

## Last Throes of Credibility: Five Years of Lies and Deception

July 22, 2005

Date	Statement	Source
Dec. 1, 1998	In an article under the cover "Saddam Must Go: A How-To Guide," deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz wrote, "We will have to confront him [Saddam Hussein] sooner or later -- and sooner would be better."	Glenn Kessler, "U.S. Decision on Iraq Has Puzzling Past," Washington Post, January 12, 2003
Jan. 26, 1998	The Project for the New American Century writes letters to then President Clinton explicitly calling for "the removal of Saddam Hussein's regime from power." The letter was signed by 18 individuals. Ten of them, including Donald Rumsfeld and Paul Wolfowitz, became members of the George W. Bush Administration.	Project for the New American Century, available at <a href="http://www.newamericancentury.org/iraqclintonletter.htm">http://www.newamericancentury.org/iraqclintonletter.htm</a>
May-July 1999	" [President George W. Bush] was thinking about invading Iraq in 1999 . . . It was on his mind." He said to me: "One of the keys to being seen as a great leader is to be seen as a commander-in-chief." (Remarks of author and journalist Mickey Herskowitz)	Russ Baker, "Exclusive: Bush Wanted to Invade Iraq If Elected in 2000," <i>Guerrilla News Network</i> , October 27, 2004, available at <a href="http://www.gnn.tv/articles/article.php?id=761">http://www.gnn.tv/articles/article.php?id=761</a>
Dec. 16, 2000	President-elect Bush announced his nomination of Colin Powell as Secretary of State. Powell said, "Saddam Hussein is sitting on a failed regime that is not going to be around in a few years time . . . And I think it is possible to re-energize those sanctions and to continue to contain him and then confront him, should that become necessary again."	"A Preview from Powell," Air Force Magazine, available at <a href="http://www.afa.org/magazine/feb2001/0201powell_print.html">http://www.afa.org/magazine/feb2001/0201powell_print.html</a>

Date	Statement	Source
January 20, 2001- June 2001	The Bush administration attempts to oust Director-General Jose Bustani from the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). Bustani suggested that if the security council supported OPCW's bid to allow Iraq to sign for weapons inspections, it would prevent war. "What the Americans are doing, is a coup d'etat. They are using brute force to amend the convention and unseat the director-general." The US said Bustani had "ill-considered initiatives," but the US lost a no-confidence vote they held on Bustani on March 19, 2002. In July 2003, a three-member U.N tribunal said U.S. charges against Bustani were "extremely vague" and "unlawful." The tribunal awarded him damages.	Monbiot, George, "Chemical Coup D'Etat: The US Wants to Depose the Diplomat Who Could Take Away Its Pretext for War With Iraq," Guardian of London, April 16, 2002, available at: <a href="http://www.commondreams.org/cgi-bin/print.cgi?file=/views02/0416-07.htm">http://www.commondreams.org/cgi-bin/print.cgi?file=/views02/0416-07.htm</a>
<i>January 30, 2001</i>	<i>According to former Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill, Bush was already discussing plans for Saddam Hussein's removal from power. "From the very beginning, there was a conviction that Saddam Hussein was a bad person and that he needed to go. It was all about finding a way to do it. That was the tone of it. The president saying, 'Go find me a way to do this.'"</i>	<i>"Former Bush aide: U.S. Plotted Iraq Invasion long before 9/11," 60 minutes, January 11, 2004, available at <a href="http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2004/04/15/60minutes/main612067.shtml">www.cbsnews.com/stories/2004/04/15/60minutes/main612067.shtml</a>.</i>
February 2001	US oil industry advisor Falah Aljibury and others are asked to interview would-be replacements for a new US-installed dictator. "It is an invasion, but it will act like a coup. The original plan was to liberate Iraq from the Saddamists and from the regime, to stabilize the country."	"Secret US Plans for Iraq Oil Spark Political Fight Between NeoCons and Big Oil." BBC News. 21 March 2005. Available at: <a href="http://www.albasrah.net/maqalat/english/0405/Secret%20US_300405.htm">http://www.albasrah.net/maqalat/english/0405/Secret%20US_300405.htm</a>
<i>February 24, 2001</i>	<i>Secretary Colin Powell gives press remarks in Cairo, Egypt with foreign Minister of Egypt Amre Moussa. In his speech, he says, "He [Saddam Hussein] has not developed a significant capability with respect to weapons of mass destruction. He is unable to project conventional power against his neighbors."</i>	<i>"Powell '01: WMDs Not 'Significant,'" CBS News, available at, <a href="http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2003/09/28/iraq/printable575469.shtml">http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2003/09/28/iraq/printable575469.shtml</a>.</i>

Date	Statement	Source
March 2001	A Pentagon Document titled, "Foreign Suitors For Iraqi Oilfield Contracts" was circulated at this time. The document outlines areas of oil exploration and includes a table listing 30 countries which have interests in Iraq's oil industry. The document also includes the names of companies that have interests and the oil fields with which those interests are associated.	Documents available at (available at <a href="http://www.judicialwatch.org/071703.c.shtml">http://www.judicialwatch.org/071703.c.shtml</a> ).
July 29, 2001	<i>Condoleezza Rice is interviewed and she says, "We are able to keep arms from [Saddam]. His military forces have not been rebuilt."</i>	<i>Interview with Larry King. July 29 2001, available at: <a href="http://www.taemag.com/issues/articleID.18032/article_detail.asp">http://www.taemag.com/issues/articleID.18032/article_detail.asp</a></i>
August 17, 2001	<i>A team of scientists at the Energy Department published a secret Technical Intelligence Note raising doubts about the aluminum tubes use in centrifuges. "[It] is credible but unlikely, and a rocket production is much more likely end use for these tubes." This was concluded because the tubes were too narrow, too thick and had a special weather coating. (In spite of this finding, in a statement by Condoleezza Rice on Sept. 8, 2002, she said the tubes were "only really suited for nuclear weapons programs.").</i>	<i>David Barstow, William J. Broad and Jeff Gerth. "Skewed Intelligence Data in March to War in Iraq." The New York Times. Available at: <a href="http://www.truthout.org/docs_04/100304A.shtml">http://www.truthout.org/docs_04/100304A.shtml</a></i>
September 2001	<i>Former General Wesley Clark tells Tim Russert on Meet the Press that Bush administration officials tried to implicate Saddam Hussein in the September 11 attacks, beginning on the day of the attacks. Clark states: "There was a concerted effort during the fall of 2001, starting immediately after 9/11, to pin 9/11 and the terrorism problem on Saddam Hussein. Well, it came from the White House, it came from all over. I got a call on 9/11. I was on CNN, and I got a call at my home saying, 'You got to say this is connected. This is state-sponsored terrorism. This has to be connected to Saddam Hussein,' I said, 'But—I'm willing to say it, but what's your evidence?' And I never got any evidence."</i>	<i>"Media Silent on Clark's 9/11: Comments Gen. says White House pushed Saddam link without evidence" FAIR. 20 June 2003. Available: <a href="http://www.fair.org/index.php?page=1842">http://www.fair.org/index.php?page=1842</a></i>

Date	Statement	Source
September 11, 2001 2:40 pm	After Donald Rumsfeld learns three names related to the terrorist attack, he said, “[I want the] best info fast. Judge whether good enough hit S.H. [Saddam Hussein] at same time. Not only UBL [Usama bin Laden]. ... Go massive. Sweep it all up. Things related and not.” (Quote from notes from an aid)	“Plans for Iraq attack began on 9/11” 4 September 2002. CBS News. Available at: <a href="http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2002/09/04/september11/main520830.shtml">http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2002/09/04/september11/main520830.shtml</a>
September 12, 2001	According to Richard A. Clarke, a former National Security Council Official: "On September 12th, I left the video conferencing center and there, wandering alone around the situation room, was the president. He looked like he wanted something to do. He grabbed a few of us and closed the door to the conference room. "Look," he told us, "I know you have a lot to do and all, but I want you, as soon as you can, to go back over everything, everything. See if Saddam did this. See if he's linked in any way."	Richard A. Clarke, Chapter 1, <u>Against All Enemies: Inside America's War on Terror</u> (2004).
Sept 16, 2001	Vice President Dick Cheney was interviewed by Tim Russert following the terrorist attacks on September 11. MR. RUSSERT: Do we have any evidence linking Saddam Hussein or Iraqis to this operation? VICE PRES. CHENEY: No.	Dick Cheney's interview with Tim Russert. 16 September 2001. Available at: <a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/vicepresident/news-speeches/speeches/vp20010916.html">http://www.whitehouse.gov/vicepresident/news-speeches/speeches/vp20010916.html</a>
September 17, 2001	President Bush signed a 2½-page document marked "TOP SECRET" that outlined the plan for going to war in Afghanistan as part of a global campaign against terrorism.  Almost as a footnote, the document also directed the Pentagon to begin planning military options for an invasion of Iraq, senior administration officials said.	Glenn Kessler, “U.S. Decision on Iraq Has Puzzling Past, Washington Post, January 12, 2003
Sept. 19-20, 2001	An advisory group known as the Defense Policy Board met at the Pentagon—with Rumsfeld in attendance, and animatedly discussed the importance of ousting Hussein	Glenn Kessler, “U.S. Decision on Iraq Has Puzzling Past, Washington Post, January 12, 2003

Date	Statement	Source
September 20, 2001	<p><i>President George Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair met at a private White House dinner. According to Sir Christopher Meyer, the former British Ambassador to Washington, Blair told Bush he should not get distracted from the war on terror. Bush replied, "I agree with you Tony. We must deal with this first. But when we have dealt with Afghanistan, we must come back to Iraq."</i></p>	<p><i>Rose, David. "Bush and Blair made secret pact for Iraq war." The Observer. 4 April, 2004. Available at: <a href="http://observer.guardian.co.uk/politics/story/0,6903,1185407,00.html">http://observer.guardian.co.uk/politics/story/0,6903,1185407,00.html</a></i></p>
September 20, 2001	<p><i>In a draft memo, Douglas J. Feith, undersecretary of defense for policy, stated: "expressed disappointment at the limited options immediately available in Afghanistan and the lack of ground options. The author suggested instead hitting terrorists outside the Middle East in the initial offensive, perhaps deliberately selecting a non-al Qaeda target like Iraq."</i></p> <p><i>The draft memo took up points made by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld in a memo he wrote the previous day to Gen. Hugh Shelton, then chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, that said initial U.S. war plans should emphasize, among other things, the worldwide nature of the conflict.</i></p>	<p><i>Feith, Douglas. "A war plan that cast a wide net." The Washington Post. 7 August 2004. Available at: <a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A46898-2004Aug6.html">http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A46898-2004Aug6.html</a></i></p>
November 21, 2001	<p><i>According to Bob Woodward, President Bush and Donald Rumsfeld had a discussion regarding Iraq. Woodward reports that: "President Bush, after a National Security Council meeting, takes Don Rumsfeld aside, collars him physically and takes him into a little cubbyhole room and closes the door and says, 'What have you got in terms of plans for Iraq? What is the status of the war plan? I want you to get on it. I want you to keep it secret.'"</i></p>	<p><i>Correspondent Mike Wallace, "Woodward Shares War Secrets," 60 Minutes Transcript, April 18, 2004, available at <a href="http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2004/04/15/60minutes/main612067.shtml">www.cbsnews.com/stories/2004/04/15/60minutes/main612067.shtml</a>.</i></p>

Date	Statement	Source
December 2001	In a conversation with Donald Rumsfeld, U.S. General Tommy Frank states, I'm thinking in terms of spikes, Mr. Secretary . . . “spurts of activity followed by periods of inactivity. We want the Iraqis to become accustomed to military expansion, and then apparent contraction.” "As Phase I is completed, we could flow steadily for the next sixty days, while continuing spikes of activity to lend credence to our deception,” he added. “During the sixty days we would increase kinetic strikes in the no-fly zones to weaken Iraq's integrated air defenses.”	<u>American Soldier</u> , U.S. General Tommy Franks. Excerpts available at: <a href="http://rawstory.com/news/2005/U.S._changed_Iraq_policy_to_begin_airstrikes_months_before_0630.html">http://rawstory.com/news/2005/U.S._changed_Iraq_policy_to_begin_airstrikes_months_before_0630.html</a>
January 9, 2002	Press Secretary Ari Fleisher states, “We know for a fact that there are weapons there.”	Ari Fleisher, White House Press Briefing. Transcript available at: <a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/01/20020109-5.html">http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/01/20020109-5.html</a>
January 29, 2002	In his State of the Union Address, the President remarks that countries like Iraq, Iran and North Korea “and their terrorist allies, constitute an axis of evil, arming to threaten the peace of the world.”	“President Delivers State of the Union Address,” White House Transcript, January 29, 2002, available at <a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/01/20020129-11.html">http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/01/20020129-11.html</a>
<i>February 2002</i>	<i>Senator Bob Graham (D) said he was told by a military commander, “Senator, we have stopped fighting the war on terror in Afghanistan. We are moving military and intelligence personnel and resources out of Afghanistan to get ready for a future war in Iraq.”</i>	<i>“Senator Bob Graham remarks to the Council on Foreign Relations”</i> Available at: <a href="http://www.cfr.org/pub6905/gerald_seib/senator_bob_graham_remarks_to_the_council_on_foreign_relations.php">http://www.cfr.org/pub6905/gerald_seib/senator_bob_graham_remarks_to_the_council_on_foreign_relations.php</a>

Date	Statement	Source
February 13, 2002	<p>Q Mr. President, your advisors have long said that there needs to be regime change in Iraq. Are you looking at military action to achieve that goal? How could Saddam be toppled?</p> <p>PRESIDENT BUSH: ...There are some nations in the world which develop weapons of mass destruction with one intention, and that is to hold America hostage and/or harm Americans and/or our friends and allies...if we need to, we will take necessary action to defend the American people. And I think that statement was clear enough for Iraq to hear me. And I will reserve whatever options I have, I'll keep them close to my vest. President -- or Saddam Hussein needs to understand I'm serious about defending our country.</p>	<p>“U.S.-Pakistan Affirm Commitment Against Terrorism.” Transcript available at:  <a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/02/20020213-3.html">http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/02/20020213-3.html</a></p>
Feb. 13, 2002	<p>Knight Ridder reports that “President Bush has decided to oust Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein from power and ordered the CIA, the Pentagon and other agencies to devise a combination of military, diplomatic and covert steps to achieve that goal, senior U.S. officials said Tuesday.”</p>	<p>Warren Strobel, “Bush has decided to overthrow Hussein,” Knight Ridder, February 13, 2002.</p>
March 1, 2002	<p>The State Department Bureau of Intelligence and Research (INR) sends a memorandum to Secretary of State Colin Powell stating that claims regarding Iraqi attempts to obtain uranium from Niger are not credible, according to a knowledgeable government official.</p>	<p>Chronology of Bush Claim that Iraq Attempted to Obtain Uranium from Niger, available at  <a href="http://www.armscontrol.org/act/2003_09/Iraquraniumchronology.asp?print">http://www.armscontrol.org/act/2003_09/Iraquraniumchronology.asp?print</a></p>
Early March, 2002	<p>Seymour Hersh writes: "By early March, 2002, a former White House official told me, it was understood by many in the White House that the President had decided, in his own mind, to go to war... The Bush Administration took many intelligence operations that had been aimed at Al Qaeda and other terrorist groups around the world and redirected them to the Persian Gulf... Chalabi's defector reports were now flowing from the Pentagon directly to the Vice-President's office, and then on to the President, with little prior evaluation by intelligence professionals.”</p>	<p>Seymour Hersh, “Annals of National Security, the New Yorker, available at,  <a href="http://www.newyorker.com/fact/content/?031027fa_fact">http://www.newyorker.com/fact/content/?031027fa_fact</a></p>

Date	Statement	Source
March 2002	<i>President Bush poked his head into the office of National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice and said " F___ Saddam. we're taking him out." It was March 2002, and Rice was meeting with three U.S. Senators, discussing how to deal with Iraq through the United Nations, or perhaps in a coalition with America's Middle East allies. Bush wasn't interested. He waved his hand dismissively, recalls a participant, and neatly summed up his Iraq policy in that short phrase. The Senators laughed uncomfortably; Rice flashed a knowing smile.</i>	<i>Daniel Eisenberg, "We're Taking Him Out," Time Magazine, May 5, 2002, <a href="http://www.time.com/time/world/printout/0,8816,235395,00.html">http://www.time.com/time/world/printout/0,8816,235395,00.html</a></i>
March 14, 2002	<i>David Manning Memo: After a dinner with Dr. Condoleezza Rice, then U.K. national security advisor David Manning advised Prime Minister Blair that President Bush had "yet to find the answers to the big questions [such as]: how to persuade international opinion that military action against Iraq is necessary and justified . [and]. .what happens on the morning after?"</i>	<i>John Daniszewski, New Memos Detail Early Plans for Invading Iraq, LaTimes.com, June 15, 2005, available at <a href="http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-britmemos15jun15,0,668485,print.story">http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-britmemos15jun15,0,668485,print.story</a></i>
March 15, 2002	British M16 intelligence reports that there is only "sporadic and patchy" evidence about Saddam's illicit weapons. "We believe Iraq retains some production equipment, and some small stocks of chemical warfare agent precursors, and may have hidden small quantities of agents and weapons. There is no intelligence on any biological agent production facilities."	Michael Smith. "Failure is not an option, but that doesn't mean they will avoid it." <i>The Daily Telegraph</i> . 18 September 2004. Available at: <a href="http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2004/09/18/nwar118.xml&amp;sSheet=/news/2004/09/18/ixnewstop.html">http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2004/09/18/nwar118.xml&amp;sSheet=/news/2004/09/18/ixnewstop.html</a>
March 18, 2002	<i>The Meyer Memo, part of the Downing Street documents: In this memo from Christopher Meyer, the British Ambassador in Washington, to David Manning, the British national security advisor, the ambassador describes a lunch he has recently had with Paul Wolfowitz, then U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense, and notes that Mr Blair would need a "cover" for any military action. "I then went through the need to wrong foot Saddam on the inspectors and the UN Security Council resolutions."</i>	<i>John Daniszewski, New Memos Detail Early Plans for Invading Iraq, LaTimes.com, June 15, 2005, available at <a href="http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-britmemos15jun15,0,668485,print.story">http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-britmemos15jun15,0,668485,print.story</a></i>

Date	Statement	Source
March 22, 2002	<i>The Ricketts Memo, part of the Downing Street documents: Peter Ricketts, the Political Director of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office advises the Prime Minister on his trip to Crawford. Mr. Ricketts states, "US scrambling to establish a link between Iraq and al-Qaida is so far frankly unconvincing" and "For Iraq, 'regime change' does not stack up. It sounds like a grudge between Bush and Saddam."</i>	<i>John Daniszewski, New Memos Detail Early Plans for Invading Iraq, LaTimes.com, June 15, 2005, available at <a href="http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-britmemos15jun15,0,668485,print.story">http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-britmemos15jun15,0,668485,print.story</a></i>
March 24, 2002	<i>Vice President Dick Cheney states that Saddam Hussein "is actively pursuing nuclear weapons at this time."</i>	<i>Late Edition (CNN), March 24, 2002, available at <a href="http://archives.cnn.com/2002/WORLD/asiapcf/central/03/24/cheney.iraq/">http://archives.cnn.com/2002/WORLD/asiapcf/central/03/24/cheney.iraq/</a></i>
March 25, 2002	<i>The Straw Memo, part of the Downing Street documents: Legal Advisor Jack Straw writes to Prime Minister Blair before the April trip to Crawford. Straw cautions Blair that "the rewards from your visit to Crawford will be few" and that, while the U.S. has "assumed regime change as a means of eliminating Iraq's WMD threat," virtually no assessment "has satisfactorily answered how that regime change is to be secured, and how there can be any certainty that the replacement regime will be better."</i>	<i>John Daniszewski, New Memos Detail Early Plans for Invading Iraq, LaTimes.com, June 15, 2005, available at <a href="http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-britmemos15jun15,0,668485,print.story">http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-britmemos15jun15,0,668485,print.story</a></i>
Late March 2002	<i>"Dick Cheney dropped by a Senate Republican policy lunch soon after his 10-day tour of the Middle East - the one meant to drum up support for a U.S. military strike against Iraq... Before he spoke, he said no one should repeat what he said, and Senators and staff members promptly put down their pens and pencils. Then he gave them some surprising news. The question was no longer if the U.S. would attack Iraq, he said. The only question was when."</i>	<i>Daniel Eisenberg, "We're Taking Him Out," Time Magazine, May 5, 2002, <a href="http://www.time.com/time/world/printout/0,8816,235395,00.html">http://www.time.com/time/world/printout/0,8816,235395,00.html</a></i>
April 7, 2002	<i>Mr. Blair meets Mr. Bush at his Texas ranch. It is reported in the Cabinet Office Papers that he commits Britain to the assault on Iraq at this time.</i>	<i>"Cabinet Office Paper: Conditions for Military Action," London Times-World, June 12, 2005, available at <a href="http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2089-1648758,00.html">http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2089-1648758,00.html</a>.</i>

Date	Statement	Source
April 28, 2002	The New York Times reports, "The Bush administration, in developing a potential approach for toppling President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, is concentrating its attention on a major air campaign and ground invasion, with initial estimates contemplating the use of 70,000 to 250,000 troops . . . Senior officials now acknowledge that any offensive would probably be delayed until early next year, allowing time to create the right military, economic and diplomatic conditions."	Thom Shanker, New York Times, April 28, 2002, available at <a href="http://www.NYTimes.com">www.NYTimes.com</a>
June 2002-March 2003	<i>Allies flew 21,736 sorties over southern Iraq, attacking 349 carefully selected targets. According to a document found by Larisa Alexandrovna of RawStory.com, Lieutenant-General T Michael Moseley said that the "spikes of activity" were part of a covert air war. According to Moseley, the attacks, "laid the foundation" for the war.</i>	<i>John Byrne. "U.S. changed Iraq policy to begin air strikes months before war." Rawstory.com Available at: <a href="http://rawstory.com/news/2005/U.S._changed_Iraq_policy_to_begin_airstrikes_months_before_0630.html">http://rawstory.com/news/2005/U.S._changed_Iraq_policy_to_begin_airstrikes_months_before_0630.html</a></i>
June 2002-June 2003	<i>Vice President Cheney and his chief of staff, I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby, made multiple trips to the CIA to question analysts studying Iraq's weapons programs and alleged links to al Qaeda, creating an environment in which some analysts felt they were being pressured to make their assessments fit with the Bush administration's policy objectives, according to senior intelligence officials.</i>	<i>Walter Pincus, Some Iraq Analysts Felt Pressure From Cheney, June 5, 2003 at <a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn/A15019-2003Jun4?language=printer">http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn/A15019-2003Jun4?language=printer</a></i>
July 2002	<i>According to Bob Woodward, General Franks needs money to build war preparations in Kuwait. "Gets to a point where in July, the end of July 2002, they need \$700 million, a large amount of money for all these tasks. And the president approves it. But Congress doesn't know and it is done. They get the money from a supplemental appropriation for the Afghan War, which Congress has approved...Congress was totally in the dark on this."</i>	<i>"Woodward Shares War Secrets." CBS News. 18 April, 2004. Available at: <a href="http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2004/04/15/60minutes/printable612067.shtml">http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2004/04/15/60minutes/printable612067.shtml</a></i>
July 2002	<i>State Department director of policy planning Richard N. Haass held a meeting with Rice and asked if they should discuss Iraq. Rice said, "Don't bother. The president has made a decision."</i>	<i>John Pilger. "The Big Lie." Mirror. 22 September 2003. Available at: <a href="http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/allnews/content_objectid=13434081_method=full_siteid=50143_headline=-THE-BIG-LIE-name_page.html">http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/allnews/content_objectid=13434081_method=full_siteid=50143_headline=-THE-BIG-LIE-name_page.html</a></i>

Date	Statement	Source
July 8, 2002	<p>President Bush holds a press conference, urging Congress to adopt the White House initiatives. He is asked,</p> <p>Q But I wonder, Mr. President, regardless of when or how, is it your firm intention to get rid of Saddam Hussein in Iraq --</p> <p>Bush: Yes.</p> <p>Q -- and how hard to you think it will be? Bush: It's the stated policy of this government to have a regime change. And it hasn't changed. And we'll use all tools at our disposal to do so.</p>	<p>"President Urges Congress to support Nations priorities." 8 July 2002. Transcript available at: <a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/07/20020708-5.html">http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/07/20020708-5.html</a></p>
July 21, 2002	<p>The Cabinet Office Paper was prepared, by the British Cabinet Office, as a briefing paper for participants at the Downing Street Minutes Meeting. The memo warns, "US plans assume, as a minimum, the use of British bases in Cyprus and Diego Garcia." It also notes a "post-war occupation of Iraq could lead to a protracted and costly nation-building exercise" and that "U.S. military plans are virtually silent on this point."</p>	<p>"Cabinet Office Paper: Conditions for Military Action," <i>London Times-World</i>, June 12, 2005, available at <a href="http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2089-1648758,00.html">http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2089-1648758,00.html</a>.</p>
July 21, 2002	<p>Attached to the Cabinet Office Paper is the "Legal Background Document." The document shows that the British Foreign Office concluded in March 2002 that airstrikes could only be legally justified by self-defense, imminent threat or humanitarian crisis as defined by a United Nations resolution.</p>	<p>"Foreign and Commonwealth Office legal advice," London Times Online, available at, <a href="http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2087-1654697,00.html">http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2087-1654697,00.html</a></p>
July 23, 2002	<p>Downing Street Minutes were written on this date by Richard Dearlove. They contain discussions during a meeting among the U.K. government officials, including the prime minister, and U.K. defense intelligence officials. The minutes state, "<i>It seemed clear that Bush had made up his mind to take military action, even if the timing was not yet decided. But the case was thin</i>" [and] "<i>Bush wanted to remove Saddam, through military action, justified by the conjunction of terrorism and WMD. But the intelligence and facts were being fixed around the policy.</i>"</p>	<p>"The Secret Downing Street Memo," <i>The Sunday Times-Britain</i>, May 1, 2005, available at <a href="http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2087-1593607,00.html">http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2087-1593607,00.html</a>.</p>

Date	Statement	Source
August 2002	U.S. and UK conduct secret bombing campaign. "The [air] attacks were intensified from May, six months before the United Nations resolution that Tony Blair and Lord Goldsmith, the [U.K.] attorney-general, argued [had given] the coalition the legal basis for war. By the end of August the raids had become a full air offensive."	Michael Smith, "RAF bombing raids tried to goad Saddam into war," London Times Online, available at <a href="http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2087-1632566,00.html">http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2087-1632566,00.html</a>
August 26, 2002	Vice President Cheney says of Saddam Hussein, "What we know now, from various sources, is that he... continues to pursue a nuclear weapon."	Seymour Hersh, "Annals of National Security, the New Yorker, available at, <a href="http://www.newyorker.com/fact/content/?031027fa_fact">http://www.newyorker.com/fact/content/?031027fa_fact</a>
September 2002	The Defense Intelligence Agency released part of a classified report that said, "There is no reliable information on whether Iraq is producing and stockpiling chemical weapons, or where Iraq has—or will—establish its chemical warfare agent production facilities."	"Defense Agency Excerpt on Iraqi Chemical Warfare Program." DIA. 9 June, 2003. Available at: <a href="http://www.fas.org/irp/news/2003/06/dod060703.html">http://www.fas.org/irp/news/2003/06/dod060703.html</a>
September 5, 2002	The U.S. and UK launch airstrikes, beneath the cloak of the no-fly zone. More than a hundred allied aircraft attack the H-3 airfield, Iraq's main air defense site.	Michael Smith, "The War before the War, May 30, 2005, available at <a href="http://www.newstatesman.com/200505300013">http://www.newstatesman.com/200505300013</a> .
September 12, 2002	President Bush tells UN that Iraq is a "grave and gathering danger" and that the US "will not allow any terrorist or tyrant to threaten civilization with weapons of mass murder" and " <i>Iraq has made several attempts to buy high-strength aluminum tubes used to enrich uranium for a nuclear weapon. Should Iraq acquire fissile material, it would be able to build a nuclear weapon within a year.</i> "	"President's Remarks at the United Nations General Assembly," White House Transcript, September 12, 2002, available at <a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/09/">http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/09/</a>
September 16, 2002	Iraq said it would allow international weapons inspectors to return "without conditions." The weapons inspectors would abide by the timetable established by U.N. resolution 1284.	"Attacking Iraq: Countdown timeline." Globalsecurity.org. Available at: <a href="http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/ops/iraq-timeline.htm">http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/ops/iraq-timeline.htm</a>

Date	Statement	Source
September 18, 2002	<p>President Bush dismisses Saddam's offer to allow weapons inspectors back into the country as "his latest ploy."</p> <p>"I'm convinced that the world understands the ploy. One of the jobs the United States has is to remind people about not only the threat but the fact that his defiance has weakened the United Nations... must rise up and deal with this threat and hold him to account. That's what we expect out of the Security Council."</p>	<p>Jim Garamone. American Forces of Information Services. 18 September 2002.</p> <p>Available at:  <a href="http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Sep2002/n09182002_200209181.html">http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Sep2002/n09182002_200209181.html</a></p>
September 26, 2002	<p>Discussing the threat posed by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Bush said: "After all, this is the guy who tried to kill my dad." (Former President George Bush senior visited Kuwait between April 14 and April 16, 1993 to commemorate the victory over Iraq in the Persian Gulf War. During Bush's visit, Kuwaiti authorities arrested 17 people allegedly involved in a plot to kill Pres. Bush).</p>	<p>See John King, Bush calls Saddam 'the guy who tried to kill my dad,' September 27, 2002, available at:  <a href="http://archives.cnn.com/2002/ALLPOLITICS/09/27/bush.war.talk/">http://archives.cnn.com/2002/ALLPOLITICS/09/27/bush.war.talk/</a></p>
September 27, 2002	<p>Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld calls the link between Iraq and al Qaeda "accurate and not debatable."</p>	<p>Jim Garamone. "Rumsfeld calls link between Iraq, al Qaeda 'not debatable.' American Forces of Information Services. Available at:  <a href="http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Sep2002/n09272002_200209272.html">http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Sep2002/n09272002_200209272.html</a></p>
October 6, 2002	<p>The CIA sends a memo warning to the White House that there is little evidence behind the Africa-uranium claim. The memo also notes that the alleged purchase "was not particularly significant." The memo's recipients include National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice and her deputy, Stephen Hadley.</p>	<p>Joseph Cirincone. "Niger Uranium: Still a False Claim" <i>Carnegie Endowment</i>. Available at:  <a href="http://www.carnegieendowment.org/publications/index.cfm?fa=print&amp;id=1595">http://www.carnegieendowment.org/publications/index.cfm?fa=print&amp;id=1595</a></p>

Date	Statement	Source
October 7, 2002	<p>In outlining the possible threat Iraq posed, the President states, “Facing clear evidence of peril, we cannot wait for the final proof -- the smoking gun -- that could come in the form of a mushroom cloud.”</p> <p>In the speech at the Cincinnati Museum Center, he also says, “We are concerned that Iraq is exploring ways of using these UAVs for missions targeting the United States.” According to the New Republic, the UAVs in question only had a range of 300 miles, and could not have even reached Tel Aviv.</p>	<p>“President Bush Outlines Iraqi Threat,” White House Transcript, Oct. 7, 2002, available at <a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/10/20021007-8.html">http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/10/20021007-8.html</a></p> <p>John B. Judis and Spencer Ackerman. “The First Casualty.” 19 June 2003. The New Republic. Available at: <a href="http://www.tnr.com/docprint.mhtml?i=20030630&amp;s=ackermanjudis063003">www.tnr.com/docprint.mhtml?i=20030630&amp;s=ackermanjudis063003</a></p>
October 10, 2002	<p>Congress passes a Joint Resolution to Authorize the Use of Force in Iraq which states, “(a) AUTHORIZATION. The President is authorized to use the Armed Forces of the United States as he determines to be necessary and appropriate in order to (1) defend the national security of the United States against the continuing threat posed by Iraq; and (2) enforce all relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions regarding Iraq.</p> <p>133 Congressmen and 23 Senators opposed the measure.</p>	<p>“Joint Resolution to Authorize the Use of United States Armed Forces Against Iraq,” White House, October 2, 2002, available at <a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/10/20021002-2.html">http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/10/20021002-2.html</a></p>
<i>Oct. 10, 2002</i>	<p><i>Vincent Cannistraro, the CIA’s former head of counter-intelligence said, “Basically, cooked information is working its way into high-level pronouncements and there’s a lot of unhappiness about it in intelligence, especially among analysts at the CIA.”</i></p>	<p><i>Borger, Julia “Bush twists facts to fit, analysts say.” Sydney Morning Herald. Available at: <a href="http://www.smh.com.au">http://www.smh.com.au</a></i></p>
<i>November 6, 2002</i>	<p><i>Helen Thomas, a veteran White House correspondent told an audience, “I have never covered a president who actually wanted to go to war,” then she said that President Bush was the exception.</i></p>	<p><i>Krugman, Paul. “The War President.” The New York Times. 24 June, 2005.</i></p>
November 8, 2002	<p>The UN Security Council passed UN Resolution 1441. The Bush administration used this resolution as justification for military action in Iraq.</p>	<p>“Text of UN Resolution on Iraq.” CNN. 8 November 2002. Available at: <a href="http://archives.cnn.com/2002/US/11/08/resolution.text/">http://archives.cnn.com/2002/US/11/08/resolution.text/</a></p>

Date	Statement	Source
November 15, 2002	<p>Donald Rumsfeld states, on a call-in show on Infinity Broadcasting and National Public Radio stations,</p> <p>"I can't say if the use of force would last five days or five weeks or five months, but it certainly isn't going to last any longer than that . . ."</p>	<p>"Rumsfeld: It would be a short war." <i>CBS News</i>. 15 November 2002. Available at: <a href="http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2002/11/15/world/main529569.shtml">http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2002/11/15/world/main529569.shtml</a></p>
December 2, 2002	<p>Ari Fleischer comments on nuclear weapons, "If he declares he has none, then we will know that Saddam Hussein is once again misleading the world."</p>	<p>"Press Briefing by Ari Fleischer." 2 December 2002. Transcript available at: <a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/12/20021202-6.html">http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/12/20021202-6.html</a></p>
Dec. 7, 2002	<p>Iraq submitted a 12,200-page declaration to the United Nations about unconventional arms. Analysts at the CIA criticized Iraq for not explaining why it sought tubes "we believe suitable for use in a gas centrifuge uranium effort." Iraq also didn't "acknowledge efforts to procure uranium from Niger."</p>	<p>David Barstow, William J. Broad and Jeff Gerth. "Skewed Intelligence Data in March to War in Iraq." <i>The New York Times</i>. Available at: <a href="http://www.truthout.org/docs_04/100304A.shtml">http://www.truthout.org/docs_04/100304A.shtml</a></p>
<i>Dec. 21, 2002</i>	<p><i>Deputy CIA director John McLaughlin presents his best evidence of weapons of mass destruction. According to Woodward, "McLaughlin has access to all the satellite photos, and he goes in and he has flip charts in the oval office. The president listens to all of this and McLaughlin's done. And, the president... says 'Nice try, but that isn't gonna sell Joe Public. That isn't gonna convince Joe Public...This is the best we've got?' George Tenet's sitting on the couch, stands up, and says, 'Don't worry, it's a slam dunk case.'" And the president challenges him again and Tenet says, 'The case, it's a slam dunk.' ...I asked the president about this and he said it was very important to have the CIA director – 'Slam-dunk is as I interpreted is a sure thing, guaranteed. No possibility it won't go through the hoop.' Others present, Cheney, very impressed."</i></p>	<p>"Woodward Shares War Secrets." <i>CBS News</i>. 18 April, 2004. Available at: <a href="http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2004/04/15/60minutes/printable612067.shtml">http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2004/04/15/60minutes/printable612067.shtml</a></p>
December 31, 2002	<p>Administration officials estimate the cost of war with Iraq could be from \$50 billion to \$60 billion. It currently tops 200 billion (See entry for June 2005)</p>	<p>Threats and Responses: The Cost; White House Cuts Estimate of Cost of War with Iraq, <i>The New York Times</i>, December 31, 2002.</p>

Date	Statement	Source
January 24, 2003	Four days before President Bush delivered his State of the Union address presenting the case for war against Iraq, the National Security Council staff put out a call for new intelligence to bolster claims that Saddam Hussein possessed nuclear, chemical and biological weapons or programs because "the NSC believed the nuclear case was weak." (quote of Robert Walpole, then the national intelligence officer for strategic and nuclear programs).	<i>Senate Intelligence Committee Report ; Walter Pincus, "Prewar Findings Worried Analysts," The Washington Post, May 22, 2005, available at <a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/05/21/AR2005052100474.html?referrer=emailarticle">http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/05/21/AR2005052100474.html?referrer=emailarticle</a></i>
January 27, 2003	The I.A.E.A. told the U.N. Security Council that there was no evidence of nuclear weapons programs in Iraq. "From our analysis to date, it appears that the aluminum tubes would be consistent with the purpose stated by Iraq and, unless modified, would not be suitable for manufacturing centrifuges."	David Barstow, William J. Broad and Jeff Gerth. "Skewed Intelligence Data in March to War in Iraq." <i>The New York Times</i> . Available at: <a href="http://www.truthout.org/docs_04/100304A.shtml">http://www.truthout.org/docs_04/100304A.shtml</a>
January 28, 2003	<p>In his State of the Union Address, the President states, "the British government has learned that Saddam Hussein recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa." The President also states, "We know that Iraq, in the late 1990s, had several mobile weapons labs . . . designed to produce germ warfare agents and can be moved from place to a place to evade inspectors."</p> <p>The White House later retracted the allegation. (See entry for July 9, 2003)</p> <p>As Frank Rich recently observed, "the president was bandying about the u-word too at the United Nations and elsewhere, speaking of how Saddam needed only a softball-size helping of uranium to wreak Armageddon on America." (See "Follow the Uranium—The New York Times," July 17, 2005).</p>	"President Delivers 'State of the Union,'" White House Transcript, January 28, 2003, available at <a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/01/20030128-19.html">http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/01/20030128-19.html</a>

Date	Statement	Source
January 31, 2003	<p><i>Frank Koza, the chief of staff in the Regional Targets section of the NSA, released a memo describing the agency's spy activities on UN Security Council members and Kofi Annan. The agency is, "mounting a surge particularly directed at the UN Security Council (UNSC) members (minus US and GBR of course) for insights as to how membership is reacting to the on-going debate RE: Iraq, plans to vote on any resolutions...whole gamut of information that could give US policymakers an edge in obtaining results favorable to US goals or to head off surprises."</i></p>	<p><i>Memo by Frank Koza. "Reflections of Iraq Debate/Votes at UN-RT Actions + Potential for Related Contributions" 31 January 2003. Available at: <a href="http://observer.guardian.co.uk/iraq/story/0,12239,905954,00.html">http://observer.guardian.co.uk/iraq/story/0,12239,905954,00.html</a></i></p>
February 2003	<p>Former General Eric Shinseki told Congress the Defense Department's troop estimate for occupying Iraq was too low. He said that "several hundred thousand troops" would be needed. Rumsfeld responded that Shinseki's comments were "wildly off the mark." Rumsfeld then named Shinseki's successor one year before the end of his term, making the general a lame duck commander.</p>	<p>Dave Moniz. "Ex-Army Boss: Pentagon won't admit reality in Iraq." <i>USA Today</i>. 2 June 2003. Available at: <a href="http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2003-06-02-white-usat_x.htm">http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2003-06-02-white-usat_x.htm</a></p>
Feb. 5, 2003	<p>Collin Powell makes a presentation to the UN, attempting to prove that Iraq is evading the weapons inspectors, continues to produce WMD's and is linked to Al-Qaeda. He displays satellite photos of Iraqi chemical weapons depots and states, "One of the most worrisome things that emerges from the thick intelligence file we have on Iraq's biological weapons is the existence of mobile production facilities"</p> <p>The following year Powell concedes that the information "appears not to be... that solid" See "Powell admits Iraq evidence mistake," BBC, April 3, 2004, available at <a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/3596033.stm">http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/3596033.stm</a>.</p>	<p>"U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell Addresses the U.N. Security Council," White House Transcript, February 5, 2003, available at <a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/02/20030205-1.html">http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/02/20030205-1.html</a></p>
February 27, 2003	<p>Secretary Rumsfeld is asked to comment on troop estimates for Iraq. He said, "What is, I think, reasonably certain is the idea that it would take several hundred thousand U.S. forces I think is far from the mark."</p>	<p>"Secretary Rumsfeld Media Availability with Afghan President Karzai." 27 February, 2003. DoD News. Transcript available at: <a href="http://www.defenselink.mil/transcripts/2003/t02272003_t0227ap.html">http://www.defenselink.mil/transcripts/2003/t02272003_t0227ap.html</a></p>

Date	Statement	Source
February 27, 2003	U.S. Diplomat John Brady Kiesling resigns his post as a diplomat citing his opposition to the “distortion of intelligence, such systematic manipulation of American opinion.”	John Brady Kiesling. Letter of Resignation. 27 February 2003. Available at: <a href="http://www.truthout.org/docs_03">www.truthout.org/docs_03</a>
March 4, 2003	Paul Wolfowitz comments on the number of troops needed for the war in Iraq. “But the notion that it would take several hundred thousand American troops just seemed outlandish. First of all the number seems outlandish. Secondly, the idea that they would be all American is outlandish. And frankly, for the kind of functions we're talking about there are probably a lot of regular Iraqi forces that could be mobilized if that's needed for peacekeeping.”	“Senior Defense officials interview with Chris Core.” 4 March, 2003. DoD News. Transcript available at: <a href="http://www.defenselink.mil/transcripts/2003/t03052003_t0304sdcore.html">http://www.defenselink.mil/transcripts/2003/t03052003_t0304sdcore.html</a>
March 16, 2003	Vice President Cheney states, “Now I think things have gotten so bad inside Iraq, from the standpoint of the Iraqi people, my belief is we will, in fact, be greeted as liberators.” and “ <i>We believe [Hussein] has, in fact, reconstituted nuclear weapons.</i> ”	Interview with Vice-President Dick Cheney, NBC, "Meet the Press," Transcript for March 16, 2003.
March 17, 2003	In President Bush’s Address to the Nation, he said, “Should Saddam Hussein choose confrontation, the American people can know that every measure has been taken to avoid war, and every measure will be taken to win it.”	Speech by George W. Bush. Available at: <a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/03/20030317-7.html">http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/03/20030317-7.html</a>
March 18, 2003	President submits letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate requesting an authorization of force. “Reliance by the United States on further diplomatic and other peaceful means alone will neither (A) adequately protect the national security of the United States against the continuing threat posed by Iraq nor (B) likely lead to enforcement of all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions regarding Iraq.”	Presidential Letter, White House, March 18, 2003, available at, <a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/03/20030319-1.html">http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/03/20030319-1.html</a>
March 18, 2003	In an Address to the Nation, President Bush states, “Intelligence gathered by this and other governments leaves no doubt that the Iraq regime continues to possess and conceal some of the most lethal weapons ever devised.”	Glen Kessler. “Bush Recasts Rationale for War after Report.” <i>The Washington Post</i> . Available at: <a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A20562-2004Oct9.html">http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A20562-2004Oct9.html</a>

Date	Statement	Source
March 2003 (before the 20 <sup>th</sup> )	The U.S. Agency for International Development asked six companies, (Bechtel Group Inc., Fluor Corp., Halliburton Co. subsidiary Kellogg, Brown & Root, Louis Berger Group Inc., Parsons Corp. and Washington Group International Inc) to submit bids for the rebuilding of Iraq. This was before the war began.	"Rebuilding Iraq: The Contractors." OpenSecrets.org. Available at: <a href="http://www.opensecrets.org/news/rebuilding_iraq/index.asp">http://www.opensecrets.org/news/rebuilding_iraq/index.asp</a>
March 20, 2003	U.S. invades Iraq.	"U.S. launches cruise missiles at Iraq." CNN. 20 March 2003. Available at: <a href="http://www.cnn.com/2003/WORLD/meast/03/19/sprj.irq.main/">http://www.cnn.com/2003/WORLD/meast/03/19/sprj.irq.main/</a>
March 21, 2003	In a press briefing, Ari Fleischer said, "Well, there is no question that we have evidence and information that Iraq has weapons of mass destruction, biological and chemical particularly . . . all this will be made clear in the course of the operation, for whatever duration it takes."	Ari Fleischer, White House Press Briefing. 21 March 2003. Available at: <a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/03/20030321-9.html">http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/03/20030321-9.html</a>
March 30, 2003	Donald Rumsfeld pinpoints the location of WMD in an ABC interview. "We know where they [the weapons] are. They're in the area around Tikrit and Baghdad and east, west, south and north somewhat."	"Secretary Rumsfeld Remarks on ABC 'This Week with George Stephanopoulos.'" Department of Defense. 30 March 2003. Available at: <a href="http://www.defenselink.mil/transcripts/2003/t03302003_t0330sdabcsteph.html">http://www.defenselink.mil/transcripts/2003/t03302003_t0330sdabcsteph.html</a>
April 10, 2003	In a press conference, Press Secretary Ari Fleischer points to WMD as the purpose of the war in Iraq. "But make no mistake -- as I said earlier -- we have high confidence that they have weapons of mass destruction. That is what this war was about and it is about. And we have high confidence it will be found."	Ari Fleischer. "Press briefing with Ari Fleischer." 10 April, 2003. The White House. Available at: <a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/04/20030410-6.html">http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/04/20030410-6.html</a>

Date	Statement	Source
April 12, 2003	Rescued POW Jessica Lynch arrives at Andrews air force base. Releasing its five-minute film to the networks, the Pentagon claimed that Lynch had stab and bullet wounds, and that she had been slapped about on her hospital bed and interrogated. It was only thanks to a courageous Iraqi lawyer, Mohammed Odeh al-Rehaief, that she was saved. Private Lynch subsequently states, "The real story was that I was just laying there and knocked out [after the ambush]. I was a little angry at the whole story, because it wasn't the truth," Lynch said. "I wasn't going to allow myself to sit there and let a lie kind of build. ... No, I didn't shoot. I didn't become a Rambo GI Jane."	The Truth about Jessica, The Guardian, May 15,2003, available at <a href="http://www.guardian.co.uk/Iraq/Story/0,2763,956255,00.html">http://www.guardian.co.uk/Iraq/Story/0,2763,956255,00.html</a> and <a href="http://cnnstudentnews.cnn.com/2005/US/07/04/cnn25.tan.lynch/">http://cnnstudentnews.cnn.com/2005/US/07/04/cnn25.tan.lynch/</a>
May 1, 2003	President Bush lands aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln and standing beneath a massive banner reading "Mission Accomplished," he states, "In the battle of Iraq, the United States and our allies have prevailed," and "Major combat operations in Iraq have ended."	"President Bush Announces Major Combat Operations in Iraq Have Ended," White House Transcript, May 1, 2003, available at <a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/05/iraq/20030501-15.html">http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/05/iraq/20030501-15.html</a> .
May 4, 2003	In remarks to reporters, Colin Powell said, "I'm absolutely sure that there are weapons of mass destruction there and the evidence will be forthcoming. We're just getting it just now. "	Colin Powell, Remarks to Reporters. Available at: <a href="http://www.geocities.com/jacksonthor/lieswmd.html">http://www.geocities.com/jacksonthor/lieswmd.html</a>
May 14, 2003	Donald Rumsfeld tells the Senate appropriations subcommittee on defense, "I don't believe anyone that I know in the administration ever said that Iraq had nuclear weapons."	Dana Milbank. "Energy Policy Spurs Affirmative Action Debate." The Washington Post. 20 May 2003. Available at: <a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn?pagename=article&amp;node=&amp;contentId=A12382-2003May19&amp;notFound=true">http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn?pagename=article&amp;node=&amp;contentId=A12382-2003May19&amp;notFound=true</a>

Date	Statement	Source
May 28, 2003	In an interview with Vanity Fair, Paul Wolfowitz admits, "For bureaucratic reasons, we settled on one issue, weapons of mass destruction (as justification for invading Iraq) because it was the one reason everyone could agree on."	Paul Wolfowitz. "Deputy Secretary Paul Wolfowitz interview with Karen DeYoung." Department of Defense. 28 May 2003. Available at: <a href="http://www.defenselink.mil/transcripts/2003/tr20030528-depsecdef0222.html">http://www.defenselink.mil/transcripts/2003/tr20030528-depsecdef0222.html</a>
May 30, 2003	Lt. General James Conway comments on the lack of WMD. "It was a surprise to me then - it remains a surprise to me now - that we have not uncovered weapons, as you say, in some of the forward dispersal sites. Believe me, it's not for lack of trying. We've been to virtually every ammunition supply point between the Kuwaiti border and Baghdad, but they're simply not there."	"Top US Commander surprised at not finding WMD." <i>USA Today</i> . 30 May, 2003. Available at: <a href="http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/iraq/2003-05-30-iraq-wmd_x.htm">http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/iraq/2003-05-30-iraq-wmd_x.htm</a>
June 1, 2003	Former army secretary James White said defense officials are "unwilling to come to grips" with the scale of U.S. involvement in Iraq. "This is not what they were selling (before the war), It's almost a question of people not wanting to 'fess up to the notion that we will be there a long time and they might have to set up a rotation and sustain it for the long term."	Dave Moniz. "Ex-Army Boss: Pentagon won't admit reality in Iraq." <i>USA Today</i> . 2 June 2003. Available at: <a href="http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2003-06-02-white-usat_x.htm">http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2003-06-02-white-usat_x.htm</a>
June 2003	Richard Foster, the chief actuary for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, was threatened with dismissal by then-agency chief Thomas Scully if he answered questions from Congressional Democrats about the true cost of the Medicare reform bill before a series of key votes.	"Probe under way on Medicare cost," <i>Cnn.com</i> , May 6, 2004, available at <a href="http://www.cnn.com/2004/ALLPOLITICS/03/17/medicare.investigation/index.html">http://www.cnn.com/2004/ALLPOLITICS/03/17/medicare.investigation/index.html</a>
July 2, 2003	At a White House News Conference, President Bush states, "There are some who feel like that the conditions are such that they can attack us there. My answer is <b>bring them on</b> . . . [w]e've got the force necessary to deal with the security situation."	Bush: 'Bring on' attackers of U.S. Troops, <i>USA Today</i> , July 2, 2005, available at <a href="http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/iraq/2003-07-02-bush-iraq-troops_x.htm">http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/iraq/2003-07-02-bush-iraq-troops_x.htm</a>

Date	Statement	Source
July 6, 2003	Ambassador Wilson states in an op-ed piece, "Based on my experience with the administration in the months leading up to the war, I have little choice but to conclude that some of the intelligence related to Iraq's nuclear weapons program was twisted to exaggerate the Iraqi threat."	Joseph C. Wilson IV, Ambassador. "What I didn't find in Africa." New York Times Editorial. 6 July 2003. Available at: <a href="http://www.commondreams.org/views03/0706-02.htm">http://www.commondreams.org/views03/0706-02.htm</a>
July 7, 2003	Colin Powell receives a State Department memorandum which contains information about CIA officer Valerie Plame in a paragraph marked "(S)" for secret, a clear indication that any Bush administration official who read it should have been aware the information was classified, according to current and former government officials.	"Plame's identity marked as secret," The Washington Post, July 21, 2005, available at <a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/07/20/AR2005072002517_pf.htm">http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/07/20/AR2005072002517_pf.htm</a>
July 9, 2003	The White House issued a rare retraction of the uranium allegations from the president's January State of the Union Address. The President's accusation that former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein tried to buy uranium in Africa was based on what turned out to be flawed intelligence.	"WMD threat wasn't new." CBS/AP. 9 July 2003. Available at: <a href="http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2003/07/09/iraq/main562451.shtml">http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2003/07/09/iraq/main562451.shtml</a>
July 11, 2003	<p>White House Deputy Chief of Staff Karl Rove has a short conversation with Time magazine reporter Matthew Cooper, three days before Robert Novak publicly exposed Plame in a column about her husband, Joe Wilson.</p> <p>Cooper e-mails his bureau chief after speaking to Rove.</p> <p>Cooper writes that Rove offered him a "big warning" not to "get too far out on Wilson." Rove told Cooper that Wilson's trip had not been authorized by "DCIA"--CIA Director George Tenet--or Vice President Dick Cheney. Rather, "it was, KR said, Wilson's [sic] wife, who apparently works at the agency on WMD (weapons of mass destruction) issues who authorized the trip."</p>	Michael Isikoff, Matt Cooper's Source: What Karl Rove Told Time Magazine's Reporter, Newsweek, July 18, 2005.

Date	Statement	Source
July 12, 2003	Lewis (Scooter) Libby tells <i>Time</i> magazine reporter Matthew Cooper, that Dick Cheney had not been responsible for Wilson's mission. Speaking on the record, Libby denies that Cheney knew about or played any role in the Wilson trip to Niger. Speaking on background, Cooper asks Libby if he had heard anything about Wilson's wife sending her husband to Niger. Libby replies, "Yeah, I've heard that too,"	The Al Franken Show. Available at: <a href="http://shows.airamericaradio.com/alfranken/show/node?from=0">http://shows.airamericaradio.com/alfranken/show/node?from=0</a>
July 14, 2003	Robert Novak reveals Valerie Plame's identity. "Wilson never worked for the CIA, but his wife, Valerie Plame, is an Agency operative on weapons of mass destruction. Two senior administration officials told me Wilson's wife suggested sending him to Niger to investigate the Italian report.	Robert Novak. "Mission to Niger." 14 July 2003. Available at: <a href="http://www.townhall.com/columnists/robertnovak/rn20030714.shtml">http://www.townhall.com/columnists/robertnovak/rn20030714.shtml</a>
July 17, 2003	President Bush holds a press conference with Prime Minister Blair. He reiterates that he believes the intelligence was good and the U.S. will find weapons of mass destruction.  "I believe that we will find the truth. And the truth is, he was developing a program for weapons of mass destruction...And we based our decisions on good, sound intelligence. And the -- our people are going to find out the truth, and the truth will say that this intelligence was good intelligence. There's no doubt in my mind."	President Bush, Prime Minister Blair discuss war on terror. 17 July 2003. Transcript available at: <a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/07/20030717-9.html">http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/07/20030717-9.html</a>
August 8, 2003	According to ex-CIA agent Ray McGovern, the National Intelligence Estimates were written after the decision to go to war had been made. Typically, decisions to go to war are made based on NIE reports already created. "Start with the fact that there was no NIE before the decision for war last summer. Such decision are supposed to be based on the conclusions of NIEs, not the other way around. This time the process was reversed."	"The Paper Trail to War." TomPaine.com. 8 August 2003. Available at: <a href="http://tompaine.com/feature2.cfm">http://tompaine.com/feature2.cfm</a>

Date	Statement	Source
September 3, 2003	<p>The Congressional Budget Office released a report that said the Army doesn't have enough active duty forces to maintain their troop level of almost 150,000 troops after the Spring of 2004.</p> <p>"The Army does not have enough active-duty component forces to simultaneously maintain the occupation at its current size, limit deployments to one year, and sustain all of its other commitments."</p>	<p>Thomas E. Ricks and Jonathan Weisman. "Army lacks forces for Iraq Mission, CBO Warns." <i>The Washington Post</i>. 3 September 2003. Available at: <a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn?pagename=article&amp;node=&amp;contentId=A16689-2003Sep2&amp;notFound=true">http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn?pagename=article&amp;node=&amp;contentId=A16689-2003Sep2&amp;notFound=true</a></p>
September 16, 2003	<p>White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan says Wilson's charges of Karl Rove's involvement in the Plame Leak are "totally ridiculous."</p>	<p>Scott McClellan Press Briefing. 16 September, 2003. Transcript available at: <a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/09/20030916-6.html">http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/09/20030916-6.html</a></p>
September 26, 2003	<p>John Dion, Director of the DOJ's Counterespionage section decides to pursue a criminal investigation of the Valerie Plame leak.</p>	<p>Eric Lichtblau. Special council is named to head inquiry on CIA leak." 31 December 2003. Available at: <a href="http://pegc.no-ip.info/archive/Press/NY_Times/nyt_digest_2003.txt">http://pegc.no-ip.info/archive/Press/NY_Times/nyt_digest_2003.txt</a></p>
September 29, 2003	<p>White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan says the allegation that administration officials leaked the name of a CIA operative is "a very serious matter" and vows President Bush would fire anybody responsible for such actions.</p>	<p>Scott McClellan. 29 September 2003. Transcript available at: <a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/09/20030929-7.html#1">http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/09/20030929-7.html#1</a></p>
September 29, 2003	<p>Congressman Conyers writes to Attorney General Ashcroft requesting that the Department of Justice appoint an outside special counsel to investigate the Plame leak.</p>	<p>Letter available at: <a href="http://www.house.gov/conyers/">http://www.house.gov/conyers/</a></p>
October 2, 2003	<p>John Dion assembles FBI agents to conduct an investigation of the Valerie Plame leak.</p>	<p>Anderson, "FBI Creates Team to Investigate CIA Leak, AP Online, Oct.2, 2003</p>

Date	Statement	Source
October 3, 2003	David Kay, CIA official responsible for the search for WMD, releases an interim report stating that weapons of mass destruction have not been found.	"US team finds no weapons of mass destruction." BBCNews. 3 October 2003. Available at: <a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/3157246.stm">http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/3157246.stm</a>
October 7, 2003	This is the deadline for the White House to turn over all materials related to the leak. President Bush makes a statement saying he was unsure that the investigation would reveal the source of the leak.	Richard Stevenson and Eric Lichtblau. "Leaker may remain elusive, Bush suggests." The New York Times. 8 October 2003. Available at: <a href="http://160.79.147.121/article.php?thold=-1&amp;mode=nested&amp;order=0&amp;sid=13279">http://160.79.147.121/article.php?thold=-1&amp;mode=nested&amp;order=0&amp;sid=13279</a>
October 7, 2003	White House Spokesman Scott McClellan said neither Rove, Abrams nor Libby played any role in the leak. "I spoke with them, so that I could come back to you and say that they were not involved. I had no doubt of that in the beginning, but I like to check my information to make sure it's accurate before I report back to you, and that's exactly what I did."	Press Briefing by Scott McClellan. 7 October 2003. Available at: <a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/10/20031007-4.html#2">http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/10/20031007-4.html#2</a>
October 9, 2003	Senators Daschle, Levin, Schumer and Biden ask for an appointment of a special council to investigate the Plame leak.	"Democrats urge Bush to fire Rove in leak scandal" 11 July 2005. Available at: <a href="http://p25.news.re2.yahoo.com/s/nm/20050711/pl_nm/bush_leak_dc_7">http://p25.news.re2.yahoo.com/s/nm/20050711/pl_nm/bush_leak_dc_7</a>

Date	Statement	Source
October 10, 2003	<p>White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan answers questions at a media briefing:</p> <p>Q: Earlier this week you told us that neither Karl Rove, Elliot Abrams nor Lewis Libby disclosed any classified information with regard to the leak. I wondered if you could tell us more specifically whether any of them told any reporter that Valerie Plame worked for the CIA?</p> <p>A I spoke with those individuals, as I pointed out, and those individuals assured me they were not involved in this. And that's where it stands.</p> <p>Q So none of them told any reporter that Valerie Plame worked for the CIA?</p> <p>A They assured me that they were not involved in this.</p>	<p>Press Briefing with Scott McClellan. 10 October 2003. The White House. Available at: <a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/10/20031010-6.html">http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/10/20031010-6.html</a></p>
October 30, 2003	<p>Congressman Conyers writes a letter to Judiciary Committee Chairman Sensenbrenner requesting hearings on the Plame leak matter.</p>	<p>Letter available at: <a href="http://www.house.gov/conyers/">http://www.house.gov/conyers/</a></p>
November 2003	<p>“Options for developing a long term sustainable Iraqi oil industry,” the State-Department commissioned plan for the Iraqi oil industry, is completed. The plan recommends seven options for the oil, not one option includes privatization. Privatization is bad for the U.S. oil interests, because the U.S. could be banned from bidding on reserves. The existence of the report was denied until journalist Greg Palast threatened legal action against the government. The plan was originally drafted before the invasion of Iraq.</p>	<p>Palast, Greg. “Secret US plans for Iraq Oil.” BBC News. 17 March 2005. Available at: <a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/newsnight/4354269.stm">http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/newsnight/4354269.stm</a></p>
November 3, 2003	<p>Part three of the Wilson/Gannon interview is printed. In the article, Gannon suggests Plame’s identity was known beforehand, making the supposed leak not a true leak.</p>	<p>Gannon/Wilson interview. Available at: <a href="http://www.gopusa.com/news/2003/november/1103_wilson_interview.shtml">http://www.gopusa.com/news/2003/november/1103_wilson_interview.shtml</a></p>

Date	Statement	Source
January 2004	Major General John Riggs gave an interview with the Baltimore Sun saying the army needs at least another 10,000 soldiers because it is being stretched too thin between Iraq and Afghanistan. General George W. Casey then tells Riggs to “stay in your lane” and not discuss the troops. He retires and is denied his full rank, officially for “minor infractions.”	Tom Bowman. “Unceremonious end to Army career: Outspoken general fights demotion.” <i>The Baltimore Sun</i> . 29 May, 2005. Available at: <a href="http://www.icogitate.com/~icogitate/JohnRiggs.html">http://www.icogitate.com/~icogitate/JohnRiggs.html</a>
January 13, 2004	Former Treasury Secretary Paul O’Neill releases his book, "The Price of Loyalty," where he charges that plans for going to war in Iraq were discussed in the earliest days of Bush's presidency. A formal investigation is immediately launched in an attempt to charge O’Neill with wrongdoing in the use of classified documents. O’Neill is subsequently cleared of any wrongdoing.	“O’Neill cleared in use of classified documents,” Cnn.com, Feb. 6, 204, available at <a href="http://www.cnn.com/2004/ALLPOLITICS/02/06/oneill.cleared/">http://www.cnn.com/2004/ALLPOLITICS/02/06/oneill.cleared/</a>
January 19, 2004	U.S. Military Casualties in Iraq Reach 1,000	U.S. Death Toll in Iraq Tops 500, Cnn.com, January 19, 2004, available at <a href="http://www.cnn.com/2004/WORLD/meast/01/17/sprj.nirq.main/">http://www.cnn.com/2004/WORLD/meast/01/17/sprj.nirq.main/</a>
January 22, 2004	Time magazine reports that special prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald began presenting evidence to a grand jury about the Plame leak.	Lichtblau and Johnston, "Jury Said to Hear Evidence in CIA Leak," NY Times, Jan. 24, 2004
January 26, 2004	Congressman Conyers and Waxman, along with Congresswoman Pelosi, and Senators Lieberman, Daschle and Rockefeller send a letter asking GAO to investigate whether the White House conformed to administration security requirements in the Plame leak investigation.	Congressman Conyers and Waxman. Letters available at: <a href="http://www.house.gov/hsc/democrats/press.html">http://www.house.gov/hsc/democrats/press.html</a>

Date	Statement	Source
March 21, 2004	Richard Clarke releases his book, "Against All Enemies," in which he asserts that the Bush Administration was overly fixated on Saddam Hussein and Iraq. A propaganda campaign is subsequently launched in an attempt to retaliate and discredit him. Mr. Clarke is accused of "profiteering" and "perjury." Vice President Dick Cheney states, "[Clarke] was moved out of the counterterrorism business over to the cybersecurity side of things" and "Well, [Clarke] wasn't in the loop, frankly, on a lot of this stuff..."	Vice President Dick Cheney on Rush Limbaugh, March 22, 2004, available at <a href="http://www.rushlimbaugh.com/home/daily/site__032204/content/stack_a.guest.html">http://www.rushlimbaugh.com/home/daily/site__032204/content/stack_a.guest.html</a>
May 2004	The projected costs for the war in Iraq in 2005 is reported at \$150 billion. In an interview, Rep. John Spratt, senior Democrat on the House Budget Committee said, "DOD (Department of Defense) is being more than customarily opaque with us. We're trying to pool our efforts and share information and piece something together, which is the only way to figure out what it is really going to cost us. But this is basic information. This is not unorthodox to get these numbers. It's not asking for somebody to rework the whole books. I think they are embarrassed by the level of the costs."	James Sterngold. "War tab swamps Bush's estimate." <i>San Francisco Chronicle</i> . 9 May 2004. Available at: <a href="http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2004/05/09/MNGOU6IK1J1.DTL">http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2004/05/09/MNGOU6IK1J1.DTL</a>
September 2004	The Army National Guard falls 5,000 soldiers short of its recruiting goal for 2004 budget year	"Guard to Miss Goal by 5,000 Recruits," <i>The New York Times</i> , September 24, 2004
September 8, 2004	U.S. Military Casualties in Iraq Reach 1,000	U.S. Toll in Iraq Crosses 1,000 Milestone, <i>The Washington Post</i> , September 8, 2004, available at <a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A2721-2004Sep7.html">http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A2721-2004Sep7.html</a>
October 6, 2004	The Duelfer Report is released. The 1991 Persian Gulf War and subsequent U.N. inspections destroyed Iraq's illicit weapons capability and, for the most part, Saddam Hussein did not try to rebuild it, according to an extensive report by the chief U.S. weapons inspector in Iraq that contradicts nearly every prewar assertion made by top administration officials about Iraq.	Mike Allen and Dana Priest. "Report Discounts Iraq Arms Threat." <i>The Washington Post</i> . 6 October 2004. Available at: <a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A9790-2004Oct5.html">http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A9790-2004Oct5.html</a>

Date	Statement	Source
October 13, 2004	<p>Former U.N. chief weapons inspector Hans Blix told Reuters the war in Iraq has not reached its goals.</p> <p>“The acknowledged gain of the war was that a treacherous and murderous dictator (Saddam Hussein) was removed, but the rest has been tragedy and failure. It has stimulated terrorism.”</p>	<p>Reuters. “War in Iraq ‘stimulated terrorism’ ex-U.N. weapons inspector says.” Available at: <a href="http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/6237349/">http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/6237349/</a></p>
December 14, 2004	The cost of the war in Iraq exceeds \$100 billion.	Iraq War Price Tag Tops 100B, December 14, 2004, available at <a href="http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2004/12/15/iraq/main661160.shtml">http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2004/12/15/iraq/main661160.shtml</a>
March 31, 2005	The president's intelligence commission, chaired by former appellate judge Laurence H. Silberman and former senator Charles S. Robb (D-Va.), disclosed that senior intelligence officials had serious questions about "Curveball," the code name for an Iraqi informant who provided the key information on Hussein's alleged mobile biological facilities, referred to by the President in the Jan. 2003 State of the Union Address.	Walter Pincus, “Prewar Findings Worried Analysts,” <i>The Washington Post</i> , May 22, 2005, available at <a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/05/21/AR2005052100474.html?referrer=emailarticle">http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/05/21/AR2005052100474.html?referrer=emailarticle</a>
May 1, 2005	The <i>Sunday London Times</i> first publishes the story of the “Downing Street Memo.” Prime Minister Blair does not deny its authenticity.	<p>“The secret Downing Street Memo.” <i>The Sunday London Times</i>. 1 May 2005. Available at: <a href="http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2087-1593607,00.html">http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2087-1593607,00.html</a></p>
May 5, 2005	A former senior U.S. official subsequently tells Knight Ridder that the Downing minutes were “an absolutely accurate description of what transpired.”	Greg Mitchell. “Downing Street Memo gains traction in US press.” <i>Editor and Publisher</i> . 14 May 2005. Available at: <a href="http://www.editorandpublisher.com/eadp/news/article_display.jsp?vnu_content_id=1000920839">http://www.editorandpublisher.com/eadp/news/article_display.jsp?vnu_content_id=1000920839</a>

Date	Statement	Source
May 5, 2005	<p>Congressman John Conyers Jr. submits a letter to the President, signed by 88 members of Congress, demanding answers to the allegations presented in the Downing Street Memo.</p> <p>The President has yet to respond to the letter.</p>	<p>Letter available at:  <a href="http://www.house.gov/conyers/">http://www.house.gov/conyers/</a></p>
May 7, 2005	<p>The U.S. troop death count surpasses 1,600.</p>	<p>“U.S. deaths in Iraq surpass 1,600.” CNN. 8 May 2005. Available at:  <a href="http://www.cnn.com/2005/WORLD/meast/05/08/iraq.main/">http://www.cnn.com/2005/WORLD/meast/05/08/iraq.main/</a></p>
May 16, 2005	<p>Presidential spokesman Scott McClellan said that the memo's statement that intelligence was "being fixed" to support a decision to invade Iraq was "flat out wrong". However, McClellan admitted that he has not read the memo, but has only received reports of what it contains.</p>	<p>“WH Press Secretary Mocks ‘Downing Street Memo’ as Congressman Conyers calls for inquiry.” <i>Editor and Publisher</i>. 16 June 2005. Available at:  <a href="http://www.editorandpublisher.com/ean dp/news/article_display.jsp?vnu_content_id=1000963228">http://www.editorandpublisher.com/ean dp/news/article_display.jsp?vnu_content_id=1000963228</a></p>
May 17, 2005	<p>McClellan told reporters that the White House saw "no need" to respond to the letter from Congress regarding the Downing Street Memo.</p>	<p>“Downing Street Memo mostly ignored in US.” <i>FoxNews</i>. Available at:  <a href="http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,158228,00.html">http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,158228,00.html</a></p>
May 27, 2005	<p>Congressman Conyers launches a nationwide effort to obtain citizen signatures to an open letter to the President asking him to respond to the allegations in the Downing Street Memo.</p>	<p>“Conyers site to sign the petition.” JREGrassroots. Available at:  <a href="http://www.jregrassroots.org/forums/index.php?showtopic=14788&amp;mode=threaded">http://www.jregrassroots.org/forums/index.php?showtopic=14788&amp;mode=threaded</a> – Letter available at:  <a href="http://johnconyers.com/index.asp?Type=PERFORMS&amp;SEC=%7B8771D3DA-2F3D-49F7-895C-DF473CAEFA2C%7D">http://johnconyers.com/index.asp?Type=PERFORMS&amp;SEC=%7B8771D3DA-2F3D-49F7-895C-DF473CAEFA2C%7D</a></p>

Date	Statement	Source
May 31, 2005	Congressman Conyers submits letter to Secretary Rumsfeld demanding answers to London Times report regarding increased rates of bombing. There has been no response to date from Secretary Rumsfeld.	Letter available at: <a href="http://www.house.gov/conyers/">http://www.house.gov/conyers/</a>
May 31, 2005	According to classified studies by the CIA and the State Department, Iraq has replaced Afghanistan as the prime training ground for foreign terrorists who could travel elsewhere across the globe and wreak havoc. Iraq's emergence as a terrorist training ground appears to challenge President Bush's rationale for invading and overthrowing leader Saddam Hussein in March 2003.	Warren P. Strobel. "Iraq Emerges as a Terrorist Training Ground." <i>Seattle Times</i> . 5 July 2005. Available at: <a href="http://www.commondreams.org/headlines05/0705-10.htm">http://www.commondreams.org/headlines05/0705-10.htm</a>
June 2005	The cost of war in Iraq has topped 200 billion dollars.	"Bush Declares Iraq Worth American Sacrifices," June 28, 2005, available at <a href="http://abclocal.go.com/kfsn/news/062805_nw_bush.html">http://abclocal.go.com/kfsn/news/062805_nw_bush.html</a>
June 2005	The Washington Post Report that the Army has failed to meet its monthly recruiting goals since February 2005. "Last month, it reached only 75 percent of a goal it had already reduced from 8,050 to 6,700. The National Guard and Reserve, which provide more than 40 percent of the Army forces in Iraq, are experiencing even more trouble; so far, the National Guard has reached only 76 percent of its recruiting goals for this year."	Don Edwards, "Ten-Hut! The Army's Bungling Recruitment," <i>The Washington Post</i> , June 13, 2005.
June 7, 2005	President Bush responds in a news conference to questions about Downing Street, "Somebody said we had made up our mind to use military force to deal with Saddam. There is nothing farther from the truth. My conversation with the prime minister was, "How can we do this peacefully?"	Transcript of NewsHour with Jim Lehrer. 16 June 2005. Available at: <a href="http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/middle_east/jan-june05/warmemos_6-16.html">http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/middle_east/jan-june05/warmemos_6-16.html</a>

Date	Statement	Source
June 12, 2005	The <i>London Times</i> releases six new British intelligence documents indicating that as early as March of 2002, the Administration had decided it would be “necessary to create the conditions” to justify war. Included among these documents is the Cabinet Office Paper, dated July 21, 2002 (see entry for July 21, 2002).	“UK Ministers were told of need for Gulf War ‘excuse.’” <i>Sunday Times</i> . 11 June 2005. Available at: <a href="http://gnn.tv/headlines/3344/Sunday_Times_UK_Ministers_were_told_of_need_for_Gulf_war_excuse">http://gnn.tv/headlines/3344/Sunday_Times_UK_Ministers_were_told_of_need_for_Gulf_war_excuse</a>
June 14, 2005	Congressman Conyers submits letter to Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, George Tenet, and Secretary Rice, requesting their participation in the Downing Street Hearing on June 16.  George Tenet and Donald Rumsfeld respond that they will not be able to attend but no response is received from Secretary Rice.	Statements by John Conyers. Available at: <a href="http://www.conyersblog.us/archives/00000138.htm">http://www.conyersblog.us/archives/00000138.htm</a>
June 16, 2005	Congressman Conyers holds a historic hearing on the Downing Street Memo, attended by numerous press outlets and 32 members of Congress. The Republicans hold 12 votes during the hearing, a near unprecedented number and refuse to provide a proper room for the hearing to take place (the hearing adjourns in a Capital basement room). After the hearing, Congressman Conyers leads a Congressional Delegation to the White House to personally deliver a letter and over 500,000 citizen petitions, demanding answers from the President about the allegations in the Downing Street Memo	“Conyers holds Downing Street Hearings.” <i>Democracy Now!</i> Available at: <a href="http://www.democracynow.org/article.pl?sid=05/06/17/1425207">http://www.democracynow.org/article.pl?sid=05/06/17/1425207</a>
June 16, 2005	The White House Press Secretary, Scott McClellan states that the President has not responded to Congressman Conyers’ letter “Because I think that this is an individual who voted against the war in the first place and is simply trying to rehash old debates that have already been addressed. And our focus is not on the past. It’s on the future and working to make sure we succeed in Iraq.”	Press Briefing by Scott McClellan. 16 June 2005. Available at: <a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2005/06/20050616-5.html">http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2005/06/20050616-5.html</a>
June 16, 2005	<i>Newsweek</i> reports that two high ranking British Officials confirmed that by 2002 Iraq’s nuclear weapons program was “effectively frozen” and there was “no recent evidence” tying Iraq to international terrorism, notwithstanding the Administration’s claims to the contrary.	“From Downing Street to Capitol Hill.” <i>MSNBC</i> . 17 June 2005. Available at: <a href="http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/8234762/site/newsweek/">http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/8234762/site/newsweek/</a>

Date	Statement	Source
June 20, 2005	Vice President Cheney says, on a CNN interview, "The level of activity that we see today from a military standpoint, I think, will clearly decline. I think they're in the last throes, if you will, of the insurgency."	"Iraq insurgency in 'last throes' Cheney says." <i>CNN</i> . 20 June 2005. Available at: <a href="http://www.cnn.com/2005/US/05/30/cheney.iraq/">http://www.cnn.com/2005/US/05/30/cheney.iraq/</a>
June 21, 2005	Hardball does a Special Report on the Downing Street Memo with primary guest Michael Smith (the original author of the London Times piece), and former CIA Director Jim Woolsey, as well as UN Weapons Inspector David Kay. Michael Smith points out <i>twice</i> that the key element of the minutes is the apparent plot to use the UN as a pretext to create a legal justification for the war when none currently existed.	"Hardball with Chris Matthews." <i>MSNBC</i> . 21 June 2005. Transcript available at: <a href="http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/8301757/">http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/8301757/</a>
June 22, 2005	Senator Kerry (D - MA) sends letter to Senate Intelligence Committee pressing for answers on the Downing Street Memo and other Downing documents. The letter is also signed by Senators Johnson, Corzine, Reid, Lautenberg, Boxer, Kennedy, Harkin, Bingaman, and Durbin.	"Kerry's letter on Downing Street." <i>Rawstory.com</i> . 22 June 2005. Available at: <a href="http://www.rawstory.com/news/2005/kerry_downing_street_letter_624.htm">www.rawstory.com/news/2005/kerry_downing_street_letter_624.htm</a>
June 27, 2005	ABC and the Washington Post release a poll that shows more than half of Americans (57%) now say that the administration "intentionally misled" the public on the reasons for going to war.	"Restoring Order Balances Bush Criticism." <i>ABCNews</i> . 27 June 2005. Available at: <a href="http://abcnews.go.com/US/story?id=885745&amp;page=1">http://abcnews.go.com/US/story?id=885745&amp;page=1</a>
June 28, 2005	President Bush delivers a speech in which he states the sacrifice of American lives "is worth it, and is vital to the future security of our country." The President ignores the Downing Street Minutes.	President Addresses the Nation. 28 June, 2005. Transcript available at: <a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2005/06/20050628-7.html">http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2005/06/20050628-7.html</a>
June 29, 2005	In an AP interview, Tony Blair addresses the Downing Street Memo, "People say the decision [to go to war] was already taken. The decision was not already taken . . . [t]he trouble with having a political discussion on the basis of things that are leaked is that they are always taken right out of context. Everything else is omitted from the discussion and you end up focusing on a specific document," he said.	"Blair Denies Claims U.S. Rushed to War." <i>AP</i> . 29 June 2005. Available at: <a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/06/29/AR2005062901644.html">http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/06/29/AR2005062901644.html</a>

Date	Statement	Source
June 30, 2005	Representative John Conyers, Jr., (D-MI) House Judiciary Committee Ranking Member, along with 51 other Members submitted a broad and comprehensive FOIA request to the White House, the Department of Defense, and the Department of State seeking any and all documents and materials concerning the Downing Street Minutes and the lead up to the Iraq war. In addition, the Members also formally requested that the House Committees on Judiciary, Armed Services, International Relations, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence commence hearings on the Downing Street Minutes.	FOIA request available at: <a href="http://www.house.gov/conyers/">http://www.house.gov/conyers/</a>
July 10, 2005	Karl Rove's lawyer says that Rove discussed Plame's role with Matthew Cooper of Time Magazine but did not name her.	Josh White. "Rove told Reporter of Plame's Role But Didn't Name Her." 10 July 2005. <i>The Washington Post</i> . Available at: <a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/07/10/AR2005071001000.html">http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/07/10/AR2005071001000.html</a>
July 13, 2005	Matthew Cooper testifies before a federal grand jury. In this appearance, Cooper confirms that his source on the leak was Deputy Chief of Staff Karl Rove. He also testifies that he spoke with Scooter Libby on July 12th.	"Transcript of Remarks By Matt Cooper and Attorney After Testifying Today." <i>Editor and Publisher</i> . 13 July 2005. Available at: <a href="http://www.editorandpublisher.com/eadp/news/article_display.jsp?vnu_content_id=1000978837">http://www.editorandpublisher.com/eadp/news/article_display.jsp?vnu_content_id=1000978837</a>
July 14, 2005	Congressman Conyers writes a letter to Judiciary Committee Chairman Sensenbrenner requesting hearings on the Plame leak matter.	Available at <a href="http://www.house.gov/judiciary_democrats/letters/rovehrgrequestltr71405.pdf">http://www.house.gov/judiciary_democrats/letters/rovehrgrequestltr71405.pdf</a>
July 14, 2005	Congressman Conyers writes a letter to the President, signed by 91 members of Congress, urging him to demand either that Karl Rove explain his role in the leak of Valerie Plame's identity as an undercover CIA operative or that Karl Rove resign.	Available at <a href="http://www.house.gov/judiciary_democrats/letters/presroveltr71405.pdf">www.house.gov/judiciary_democrats/letters/presroveltr71405.pdf</a>

Date	Statement	Source
July 15, 2005	Congressman Conyers writes a letter with Rep. Barney Frank asking the Congressional Research Service if presidential advisors such as Rove are subject to impeachment proceedings	Letter available at <a href="http://www.bradblogger.com/archives/00001601.htm">http://www.bradblogger.com/archives/00001601.htm</a>
July 17, 2005	Matthew Cooper contradicts Rove's claim that he learned about Valerie Plame from the Press. Cooper states quite clearly that he learned for the first time about Plame from Rove, not the other way around.	What I Told the Grand Jury, Time Magazine Online, available at <a href="http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1083899,00.html">http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1083899,00.html</a>
July 18, 2005	Rep. Waxman writes a letter to the President explaining that the President's responsibility under E.O. 12958 to protect national security secrets requires the President to act before Special Prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald completes his criminal investigation and to apply different standards and sanctions.	<a href="http://www.democrats.reform.house.gov/story.asp?ID=893&amp;Issue=Disclosure+of+CIA+Agent+Identity">http://www.democrats.reform.house.gov/story.asp?ID=893&amp;Issue=Disclosure+of+CIA+Agent+Identity</a>
July 18, 2005	The number of troop casualties since the beginning of the war is 1,765 with 13,190 wounded. Since President Bush's mission accomplished speech (5/1/03) there have been 1628 deaths.	"Casualties in Iraq." Antiwar.com. Available at: <a href="http://antiwar.com/casualties/">http://antiwar.com/casualties/</a>
July 18, 2005	President Bush comments on the Valerie Plame leak. "And if someone committed a crime, they will no longer work in my administration." The language 'committed a crime' is different from Bush's earlier statements in which he said he would fire anyone who leaked the information.	"Bush vows to fire anyone who committed crime in CIA leak." CNN. 18 July 2005. Available at: <a href="http://www.cnn.com/2005/POLITICS/07/18/cia.leak/index.html">www.cnn.com/2005/POLITICS/07/18/cia.leak/index.html</a>
July 19, 2005	According to legal sources with firsthand knowledge of the matter, Karl Rove did not disclose that he had ever discussed CIA officer Valerie Plame with <i>Time</i> magazine reporter Matthew Cooper during Rove's first interview with the FBI.	An Unlikely Story, the American Prospect, July 19, 2005, available at <a href="http://www.prospect.org/web/page.ww?section=root&amp;name=ViewWeb&amp;articleId=10016">http://www.prospect.org/web/page.ww?section=root&amp;name=ViewWeb&amp;articleId=10016</a>
July 20, 2005	Currently, 131 Members of Congress have signed the letter to the President regarding answers to the Downing Street Minutes. demanding answers to important questions that were raised in light of the Downing Street minutes.	Letter and signatories available at: <a href="http://www.house.gov/judiciary_democrats/letters/chairdowningltr63005.pdf">http://www.house.gov/judiciary_democrats/letters/chairdowningltr63005.pdf</a>

<b>Date</b>	<b>Statement</b>	<b>Source</b>
July 23, 2005	On the third anniversary of the Downing Street Minutes, Congressman Conyers along with other 9 members of Congress hold nationwide townhall meetings on the Minutes and Rovegate.	