



The Bombs Bursting in Air – Or Land

Paul Wolfowitz, the US Deputy Defence Secretary, said that disarming Saddam of illegal weapons was nothing more than a “bureaucratic reason” for war.

He told Vanity Fair magazine that members of the divided White House cabinet pushed the issue because it was the only way they could present a united front.



President George W. Bush is requesting \$399.1 billion for the military in fiscal year 2004 (\$379.9 billion for the Defense Department and \$19.3 billion for the nuclear weapons functions of the Department of Energy). This is \$16.9 billion above current levels, an increase of 4.4 percent.

In all, the administration plans to spend \$2.7 TRILLION on the military over the next six years – and this as both the Office of Management and Budget and the Congressional Budget Office project a federal deficit as high as \$200 billion to \$300 billion next year.

As it increasingly turns out the rogue Arab nation with the world's largest stockpile of illegal weapons of mass blah-blah hasn't, the Bush administration nevertheless continues to keep his cherished U.S. Military-Industrial Complex at full employment.

By warning “dangerous regimes and terrorists” they cannot threaten the United States with the world's most destructive weapons. Or the U.S. will once again use the world's much more destructive weapons.

Even though history will clearly show 15 Saudis armed only with Visa cards and box cutters created more globalisation destabilisation than anyone since Hitler. Or at least until Bush requested \$399.1 billion for the military in fiscal year 2004.

Buried deep in Bush's 2004 budget are two bizarre Strangelovian requests. The first seeks to repeal a 10-year-old ban on the development of smaller, lower-yield nuclear weapons, also known as mini-nukes. The second is a US\$15.5 million request to conduct research on a new bunker buster bomb called the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator.

And the “American People” basically don’t give a rat’s ass.

Despite the same administration flacks who swore Saddam Hussein could annihilate Israel, Western Europe and the Continental United States with 45 minutes notice contending that they are not seeking to build new nuclear weapons, but only studying and researching the options.

Wisecracking about death and maiming at yet another press conference, possibly the one where he also suggested Iraq destroyed all its weapons of mass blah-blah before the recent unauthorised and unprecedented “Christian Coalition of Only Two” onslaught, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld added, “Many of the things you study, you never pursue.”

Senator Dianne Feinstein, who has less influence than Bill O’Reilly’s dogcatcher and a supporter of a nuclear ban, replied, “Does anyone really believe that?”

The Bush administration’s thinking behind developing—and using at the first available opportunity to satisfy a broad cross-section of the “American People”—a low-yield nuclear weapon is that a smaller, five-kiloton nuclear weapon—about a third the size of the nuclear bomb used on Hiroshima—would be more useful in deterring nations such as North Korea.

But as Senator Jack Reed, who has less influence than Wolf Blitzer’s beard trimmer noted, “We’re moving away from more than five decades of efforts to delegitimize the use of nuclear weapons.”

What Reed, Feinstein or the 20-odd sundry Democratic presidential candidates haven’t yet capitalised-on—because it’s not as sexy as keeping 2 SUV ownership and AFLAC insurance affordable—is that even a small, low-yield earth-penetrating weapon will create radioactive debris, there is no guarantee that the nuclear blast would successfully destroy chemical or biological weapons, and there are current conventional weapons that could be used as alternatives.

The Bush administration’s Nuclear Posture Review, released in January 2002, is a foreshadowing of a new nuclear era in which the once-termed “weapon of last resort” has turned into a usable, necessary tool in the anti-terror arsenal which, in the hands of Rumsfeld, Wolfowitz & Co could make great prime time election viewing as Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrators penetrate a wide range of potential adversaries, including but not restricted to North Korea, Iraq, Libya and Syria, whether or not those nations possess nuclear weapons.

“I can’t believe that I have witnessed in my time on Capitol Hill a more historic debate than what we are undertaking at this moment,” said Senator Richard Durbin who also has less influence, etc. “We are literally talking about whether or not the United States will initiate a nuclear-arms race again. Nothing that I can think of meets this in terms of gravity and its impact on the future of the world.

“If Bush were serious about reducing the threat posed by nuclear weapons he would focus on preventive measures, such as increasing funds for teaching children how to read, non-proliferation and threat-reduction programs, while also reducing our own massive arsenal. Non-proliferation programs receive about \$1.8 billion annually. Compare that

to the \$41 billion budget for homeland defence, or the \$79 billion supplemental for the war in Iraq.”

Having been forced to watch a recently restored and colorized DVD version of “Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb ” from the original negative the Russian parliament is planning to hastily unratify the nuclear arms reduction treaty ratified by Russian President Vladimir Putin and Bush only last year.

President Putin, who has less world influence than Anna Kurnikova said his breast heaved more than Anna's when Peter Sellers playing the U.S. president said, “I'm sorry, too, Dmitri. ... I'm very sorry. ... All right, you're sorrier than I am, but I am as sorry as well. ... I am as sorry as you are, Dmitri! Don't say that you're more sorry than I am, because I'm capable of being just as sorry as you are. ... So we're both sorry, all right?! ... All right.”

“When I looked straight into George Bush’s eyes in Crawford, Texas,” said Putin, “I think I convinced him to trust me, but I never thought about the other way around.”

(Last asticle*)



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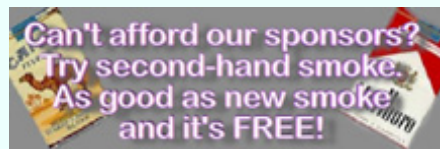
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