken by U.S. guards inside Abu Ghraib there are, according to Taguba's report, images of a U.S. military policeman "having sex" with an Iraqi woman.

Taguba discovered that guards have also videotaped and photographed naked female detainees. The Bush administration has refused to release other photographs of Iraqi women forced at gunpoint to bare their breasts (although it has shown them to Congress) – ostensibly to prevent attacks on U.S. soldiers in Iraq, but in reality, one suspects, to prevent further domestic embarrassment...

In Iraq, the existence of photographs of women detainees being abused has provoked revulsion and outrage, but little surprise. Some of the women involved may since have disappeared, according to human rights activists. Professor Huda Shaker al-Nuaimi, a political scientist at Baghdad University who is researching the subject for Amnesty International, says she thinks "Noor" is now dead. "We believe she was raped and that she was pregnant by a U.S. guard. After her release from Abu Ghraib, I went to her house. The neighbours said her family had moved away. I believe she has been killed."

Honour killings are not unusual in Islamic society, where rape is often equated with shame and where the stigma of being raped by an American soldier would, according to one Islamic cleric, be "unbearable". The prospects for rape victims in Iraq are grave; it is hardly surprising that no women have so far come forward to talk about their experiences in U.S.-run jails where abuse was rife until early January.

One of the most depressing aspects of the saga is that, unaccountably, the U.S. military continues to hold five women in solitary confinement at Abu Ghraib, in cells 2.5m (8ft) long by 1.5m (5ft) wide..."

THE THINGS BUSH DIDN'T MENTION IN HIS SPEECH: Are you taking notice Mr. Howard?

The re-writing of Iraqi history is now going on at supersonic speed by Robert Fisk, 26/5/04 – taken from <http://news.independent.co.uk/world/fisk/story.jsp?story=524859>

Robert Fisk wrote: "I can't wait to see Abu Ghraib prison reduced to rubble by the Americans – at the request of the new Iraqi government, of course. It will be turned to dust in order to destroy a symbol of Saddam's brutality. That's what President Bush tells us. So the re-writing of history still goes on.

Million dollar refurbishment for 'Iraqi' torture centre? Last August, I was invited to Abu Ghraib – by my favourite U.S. General Janis Karpinski, no less – to see the million-dollar U.S. refurbishment of this vile place. Squeaky clean cells and toothpaste tubes and fresh pairs of pants for the "terrorist" inmates. But now, suddenly, the whole kit and caboodle is no longer an American torture centre. It's still an Iraqi torture centre, and thus worthy of demolition.

The re-writing of Iraqi history is now going on at supersonic speed. Weapons of mass destruction? Forget it. Links between Saddam and al-Qa'ida? Forget it. Liberating the Iraqis from Saddam's Abu Ghraib life of torture? Forget it. Wedding party slaughtered? Forget it.

Clear the decks for both "full (sic) sovereignty" and "chaotic events". This is, at any rate, according to Mr Bush. When I heard his hesitant pronunciation of Abu Ghraib as "Abu Grub" on Monday night, I could only profoundly agree. But we're in danger again of missing the detail.

Just as the unsupervised armed mercenaries being killed in Iraq are being described by the occupation authorities as "contractors" or, more mendaciously, "civilians" – so the responsibility for the porno interrogations at Abu Ghraib is being allowed to slide into the summer mists over the Tigris River. So let's go back, for a moment, to the long weeks in which the Department of Bad Apples allowed its jerks to put leashes around Iraqi necks, forced prisoners to have sex with each other and raped some Iraqi lasses in the jail.

'Interrogators' company's Israeli links: attended Israeli 'anti-terror' training camp. And let's cast our eyes upon that little, all-important matter of responsibility. The actual interrogators accused of encouraging U.S. troops to abuse Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib jail were working for at least one company with extensive military and commercial contacts with Israel.

The head of an American company whose personnel are implicated in the Iraqi tortures, it now turns

out, attended an "anti-terror" training camp in Israel and, earlier this year, was presented with an award by Shaul Mofaz, the right-wing Israeli defence minister.

According to Dr. J. P. London's company, C.A.C.I. International, the visit of Dr. London – sponsored by an Israeli lobby group and including U.S. congressmen and other defence contractors – was "to promote opportunities for strategic partnerships and joint ventures between U.S. and Israeli defence and homeland security agencies".

The Pentagon and the occupation powers in Iraq insist that only U.S. citizens have been allowed to question prisoners in Abu Ghraib – but this takes no account of Americans who may also hold double citizenship. The once secret torture report by U.S. General Antonio Taguba refers to "third country nationals" involved in the mistreatment of prisoners in Iraq.

General Taguba mentions Steven Staphanovic and John Israel as involved in the abuses at Abu Ghraib.

Staphanovic, who worked for C.A.C.I. – known to the U.S. military as "Khaki" – was said by Taguba to have "allowed and/or instructed M.Ps. (military police), who were not trained in interrogation techniques, to facilitate interrogations by 'setting conditions' ... he clearly knew his instructions equated to physical abuse". One of Staphanovic's co-workers, Joe Ryan – who was not named in the Taguba report – now says that he underwent an "Israeli interrogation course" before going to Iraq.

We know the Pentagon asked Israel for its "rules of engagement" in the occupied West Bank and Gaza. Israeli officers have briefed their U.S. opposite numbers and, according to the Associated Press, "in January and February of 2003, Israeli and American troops trained together in southern Israel's Negev desert ... Israel has also hosted senior law enforcement officials from the United States for a seminar on counter-terrorism".

Interrogator may hold Australian citizenship: Staphanovic of C.A.C.I., who may also be Australian, was accused by Taguba's army report of making "a false statement to the investigation team regarding ... his knowledge of abuses". Another outside interrogator, Adel Nakhla, who may be of Egyptian origin, was a witness to the "stacking" of naked prisoners in Abu Ghraib. John Israel "misled" investigators by denying he had witnessed misconduct and did not have "security clearance". Israel, according to Titan – two of whose employees were mentioned in Taguba's report – works for one of the company's "sub-contractors". Titan refused to name the "sub-contractor".

Why? Among the company's former directors is ex-C.I.A. director James Woolsey, one of the architects of the U.S. invasion of Iraq, a friend of Ahmed Chalabi and a prominent pro-Israeli lobbyist in Washington. Dr. London says C.A.C.I. "does not condone or tolerate or endorse in any fashion (sic) any illegal, inappropriate behaviour on the part of its employees in any circumstances at any time anywhere".

But it is clear the torture trail at Abu Ghraib has to run much further than a group of brutal U.S. military cops, all of whom claim "intelligence officers" told them to "soften up" their prisoners for questioning. Were they Israeli? Or South African? Or British? **Are we going to let the story go?"**

Editor's note: Actionists please get pen and paper or computer busy. Letters out revealing these facts to as many newspapers, politicians and prominent persons as possible. John Howard must not be allowed to get away with this. Those weak Labor Grey Sisters should also be made to take a stand against such barbarism and the high-jacking of our nation's foreign policies.

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