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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 03, 2005

## This Is Great!

by Michael in New York on [2/03/2005 03:28:00 PM](#)

The London Review of Books has a [damning article by Eliot Weinberger](#) called "What I Heard About Iraq." He simply strings together one quote after enough from Bush, Cheney, Rice, Rumsfeld et al from when they took office to the present day. No more scathing example of their constant shifting of stories, contradictions and idiocy could be imagined than this article which simply throws their own words back at 'em. I love LRB and -- bless 'em -- they've made this accessible to non-subscribers as well. Here's a taste, but go to the entire story. It's compulsively readable.

From The London Review of Books:

"In 1992, a year after the first Gulf War, I heard Dick Cheney, then secretary of defense, say that the US had been wise not to invade Baghdad and get 'bogged down in the problems of trying to take over and govern Iraq'. I heard him say: 'The question in my mind is how many additional American casualties is Saddam worth? And the answer is: not that damned many.'

In February 2001, I heard Colin Powell say that Saddam Hussein 'has not developed any significant capability with respect to weapons of mass destruction. He is unable to project conventional power against his neighbours.'

That same month, I heard that a CIA report stated: 'We do not have any direct evidence that Iraq has used the period since Desert Fox to reconstitute its weapons of mass destruction programmes.'

In July 2001, I heard Condoleezza Rice say: 'We are able to keep his arms from him. His military forces have not been rebuilt.'

On 11 September 2001, six hours after the attacks, I heard that Donald Rumsfeld said that it might be an opportunity to 'hit' Iraq. I heard that he said: 'Go massive. Sweep it all up. Things related and not.'

I heard that Condoleezza Rice asked: 'How do you capitalise on these opportunities?'

I heard that on 17 September the president signed a document marked top secret that directed the Pentagon to begin planning for the invasion and that, some months later, he secretly and illegally diverted \$700 million approved by Congress for operations in Afghanistan into preparing for the new battle front.

In February 2002, I heard that an unnamed 'senior military commander' said: 'We are moving military and intelligence personnel and resources out of Afghanistan to get ready for a future war in Iraq.'

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