

# p m carpenter's commentary

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February 10, 2007

## MORE BLOODTHIRSTY PROPAGANDA ON THE WAY

The Bush administration's crack propaganda team is once again working overtime, urging the American public into a distracted fit of martial indignation.

Accordingly, sometime today or tomorrow Neocon Central is "[expected to make public](#) ... some of what intelligence agencies regard as an increasing body of evidence pointing to an Iranian link" to Iraqi Shiite-deployed provisions of a deadly brand of I.E.D.s, known as "explosively formed penetrators."

Once again, its announcement "[will reflect] broad agreement among American intelligence agencies." (Can you hear the arm bones cracking with the twists?)

Once again, the administration's civilian and military officials swear they are "not trying to lay the basis for an American attack." You betcha. And I'm Paul Wolfowitz.

And once again -- and choicest of all -- they'll savor the coming blockbuster of absolute certainty by presently "acknowledg[ing] that the picture is not entirely complete."

But allow me to round out the picture for them now, and even assume for the moment that whatever they're selling this weekend is, or soon will be, as damningly complete as damning evidence can be.

First, to hear the Bush administration wax philosophically to our historically challenged citizenry, one would think foreign intervention into conflicts involving American forces is an insidiously novel development -- one we are just now waking up to, and up with which we will not put, to paraphrase Churchill's whimsical syntax.

Third-party foreign intervention, necocons either imply or declare, is an outrageous and intolerable provocation to be swiftly and militarily countered. They are puzzled, incensed, that outside forces could be so rude as to interfere with what should be our wholly owned war.

What's more, and more to the fear-inspiring point, they solemnly suggest such third-party interventionism is a new and dangerous *terrorist* trend, illustrative only of the new and dangerous "war on terror" in which we find ourselves.

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[nstitute](#), "In 2003, the last year

for which full information is available, the United States transferred weaponry to 18 of the 25 countries involved in active conflicts." The list of belligerents we aided circles the globe.

Furthermore, "In 2003, more than half of the top 25 recipients of U.S. arms transfers in the developing world (13 of 25) were defined as undemocratic by" our very own State Department's Human Rights Report.

And "When countries designated by the ... Report to have poor human rights records or serious patterns of abuse are factored in, 20 of the top 25 U.S. arms clients in the developing world in 2003 -- a full 80% -- were either undemocratic regimes or governments with records of major human rights abuses."

In short, we possess a sorry record to be lecturing others on arms transfers to the less than democratically giddy. Nor will the historical record of third-party interventionism square with the "unique circumstances" of Iran's interference that we're about to be fed by the trigger-happy Bush administration.

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