

Sun, Apr 20, 2003

[Home](#) | [News & Info](#) | [Connect](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Lifestyle](#) | [Services](#) | [Finance](#) | [Sports](#) | [Products](#) | [Interactives](#)

[Feedback](#) | [Advertise](#)

- ▶ [Home](#)
- ▶ [Categories](#)
 - [Politics](#)
 - [Business](#)
 - [Entertainment](#)
 - [International](#)
 - [Internet](#)
 - [Offbeat](#)
 - [Science &](#)
 - [Medicine](#)
 - [Other News](#)
 - [Sports](#)
 - [Cricket World Cup](#)
 - [Cricket](#)

- ▶ [News Links](#)
- ▶ [Press Releases](#)
- ▶ [Say It](#)
- ▶ [Weekly Quiz](#)
 - [Battlefield Iraq](#)
 - [Ayodhya](#)

- ▶ [Newsletter](#)
- Get the latest news updates as they happen. Subscribe to **Sify Updates**

Trivia of the day

Boxing was the first sport to be filmed. Thomas A. Edison filmed a boxing match between Jack Cushing and Mike Leonard in 1894

[More Trivia..](#)

Quote of the day

"Heaven never helps the men who will not act" - **Sophocles**

[More](#)
[Quotes..](#)
[Home](#)

>

[International](#)

Ex-spies slam US over failure to find WMDs

Washington, April 18

The US government should be "embarrassed" over the apparent failure to uncover weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, the main justification for going to war, retired intelligence officials said Thursday.

"It's going to be very embarrassing when it turns out they have nothing to declare," said former defense intelligence analyst Eugene Betit.

Another, former CIA station chief Ray Close, said: "I'm hoping they will be embarrassed into acknowledging a role for some independent body. And who could it be but the UN?"

As the "smoking gun" continued to elude US sleuths in Iraq, chief UN weapons inspector Hans Blix called for experts to return to the country to determine whether the weapons allegations had any foundation.

Adding to the pressure, Russia, a veto-wielding member of the UN Security Council, said it would not support the lifting of UN sanctions against Iraq unless UN inspectors confirmed the absence of weapons of mass destruction.

But Washington has so far rejected such calls, and US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on Thursday sought to deflect concerns that evidence could be planted. "The (US search) teams have been trained in chain of control, really like a crime scene," Rumsfeld told Pentagon staff Thursday.

He said: "They will have people with them who will validate things, they will have the ability to take pictures, and to make sure that the control over any piece of evidence is as clear as it possibly can be."

Rumsfeld warned however: "That will not stop certain countries, and certain types of people from claiming, inaccurately, that it was planted."

Retired CIA intelligence analyst Ray McGovern told AFP: "Some of my colleagues are virtually certain that there will be some weapons of mass destruction found, even though they might have to be planted.

"I'm just as sure that some few will be found, but not in an amount that by any stretch would justify the charge of a threat against the US or anyone else."

He added: "Even if the planting was discovered by and by, they'll say, 'ok, the weapons were planted - fine.'"



BBC NEWS

- ▶ [Plea to end Baghdad chaos](#)
- ▶ [PM says Kashmir polls 'rigged'](#)
- ▶ [Title rivals both win](#)
- ▶ [Vandross 'comfortable' after stroke](#)
- ▶ [India trials stealth frigate](#)

More on Sify

- ▶ [Iraq War](#)
- ▶ [The Ayrton Senna Quiz](#)

Today's Cartoon



Photo Gallery



Saddam: Life in Pictures^{New}

- ▶ [Army Day 2003](#)
- ▶ [Welcome 2003!](#)

[More..](#)

Quick Poll

Do you believe that Saddam Hussein is still in Iraq?

Yes No

Undecided

[View Results](#)

Discussions

After Iraq, do you think the US would plan strikes on other potential enemies?

[Discuss](#)
[More Discussions](#)

- ▶ **Service**
- Astrology
- Weather

McGovern said he was alluding to a remark by Secretary of State Colin Powell after it emerged that a letter purporting to show that Iraq had sought to procure uranium from Niger - a key argument in the case for war and cited in President George W. Bush's January 28 State of the Union address - was a forgery.

Powell told NBC: "It was the information that we had. We provided it. If that information is inaccurate, fine."

McGovern and 24 other former intelligence officials in the CIA, State and Defense Departments, Army Intelligence and FBI formed a group called Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity (VIPS).

They made their first public statement on February 5, critiquing Powell's presentation before the UN Security Council.

CIA spokesman Tom Crispell, asked for comment on the former officials' remarks Thursday, said: "They're criticising policy, not intelligence."

©AFP 2000. All rights reserved. This material should not be published, broadcast, rewritten or distributed. All reproduction or redistribution is expressly forbidden without the prior written agreement of AFP.

[More Headlines](#)

Rate this story


Send to a friend

Brought to you by  **Printer Friendly Version** 

Related Stories

- ▶ Tikrit residents mourn fallen Saddam
- ▶ Pre-war life starts to return to Baghdad
- ▶ Iraqis report to work; bustle in Baghdad
- ▶ Iraqis search for missing loved ones
- ▶ Biggest Iraqi banknotes a tough sell

Top Headlines

- ▶ Iraqis report to work; bustle in Baghdad
- ▶ India concerned by Taliban resurgence
- ▶ Iraqis search for missing loved ones
- ▶ Pre-war life starts to return to Baghdad

Top

- Home
- News & Info
- Connect
- Entertainment
- Lifestyle
- Services
- Finance
- Sports
- Products
- Interactives

Sify.com hosted at [Sifyhosting](#) India's first Level 3 Internet Data Centre

© Copyright [Sify Ltd.](#), 1998-2003. All rights reserved. See [Disclaimer](#) and [Privacy Policy](#). & [Parental Guidance on pornography](#)

Site optimized for Internet Explorer 4.0 and above.