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Subject: The WMD and terrorist ties that didn't exist...or did they?

Posted by [Blazer](#) on Wed, 06 Oct 2004 20:16:02 GMT

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Journalistic Methodology Used to Report Details of Saddam's Terror Ties

By David Thibault

CNSNews.com Information Services

October 04, 2004

Forty-two pages of photocopied official Iraqi Intelligence Service documents, some hand-written and some typed in 1993, serve as the basis for Scott Wheeler's article, entitled, "Saddam Possessed WMD, Had Extensive Terror Ties." The memos reflect communication between the Iraqi Intelligence Service and Saddam Hussein, by way of his top assistant, the secretary to the president. Tables indicating the Iraqi regime's possession of mustard gas and anthrax in the summer of 2000 are included in the documents, as is a list of 92 individuals believed to have been trained inside Iraq for terrorism operations.

-- Wheeler obtained documents from a longstanding, reliable source who had provided unassailed information for articles previously published. The source is a senior U.S. government official, but not a political appointee and demanded anonymity before furnishing the documents and speaking with CNSNews.com about their importance. At no time in the investigation for this article were the Bush administration, the Bush re-election campaign, the Republican National Committee, the campaign of Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry or the Democratic National Committee consulted.

-- Two translators, working separately and independently of each other, translated the Arabic documents into English for CNSNews.com.

-- There are no hand-writing samples to which the documents can be compared for forensic analysis and authentication. However, three additional experts, a former weapons inspector with the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) who demanded anonymity before speaking with CNSNews.com; Bruce Tefft, a retired CIA counter-terrorism official with heavy experience dealing with Iraq; and Laurie Mylroie, Iraq expert and advisor to then-1992 presidential candidate Bill Clinton on the subject, were asked to evaluate the Iraqi intelligence documents in a double-blind manner. All said the documents comport with the format, style and content of other Iraqi documents from that era known to be genuine. Each of the experts concluded that the documents represent strong evidence that Saddam Hussein maintained extensive ties to terrorist groups including al Qaeda and that he possessed weapons of mass destruction (mustard gas and anthrax).

-- To protect against the Iraqi intelligence documents being altered or misrepresented on the Internet, CNSNews.com has published only the first of the 42 pages in Arabic, along with the English translation. Credentialed journalists and counter-terrorism experts seeking to view the Iraqi Intelligence Service documents and their English translations may make an appointment to visit CNSNews.com headquarters in Alexandria, Va. by first telephoning Managing Editor David

Thibault at 703-683-9733.

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