

account of the Pentagon's "shadow intelligence agency," the OSP, on July 17, which coheres with these reports, as well as with *EIR*'s extensive coverage of the OSP over the recent months. *Guardian* investigative reporter Julian Borger reported that senior officials in the Bush Administration have created "a shadow agency of Pentagon analysts staffed mainly by ideological amateurs" to compete with the CIA and DIA, and that it operates "under the patronage of hardline conservatives in the top rungs of the administration, the Pentagon and at the White House, including Vice President Dick Cheney."

"The president's most trusted adviser, Mr. Cheney, was at the shadow network's sharp end." The shadow agency operates "off the official payroll and beyond Congressional oversight," Borger wrote. "He [Cheney] made several trips to the CIA in Langley, Virginia, to demand a more 'forward-leaning' interpretation of the threat posed by Saddam. When he was not there to make his influence felt, his chief of staff, Lewis 'Scooter' Libby, was. Such hands-on involvement in the processing of intelligence data was unprecedented for a vice-president in recent times, and it put pressure on CIA officials to come up with the appropriate results."

Borger describes the OSP as "an open and largely unfiltered conduit to the White House" for both Iraqi opposition groups such as Ahmed Chalabi's Iraqi National Congress, and the "parallel, ad hoc intelligence operation inside Ariel Sharon's office," which provided the Bush Administration "with more alarmist reports on Saddam's Iraq than Mossad was prepared to authorize." Borger notes that this represented a continuation of the long-standing relationship that Feith and other Washington neo-cons have with the Israeli right-wing Likud Party.

The *Guardian* also reports that the OSP's "primary customers" are Cheney, Libby, and their closest ally on the NSC staff, Stephen Hadley, the deputy to National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice.

Even though the rogue OSP has been operating without Congressional oversight, that may soon change. The senior Democrat on the House Appropriations Committee, Rep. David Obey (D-Wisc.), is looking into the OSP, and has made a formal "survey and investigation" request to the Appropriations Committee which could trigger an inquiry by the Committee's investigative arm. "That office [OSP] was charged with collecting, vetting and disseminating intelligence completely outside of the normal intelligence apparatus," Obey says, adding that its information was not shared with the regular intelligence agencies, and that it "was passed on to the National Security Council and the President without having been vetted with anyone other than political appointees."

The noose is now tightening around this small, sinister cabal, that has captured the President and planned the Iraq War, and other imperial adventures. The sooner Cheney and this apparatus are cleaned out, the sooner the nation can get back on track to deal with the genuine problems facing us: most urgently, the global economic and financial breakdown.

Documentation

'Your Vice President Led The Campaign of Deceit

July 14, 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR: The President

FROM: Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity

SUBJECT: Intelligence Unglued

The glue that holds the Intelligence Community together is melting under the hot lights of an awakened press. If you do not act quickly, your intelligence capability will fall apart—with grave consequences for the nation.

The Forgery Flap

By now you are all too familiar with the play-by-play. The Iraq-seeking-uranium-in-Niger forgery is a microcosm of a mischievous nexus of overarching problems. Instead of addressing these problems, your senior staff is alternately covering up for one another and gently stabbing one another in the back. CIA Director George Tenet's extracted, unapologetic apology on July 11 was classic—I confess; she did it. . . .

The Vice President's Role

Attempts at cover-up could easily be seen as comical, were the issue not so serious. Highly revealing were Ari Fleisher's remarks early last week, which set the tone for what followed. When asked about the forgery, he noted tellingly—as if drawing on well memorized talking points—that the Vice President was not guilty of anything. The disingenuousness was capped on Friday, when George Tenet did his awkward best to absolve the Vice President from responsibility.

To those of us who experienced Watergate, these comments had an eerie ring. That affair and others since have proven that cover-up can assume proportions overshadowing the crime itself. All the more reason to take early action to get the truth up and out.

There is just too much evidence that Ambassador Wilson was sent to Niger at the behest of Vice President Cheney's office, and that Wilson's findings were duly reported not only to that office but to others as well.

Equally important, it was Cheney who launched (in a major speech on August 26, 2002) the concerted campaign to persuade Congress and the American people that Saddam Hussein was about to get his hands on nuclear weapons—a campaign that mushroomed, literally, in early October with you and your senior advisers raising the specter of a "mushroom cloud" being the first "smoking gun" we might observe.

That this campaign was based largely on information

known to be forged and that the campaign was used successfully to frighten our elected representatives in Congress into voting for war is clear from the bitter protestations of Rep. Henry Waxman and others. The politically aware recognize that the same information was used, also successfully, in the campaign leading up to the mid-term elections—a reality that breeds a cynicism highly corrosive to our political process.

The fact that the forgery also crept into your state-of-the-union address pales in significance in comparison with how it was used to deceive Congress into voting on October 11 to authorize you to make war on Iraq.

It was a deep insult to the integrity of the intelligence process that, after the Vice President declared on August 26, 2002 that “we know that Saddam has resumed his efforts to acquire nuclear weapons,” the National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) produced during the critical month of September featured a fraudulent conclusion that “most analysts” agreed with Cheney’s assertion. This may help explain the anomaly of Cheney’s unprecedented “multiple visits” to CIA headquarters at the time, as well as the many reports that CIA and other intelligence analysts were feeling extraordinarily great pressure, accompanied by all manner of intimidation tactics, to concur in that conclusion. As a coda to his nuclear argument, Cheney told NBC’s Meet the Press three days before US/UK forces invaded Iraq: “we believe he [Saddam Hussein] has reconstituted nuclear weapons.”

Mr. Russert: . . . the International Atomic Energy Agency said he does not have a nuclear program; we disagree?

Vice President Cheney: I disagree, yes. And you’ll find the CIA, for example, and other key parts of the intelligence community disagree . . . we know he has been absolutely devoted to trying to acquire nuclear weapons. And we believe he has, in fact, reconstituted nuclear weapons. I think Mr. ElBaradei [Director of the IAEA] frankly is wrong.

Contrary to what Cheney and the NIE said, the most knowledgeable analysts—those who know Iraq and nuclear weapons—judged that the evidence did not support that conclusion. They now have been proven right.

Adding insult to injury, those chairing the NIE succumbed to the pressure to adduce the known forgery as evidence to support the Cheney line, and relegated the strong dissent of the State Department’s Bureau of Intelligence and Research (and the nuclear engineers in the Department of Energy) to an inconspicuous footnote.

It is a curious turn of events. The drafters of the offending sentence on the forgery in the president’s state-of-the-union speech say they were working from the NIE. In ordinary circumstances an NIE would be the preeminently authoritative source to rely upon; but in this case the NIE itself had already been cooked to the recipe of high policy.

Joseph Wilson, the former US ambassador who visited Niger at Cheney’s request, enjoys wide respect (including,

like several VIPS members, warm encomia from your father). He is the consummate diplomat. So highly disturbed is he, however, at the chicanery he has witnessed that he allowed himself a very undiplomatic comment to a reporter last week, wondering aloud “what else they are lying about.” Clearly, Wilson has concluded that the time for diplomatic language has passed. It is clear that lies were told. Sad to say, it is equally clear that your vice president led this campaign of deceit.

This was no case of petty corruption of the kind that forced Vice President Spiro Agnew’s resignation. This was a matter of war and peace. Thousands have died. There is no end in sight.

Recommendation #1

We recommend that you call an abrupt halt to attempts to prove Vice President Cheney “not guilty.” His role has been so transparent that such attempts will only erode further your own credibility. Equally pernicious, from our perspective, is the likelihood that intelligence analysts will conclude that the way to success is to acquiesce in the cooking of their judgments, since those above them will not be held accountable. We strongly recommend that you ask for Cheney’s immediate resignation. . . .

/s/

Ray Close, Princeton, NJ

David MacMichael, Linden, VA

Raymond McGovern, Arlington, VA

Steering Committee, Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity

Congress Marks ‘Last Days’ of Richard Cheney

The U.S. Congress, under massive pressure from the international community, and increasing pressure from the American population, led by the political movement of Democratic Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche, is beginning to move in the direction that LaRouche specified—taking on Vice President Dick Cheney. The following selection is excerpted from the Congressional Record and from official letters from Members of the House and Senate.

Levin: Bush Mis-Statement ‘Not a Mistake,’ But Was ‘Calculated’

In a statement on the Senate floor, on July 15, Sen. Carl Levin (D-Mich.) said, “Last week, CIA Director George Tenet accepted responsibility for having gone along with the African uranium statement in the President’s State of the Union address. . . . But his explanation of the CIA’s acquiescence in allowing the use of a clearly misleading statement