

## Cheney Promotes Use Of Illegal Leak

Vice President Dick Cheney came close to declaring himself an accessory to the illegal disclosure of a Defense Department memorandum, with statements he made to the Jan. 9 *Rocky Mountain News*. When Cheney was asked about links between Saddam Hussein and al-Qaeda, he responded: "There are several places you can go. One place you ought to look is an article that Stephen Hayes did in the *Weekly Standard* here a few weeks ago, that goes through and lays out these links in some detail, based on an assessment that was done by the Department of Defense and forwarded to the Senate Intelligence Committee some weeks ago. That's your best source of information."

What Cheney was recommending, was a classified Defense Department memo, "Al-Qaeda and Iraq Connec-

tions"—a shoddy collection of raw "intelligence" submitted by Undersecretary of Defense Doug Feith to the Senate Intelligence Committee—which was leaked to Stephen Hayes of Rupert Murdoch's *Weekly Standard*, which published substantial excerpts on Nov. 15. On that same day, in a highly unusual action, the Department of Defense immediately posted a disavowal of the memo on its website, which warned: "Individuals who leak or purport to leak classified information are doing serious harm to national security; such activity is deplorable and may be illegal."

Senator Pat Roberts (R-Kans.), the chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, described the disclosure of the Feith memo as "an egregious leak of highly classified material." Both the Senate Intelligence Committee and the CIA asked the Department of Justice to investigate the leak. A Defense Department counterintelligence unit also launched an investigation, which includes identifying everyone who handled the Feith memo at any point.

—Edward Spannaus

weapons; claiming that Saddam was linked to terrorists; and falsely asserting that he had provided training to al-Qaeda.

The Carnegie report zeroes in especially on the shift in official intelligence assessments which took place during 2002, and culminated in the October 2002 National Intelligence Estimate (NIE). The report says that this shift suggests "that the intelligence community began to be unduly influenced by policymakers' views sometime in 2002." It then notes, "In this case, the pressure appears to have been unusually intense," and it then gives as the example of this pressure, "the Vice President's repeated visits to CIA headquarters."

In presenting the report to a Washington press conference, the project director for the report, Joseph Cirincione, focussed almost exclusively on Cheney when demonstrating how the Bush Administration had misrepresented the findings in the October 2002 NIE on Iraq. Cirincione quoted statements by Cheney in August of 2002 (" 'We now know that Saddam has resumed his efforts to acquire nuclear weapons. Many of us are convinced that Saddam will acquire nuclear weapons fairly soon.'"), to illustrate how the Administration mischaracterized the certainty and the immediacy of the threat.

Cirincione then quoted Cheney in September 2002 ("We know with absolute certainty that he is using his procurement system to acquire the equipment he needs in order to enrich uranium to build a nuclear weapon."), and cited Cheney's attacks on the International Atomic Energy Agency in March 2002—after the IAEA had reported that its inspectors had found no indication of resumed nuclear activity in Iraq, and that the documents purporting to show Iraqi attempts to import uranium, were forgeries. "They [the IAEA] have consis-

tently underestimated or missed what Saddam Hussein was doing," Cheney asserted. "I don't have any reason to believe they're any more valid this time."

Adding fuel to the fire under Cheney's pot, the Strategic Studies Institute of the U.S. Army War College has released a report which is highly critical of both the Iraq War and the Administration's global war on terrorism (the "GWOT"). Called "Bounding the Global War on Terrorism," and written by Dr. Jeffrey Record, a professor at the Air Force's Air War College, the report says the global war on terrorism has been "dangerously indiscriminate and ambitious" and "strategically unfocussed"; while the Iraq War was "unnecessary and unrealistic." The result is that the Army is "near the breaking point."

The Record study is a scathing attack on the Bush Administration for bungling the war on terrorism, with grave potential strategic consequences: "The administration has postulated a multiplicity of enemies, including rogue states; weapons of mass destruction (WMD) proliferators; terrorist organizations of global, regional and national scope; and terrorism itself. It also seems to have conflated them into a monolithic threat, and in so doing has subordinated strategic clarity to the moral clarity it strives for in foreign policy, and may have set the United States on a course of open-ended and gratuitous conflict with states and non-state entities that pose no serious threat to the United States."

Record also zeroes in on one of Dick Cheney's obsessions, the claims that Saddam Hussein was linked to al-Qaeda: "Of particular concern has been the conflation of al-Qaeda and Saddam Hussein's Iraq as a single, undifferentiated terrorist