

IRAQ INTELLIGENCE PROBE Inquiry Must Determine What Can Be Collected, Verified

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2, 2004 – A CSIS analyst made the following statement today about President Bush’s decision to launch an investigation into Iraq intelligence failures:

Anthony Cordesman, director, International Security Program, Arleigh A. Burke Chair in Strategy, (202-775-3270; acordesman@aol.com): “We need to look far beyond the politics of what intelligence said about Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, and any failures in analysis, and to examine what intelligence can and cannot collect and verify. We need to look at the changes in chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons technology that are making such efforts easier to conceal, and determine how the problem will change in the future. We also need to remember that more than 10 years of UN inspection efforts that were far more intense than those permitted under any arms control regime failed just as badly as intelligence, and realize that what happened is just as much an arms control problem as an intelligence problem.”

Cordesman’s latest report on the topic, “Intelligence, Iraq, and Weapons of Mass Destruction,” can be found in the Iraq Briefing Book, in the Post-War section, at <http://www.csis.org/features/iraq.cfm>

CSIS is an independent, nonpartisan public policy research organization.