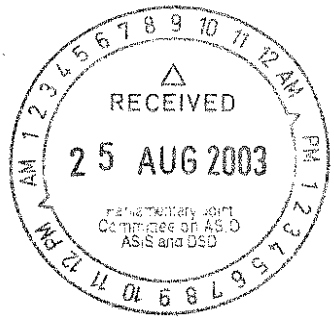
SUBMISSION ...13.....



JANIS EMBURY

22 August 2003

Inquiry into Intelligence on Iraq's Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) : call for submissions,
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Please accept the following late submission on the grounds that research has been complex.

The following submission establishes that US intelligence agencies in collaboration with the US Geological Survey were fully conversant with the issues set out below i.e. that the main reason for the invasion of Iraq was to gain control of Iraq's oil production. The US Geological Survey states on its website that it collaborated with US intelligence agencies in the production of the reports contained on their website.

This then directly relates to the US and Australia's need to "sex up" the intelligence, so as to present a much more palatable justification to the world for the invasion of Iraq.

Most of the material below is taken directly from key reports available on US Government websites, particularly the US Geological Survey and the US Department of Energy.

I have also included background information from Australia. My qualifications include a Journalism/Sciences degree which includes Earth Sciences (Geopolitics and oil) and Environmental Science and I am currently a Melbourne University student and much the research below was submitted to Melbourne University as part of course work last semester.

I quote one of Australia's leading geologists, who has been recognised by the Academy of Science. He is not named in this submission - while his comments are important as background and cover wider issues, they are not directly relevant to the Parliamentary Inquiry.

I also include background and explain the role of the Geological Surveys.

Overwhelming geological and geopolitical evidence set out in US Geological Survey reports establishes that oil was, if not the only motive, one of the major motivations for the invasion of Iraq.

The US intelligence was presumably available to Australian Intelligence agencies, subject of this inquiry - particularly given that the reports are available to the public on the internet and that Australia has an intelligence sharing agreement with the US.

The invasion of Iraq occurred within the context of a long term oil workers strike in Venezuela which halted oil exports to the US and Congress' rejection of Bush's proposal to open up the US Arctic reserves for oil production. The West is facing a future in which their own oil resources are running dry, and the world's remaining oil-rich areas are located in countries which are in the main, politically difficult, at least from the US point of view.

For decades Petroleum Geologists have warned that the Western world is running out of oil. Despite the many significant oil discoveries throughout the world, from the late 1960s onward, US Petroleum Geologists began warning oil companies and governments - in particular the US government - that the West was on the verge of an oil crisis. World oil consumption was doubling every ten years[1], and Geologists reported that consumption had escalated to such an extent that at some point in the near future, the West's limited and non-renewable oil resources would not be sufficient to meet demand.

The significance of these warnings is evident when we look at the history of the conventional Texas oil fields, some of the largest fields in the world. These fields, which have been producing for over eighty years, are now almost dry. At maximum production in the 1970s, they produced 3.5 million barrels of oil per day. They now produce only one million barrels of oil a day.[2]

In 2003, the US is consuming 20 million barrels of oil per day.[3] (Oil & Gas Journal sources estimate that Iraq will produce 6 million barrels of oil per day when it reaches maximum production in 2012. This may be a conservative estimate. The US Geological Survey reports Iraq has 60 new evaluated but undeveloped fields and vast areas still be explored). Twenty million barrels of oil a day constitutes 40 per cent of total world oil consumption and is seriously excessive in world terms.

Evidence suggests that the US refuses to substantially reduce its oil consumption. The US, unlike Australia, uses oil in conjunction with coal and gas in the production of electricity[4], and, despite their substantial gas resources[5], uses oil as fuel for heating.

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[1] "Earth Resources" by Brian J Skinner, first published in the US 1969, and was my Earth Sciences textbook for instance, here in Australia in the early 80s.
[2] Railroad Commission of Texas, "History of Texas Crude Oil Annual Production and Producing Wells".
[3] US Geological Survey "US Energy and World Energy Statistics"
[4] US Department of Energy
[5] US Geological Survey, "1995 National Assessment of United States Oil and Gas Resources"

The warnings of Petroleum Geologists have been ignored for decades and now the predicted 'oil crunch' for the West has occurred.

As far back as the 1940s, leading Australian Petroleum Geologist, Dr Harold Raggatt, (responsible for one of Australia's first oil discoveries, at Barrow Island off the coast of Western Australia), advised the then prime minister, Ben Chifley that the Australian Government needed to actively explore the country and produce geological maps and information to attract mining and oil exploration interest[6].

Geologists from the Geological Surveys in each state geologically mapped most of the country.

The N.W. Shelf Gas fields were discovered by a Victorian Geological Survey, Petroleum Geologist, Dr Nicolas Boutakoff. And contrary to folklore, Boutakoff also located the Bass Strait oil fields and recommended the drilling program which secured the oil. In a small boat using bathymetry, which involves measuring depth and identifying undersea oil structures such as anticlines, Boutakoff mapped most of Australia's offshore areas and located specific oil fields by additionally sighting or following up reports of onshore oil seeps.

In the 'History and Role of Government Geological Surveys in Australia', R K Johns sums up the Survey's role and it's conflicts with Government:

> "Geological Surveys are a feature of government science and technology in practically every country in the world and governments have generally found it necessary to establish a body to advise on mineral resources. But the geologist's and the politician's views on how this can be done have frequently been in conflict. Governments in the past have sought quick answers to short-term problems....."

In the late 1940s, Harold Raggatt believed that Australia's promising geology indicated that Australia could become self-sufficient in oil.

In its most recent budget, the Australian Government promised 20 million dollars to the government body, Geosciences Australia, to assist oil companies in discovering more oil resources in Australia. The budget also included further funding for the CSIRO, which is engaged in similar work and research to increase oil recovery efficiency.

Geosciences Australia, however, reports[7] that any further oil discoveries in Australia are unlikely to be significant. The Report's authors expressed concern, that on confirmed discoveries in 1999, Australia had only 11.8 years oil life left.

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[6] "Mountains of Ore", H G Raggatt
[7] "Oil & Gas Resources of Australia, 2000"

While oil exploration must continue in the West, Australia is not in the difficult position that America faces.

Australia has vast coal reserves which can be converted to oil by adding hydrogen and pressure. Estimates are that this source can provide a supply of oil for hundreds of years although oil produced in this way would cost twice as much at the pump.

Australia also has vast gas resources. Coal and gas, however, are both non-renewable.

Where do we go when our main resources have run dry? There is always Antarctica[8] and perhaps even the Great Barrier Reef .... and this is the problem.

The CSIRO is engaged in the geological mapping of Australia to a depth of ten kilometres.

Over the past five years oil companies have begun deep-sea drilling programs in earnest.

Geosciences Australia, adopted a method of predicting future discoveries developed by the US Government's, Geological Survey.

The US Geological Survey is the world's leading authority on world oil resources and according to its website collaborates with intelligence agencies in the production of its reports.

In it's '1995 National Assessment of United States Oil and Gas Resources', the US Geological Survey reported that the US had only 110 billion barrels of oil remaining, including predicted future discoveries.

Based on a consumption of 20 million barrels of oil per day, (which the Survey predicts will increase by one-third by 2020), America has fifteen years of oil life left. This estimate is based on domestic oil as the sole source and does not include oil imports, it includes the Arctic reserves, and it does not take into account the predicted one-third increase in oil consumption.

The US Department of Energy[9] , reports that the North Sea oil fields, which are a major supplier of oil to Europe and the UK, reached maximum production in 2003. The report concludes that no new major oil areas will be found in the vicinity and therefore production from these fields will begin to decline from this year.

The most important finding in the US Geological Survey Report, detailed in the Report and Fact Sheet entitled, 'US Geological Survey World Petroleum

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[8] "Last of Lands Antarctica", J F Lovering
[9] US Department of Energy, Fact Sheet, "North Sea"

Assessment 2000', is the conclusion that not only is the West is running of oil, but that the future oil-rich areas of the world are located in regions which may be politically difficult, at least from the US point of view.

The USGS assessment of the regional distribution of *undiscovered* conventional oil and gas resources:

> 'indicates that the Middle East and North Africa region contains 35.4 percent of the world's undiscovered conventional oil; the former Soviet Union contains 17.9 percent; and the Central and South America region contains 16.2 percent. For undiscovered conventional natural gas (exclusive of the United States), the former Soviet Union holds 34.5 percent of the world's total; the Middle East and North Africa region holds 29.3 percent. For both oil and natural gas, a significant part of the undiscovered resources outside the Middle East lie offshore in waters as deep as 4000 metres.'

In 2001, the US Department of Energy listed the oil-rich countries which are regarded as politically difficult for the US[10] as Algeria, Angola, Caspian/Caucasus, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Nigeria, Sudan and Venezuela.

Oil consumption is a measure and function of a country's development. The greater the development the greater the oil consumption. The greater the development worldwide, the less oil available to meet current world demand.

On the question of whether the US can afford developing countries to continue to develop, one of Australia's leading geologists concludes, 'No. Even if say, just China developed, the world's oil resources would be guzzled up overnight.'

There is no doubt that government's and oil companies must have been aware of these issues since at least the 1980s. The future direction of oil must have become apparent to the Texas-based US oil multinationals when oil production began diminishing there in the 1970s. These multinationals were also exploring for oil in most countries throughout the world, including developing countries[11].

The US President, a former Texas oil man and former Governor of Texas must have been fully aware, prior to gaining office, of America's difficulties in relation to oil resources, and the geopolitical implications of these difficulties. Past presidents had to have known that the Texas fields had been running dry and that this ratified geologist's warnings.

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[10] US Department of Energy, "World Energy 'Areas to Watch'

[11] American Association of Petroleum Geologists, Annual Reports

The overwhelming evidence is that the war against Iraq is the geopolitical outcome of decades of Western government neglect of significant support and funding for research into renewable energy resource technologies.

There has been a significant lack of necessary government funding and support, over several decades, for universities and independent research into solar, electric and other related alternative technologies including Bio-energy. These technologies include the Sarich orbital engine, which was developed in Perth decades ago, to reduce petrol consumption by 12-20 per cent. This engine is only now being introduced into cars in Europe and the US. Aerodynamics and light metals are other areas which can reduce fuel consumption. Some of these technologies could have been combined and introduced decades ago.

It seems reasonable to conclude in this economic rationalist era, that the interests of oil multinationals have dominated.

Energy is crucial to our lives. The head of the US Geological Survey, Thomas Ahlbrandt, opens the Survey's 'US Geological Survey World Petroleum Assessment 2000' with this warning :

> *'The importance of mineral and energy mineral resources cannot be overestimated. Most critical among the resources is energy. Energy is the key which unlocks all other natural resources. Without it the wheels of industry do not turn, no metals are mined and smelted. No cars, trucks, trains, ships or airplanes could be built and if built, they could not move without energy. Without energy, houses would remain cold and unlighted, food would be uncooked. Fields could not be ploughed nor planted with the ease and on the vast scale they are today by means of relatively little human labor. Military defence as we know it today would not exist. Without energy resources we would literally be back in the Stone Age. And without the use of energy and metals as we use them today, it is probable that the world's population would be reduced at least one-half, some estimates say 90 percent."* (Youngquist, 1997).

The US does have a choice. Wind and solar technologies are available now, to convert sun and wind energy to electricity, to power cities.

America has vast gas reserves. Cars can be temporarily converted to gas.

The CSIRO's "drive train" for GM Holden ECOmmodore, for example, reduces energy usage compared to an equivalent conventional vehicle by up to half.

The introduction of electric cars is proposed as a serious attempt to address the need to reduce oil consumption in the West.

However, the US uses a mix of oil and coal to produce electricity and it therefore seems logical to conclude that the benefits for Americans would be less significant.

In addition, petrol driven vehicles include, motor vehicles, power boats, ships, trucks, farm machinery and planes. Additional, petroleum products include for example, bituminous tar for road surfacing, plastics and petrochemicals including paint.

The US Geological Survey reports that oil exploration in the US has been so extensive that the US has identified its oil and gas resources.

The world cannot continue to leave decision-making on the direction of our non-renewable resources and alternatives up to the US and business interests. Both have proved through their inaction over past decades that they are only interested in the quick solution to the immediate problem, rather than long-term sustainability.

Warfare and the associated bullying and undermining of the UN and International Law, have become, it appears, part of this quick solution.