

- [Soldier & Father on the War: J. Galloway](#)
- [Behind the War Curve: Norman Solomon](#)
- [The Damning Downing Street Memo: G. Prather](#)
- [Iraq's Democracy Won't Turn Over: F. Biedermann](#)
- [Born on the Fourth of July: Ron Kovic](#)

Economically considered, war and revolution are always bad business.
– Ludwig von M

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June 18, 2005

The Damning Downing Street Memo

by Gordon Prather

No thanks to the domestic and international neo-crazy media sycophants, you probably now know about the "Downing Street memo."

The memo is actually the minutes – stamped "Secret and Strictly Personal – UK Eyes Only" – of a meeting between British Prime Minister Tony Blair and his senior national security team.

The meeting was held at Downing Street on July 23, 2002, and the leaked minutes were first published by the *Sunday Times of London* on May 1, 2005.

No one in Bush's or Blair's government has questioned the accuracy or validity of what the *Sunday Times* published.

No one!

Perhaps the most damning revelation is that Richard Dearlove – then director of the Brit equivalent of the CIA – told

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6/4/2005](#)[Iranian Nuclear
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5/28/2005](#)[NPT Vigilantes
5/23/2005](#)[Condi-Diplomacy
5/21/2005](#)[Bush's Nutty
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5/16/2005](#)[Strengthen the NF
– or Else](#)

Blair that "Bush wanted to remove Saddam, through military action, justified by the conjunction of terrorism and WMD. But the intelligence and facts were being fixed around the policy."

5/14/2005

Weapons of Mass Destruction – Not
5/12/2005

Badgering the NP
5/9/2005

Remember that these are minutes of a meeting, not an actual transcript. And much of the meeting concerned Bush's plans and decisions. So Bush and Blair have discounted the Downing Street memo, claiming that most of those plans and decisions were never implemented.

Iran Defends the NPT
5/7/2005

The Dubious Legality of the Iraq War
5/2/2005

Oh, What a Lovely War
4/30/2005

Consequently, the neo-crazy media sycophants are claiming the reason they didn't tell you about the Downing Street memo is that "there is nothing in it that we didn't know about at the time."

Hiroshima or Whose Smut?
4/25/2005

NPT in Trouble?
4/23/2005

Bonkers at the UN
4/18/2005

Well, maybe *they* already knew in July of 2002 that Bush-Cheney-Bolton-Wolfowitz-Feith had been "fixing" the intelligence for almost a year to fit the upcoming war of aggression. But did *you*?

Strengthening the NPT?
4/16/2005

Smoking Rockets
4/11/2005

Bronx Cheers for the Nuclear Commission
4/9/2005

For example, did *you* know that Bush-Cheney-Bolton had conspired in early 2002 to get Jose Bustani, director-general of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), fired? Why did Bustani "have to go"? According to unnamed Bolton aides, because "he was trying to send [OPCW] chemical weapons inspectors to Baghdad and that might have helped defuse the crisis over alleged Iraqi weapons and undermined a U.S.

Tenet's Pack of Lies
4/4/2005

Not Invented Here
4/2/2005

Kyoto Goes Nuclear:
3/28/2005

Bye-Bye NPT?
3/26/2005

Nuts to Bush
3/21/2005

Sandbagging the NSG
3/19/2005

Another "Intelligence" Failure

rationale for war."

3/14/2005

As a result of the revelations contained in the Downing Street memo, constitutional lawyer John Bonifaz has established [AfterDowningStreet.org](#) and called for a "Resolution of Inquiry"; a formal congressional investigation into whether President Bush committed impeachable offenses in the run-up to – and launching of – Operation Iraqi Freedom.

[Bolton's Stewards](#)
3/12/2005

[What Noncompliance?](#)
3/7/2005

[Sandbagging the I](#)
3/5/2005

[Bye-Bye, NPT; Hel Mushroom Cloud](#)
2/28/2005

[Not Another Osira](#)
2/26/2005

[Targeting Nonexistent Nuke](#)
2/21/2005

Of course, once the inquiry is under way, it need not concern itself with the undisputed revelations contained in the Downing Street memo.

For example, since the war began in March 2003, at least 163 members of the National Guard – plus 45 Army Reservists and 45 Marine Reservists – have died in Iraq.

Until the president or Congress declares a national emergency, the president has no authority over National Guard units or the Guardsmen themselves.

Governors do, but not the president.

On Sept. 14, 2001, President Bush did issue a "[Declaration of National Emergency by Reason of Certain Terrorist Attacks](#)" on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, and "the continuing and immediate threat of further attacks on the United States."

On the same day, citing that declaration,

Bush issued an **executive order** "Ordering the Ready Reserve of the Armed Forces to Active Duty." But, that executive order – citing that declaration – makes no mention of the National Guard or the Reserves.

Bush has, nevertheless, *misused* that declaration and executive order to justify the federalization of the National Guard and the dispatch of National Guard and Reserve units to fight in Iraq.

By law, the constitutional powers of the president to "introduce United States Armed Forces into hostilities" are limited, and can only be exercised "pursuant to (a) a declaration of war, (b) specific statutory authorization, or (c) a national emergency created by attack upon the United States, its territories or possessions, or its armed forces."

On March 19, 2003, in invoking the authority of the "Joint Resolution to Authorize the Use of U.S. Armed Forces Against Iraq," President Bush sent his "determination" that Iraq posed "a continuing threat to the national security of the United States" by "continuing to possess and develop a significant chemical and biological weapons capability, actively seeking a nuclear weapons capability, and supporting and harboring terrorist organizations."

But isn't that exactly what Richard Dearlove told Tony Blair on July, 23, 2002 that Bush had decided to do, and

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had been "fixing" the intelligence to that end?

And don't we now know that Bush did send members of our U.S. armed forces – including National Guardsmen and Reservists – to their deaths in Iraq on the basis of "fixed" intelligence?

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