

# TABOO OPINIONS #81

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## 12-29-05 OUR MAN IN IRAQ

Here are the 2-3-4 paragraphs from a long, headline **[U.N. endorses results of Iraqi election]** front-page story (Patrick Quinn, The Associated Press) in The Oregonian today:

‘Preliminary results, which gave a big lead to the ruling Shiite religious bloc, also indicated that Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Chalabi, a former Washington insider, will not be re-elected to the new 275-member parliament, his office said.

‘Before the ouster of Saddam Hussein in 2003, Chalabi, then living in exile, was a favorite of the U.S. Defense Department and Congress. A secular Shiite, he fell from grace after his claims that Saddam possessed weapons of mass destruction were discredited.

‘U.S. forces last year raided Chalabi’s Baghdad office after he was accused of giving U.S. intelligence to Iran, but the 60-year-old insider slowly had been working his way back. Pegged as a possible prime minister before the December 15 elections, he met last month in Washington with Vice President Dick Cheney, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.’

A cleverly informative, disguised story---if you can put it in perspective.

{Part of the perspective is that the last 5 (short) paragraphs of this 32-paragraph story, beginning, ‘Also Wednesday, the Pentagon ...’ deal with the helicopter deaths of two U.S. airmen in Iraq. It isn’t the brevity of the casualties coverage I find significant, it is its hiding place at the very end of a story dedicated to the Iraqi election, a story 99.99% of the readers will not read to that end.}

But back to Chalabi, a decades-in-exile con man in London, who fed the British and U.S. government desired “intelligence” and who posed as a freedom-loving Iraqi opposition leader-in-exile.

It was Chalabi’s Weapons of Mass Destruction “intelligence”

(from his mythical “informants” in Iraq), unchallenged and sometimes echoed by the CIA (from their “informants” in Iraq and elsewhere) which was used by Bush, Cheney and others in the Bush administration to create the threat of a possible imminent attack by Saddam using WMD which justified the invasion of Iraq.

As a reward for his WMD labors in the spying game, Chalabi was returned to Iraq after the invasion’s “success” and given his Deputy Prime Minister post in the preliminary Iraqi government.

He has friends in high places, obviously---and probably a few enemies in high places---because of the giving U.S. secrets to Iran charges---and his survival in the Iraqi government.

So why---after it was proven that his false “intelligence” helped cause an unprovoked invasion and huge embarrassment to Bush and his inner insiders---why was Chalabi welcomed to the White House, given meetings with Cheney, Rumsfeld and Rice, and sent back to Iraq?

Delusions die hard sometimes. A secular Shiite government in Iraq, led by our prostitute Chalabi, is/was a delusion fixed in the minds of the Bushites.

Saddam Hussein’s secular Sunni government in Iraq wasn’t any good anymore; Saddam stopped taking orders almost 20 years ago. He got delusions of grandeur.

Now it’s a good bet we’ll have lurched and stumbled into creating a Shiite religious dictatorship and a major war for independence by the Kurds.

Question for the year: Do we support the Kurds...or the Shiites?

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