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HEADLINE: Blair cribbed Iraq dossier from Net - COUNTDOWN TO WAR

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BYLINE: * London correspondent

BODY:

A DOSSIER released by the British Government, purporting to show how Iraq is deceiving UN weapons inspectors, was based on old information, including an article by a graduate **student**.

Channel 4 News said the 19-page report, Iraq: Its Infrastructure of Concealment, Deception and Intimidation, and posted on Prime Minister Tony Blair's website, contained large chunks lifted from other sources. Channel 4 said the bulk of the document was copied from three articles, including one in Jane's Intelligence Review and another by graduate **student** Ibrahim al-Marashi of Monterey, California, that appeared last September in the Middle East Review of International Affairs.

Mr Blair's 10 Downing Street office said the dossier was "put together by a range of government officials".

Channel 4 compared a six-paragraph passage from al-Marashi's article with an identical passage in the Government's dossier.

Other passages contain very minor alterations, and typographical errors in al-Marashi's article are repeated in the dossier.

The article looked at Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's security apparatus over the past three decades. The Government said it was based on "a number of sources, including intelligence material", but did not give details.

US Secretary of State Colin **Powell** cited the dossier yesterday as he addressed the United Nations with evidence of Iraq's weapons programs.

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