

UN led interim government must for world recognition of Iraq



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Weapons Inspectors will have to be brought back to confirm the correct source of such materials, if any, and also the validity of such claims.

President Bush's war-destruction of Iraq in 26 days time indeed dwarfed the wrongs committed by President Saddam Hussein over a period of 24 years.

Some 150 Americans (some say over 800) died in Iraq, but for what? President Bush may not bother about it but the families know what it means when they lose their loved ones.

The destruction of Iraq by Ameri-

SPOTLIGHT ON MIDDLE EAST

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can war is unimaginable. Reckless bombing by the American and British forces caused very high civilian casualties -- reportedly much higher than in '91 war.

crimes that their governments might have committed. "We want to establish regular and impartial procedures to establish whether war crimes have been committed"

Over half a million Iraqi children already died due to UN sanction and now the circle is being completed by the American and British forces.

trampled on by demonstrators around the world. The placards and posters showed Bush as No.1 Terrorist and his photos were pasted along side Bin Laden.

Iraq is a sovereign country. The UN has not yet disowned Saddam Hussein's government. If that is the position, then how could he and his Ministers be declared as fugitives by another government?

VICTORY does not legitimise a war. The world view is that this war has violated the UN Charter and also the international law that governs the inter-state relationship.

Another 100-year war? The war on terrorism and war on drugs compared

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IN its pursuit of the War on Terrorism the Bush administration has downgraded the War on Drugs as a priority, while trying to link it to the War on Terrorism.

is involved in a conflict unlike any other in its history. The War on Terrorism does not have opposing battalions, large numbers of troops and sophisticated technology and the enemy can be anywhere.

But the War on Terrorism, as it has been fought so far, is not new. In fact, it's much like the old War on Drugs, which has consumed America's attention, money and resources for the past two decades.

From the beginning of the War on Terrorism, the U.S. has followed a doctrine of preemption to attack the supply side of conflict. The war in Iraq is an application of this doctrine.

Central to U.S.'s preemption strat-

egy has been the belief that following an aggressive policy to eliminate Osama Bin Laden and his top lieutenants in his terror network will substantially curb the supply of terrorists and the demand for terrorism.

During the past two decades, the U.S. has tried to eliminate the high profile kingpins of international drug trafficking, some of whom where not adverse to using terrorism to achieve their criminal objectives and who ran organisations based on the terrorist cell model.

The tactics of Colombia's Pablo Escobar Gaviria, the most famous drug

trafficking in history, even lead to the coining of the term, "narco terrorism" to describe the use of indiscriminate terror by drug traffickers.

President Bush explained on television his administration's strategic objective; "Our war on terror begins with Al Qaeda but it does not end there.

And will Afghanistan and Saddam-free Iraq become the unstable Colombias of Asia into which the U.S. pours billions of dollars without any positive effect?

The most disturbing parallel has been the lack of attention that the U.S. has paid to the demand side in both wars. In the War on Drugs, the U.S. has all but ignored the root issues--why many people take drugs and why some people are willing to cultivate illegal crops, despite our best interdiction efforts.

The lesson is obvious: even though drug kingpins keep falling, the supply of drugs has flowed unabated to the streets of the U.S. In fact, drugs like cocaine and heroin are cheaper and more plentiful today than they were in 1982, the year Ronald Reagan launched the modern War on Drugs.

There is simply too much money to be made from international drug trafficking and too many people who want illegal drugs. International drug trafficking is a \$400-500 billion a year business and the world's second biggest illegal enterprise after arms trafficking.

Meanwhile, as the U.S. has tried to eliminate the drug kingpins, it has also pursued a policy of interdiction that focuses on eradicating the drug problem at the source. What's happened to Colombia the past twenty years well illustrates the result.

We should not expect an elimina-



Growing poppy in Afghanistan: Clandestine or public?



Human collateral of inhuman war: A 10-year old girl lost her leg.

legitimacy, how can the US and the UK put Saddam and his cabinet and Advisors numbering 55 in the wanted list? These questions will have to be answered before these people are arrested (if not bombed to death already) and treated as criminals.

The same old Iraqi story -- weapons of mass destruction, dictatorship, supporting terrorism, etc. It is seen in the overall interest of the US and Israel to corner Syria so that it loses its capacity and courage to claim Golan Heights from Israel.

and irresistible -- even UN could not stop it. The region is in far "serious" trouble and may undergo imposed political metamorphosis leading to grave changes in the strategic balance.

Anyway, Iraq today stands devastated because of Bush-Blair's military actions against Iraq and its people. Many Iraqis say, with Saddam we had peace, now it is all death, chaos and looting! No water, no electricity, no food, nothing! History will apportion the blame, but Iraq must have its government 'for the people and by the people'.

Only the UN can set up an interim government that may stop the present political chaos that may lead to even break up of Iraq. As the US and the UK are the involved parties they cannot command confidence and respect of Iraqis; only UN can do it.

The UN must form the peace keeping forces for Iraq and dispatch them without further delay. If the US does not agree, it may stand aside, but the UN must act as per its Charter.

It should close down its business in New York.

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