

Team has not found weapons stockpiles in Iraq

The CIA group reports that they have found evidence of weapons "activities," including nuclear research

By Warren P. Strobel
and Jim Kuhnhehn
Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)

WASHINGTON — The head of a CIA team hunting for Iraq's weapons of mass destruction told Congress on Thursday that he had not found any stockpiles of the chemical or biological arms that President Bush cited as the primary reason to invade Iraq in March.

David Kay, whose teams have been scouring Iraq and interviewing captured Iraqi officials for three months, also reported that specialists found no evidence that Iraq's nuclear weapons program had progressed

beyond a rudimentary stage.

That program was cited by Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney and others as perhaps the most fearsome threat posed by former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

Kay's report is likely to intensify the debate over whether the administration intentionally misled the public on the threat posed by Iraq's weapons programs.

But Kay, a former U.N. weapons inspector, cautioned the House and Senate intelligence committees that his report was an interim one and that it was still possible weapons would be found. He said he found evidence that Iraq continued weapons development in violation of U.N. strictures.

"We have not yet found stocks of weapons, but we are not yet at the point where we can say definitively either that such weapons stocks do not exist or that

they existed before the war, and our only task is to find where they have gone," Kay said in an unclassified version of his testimony released by the CIA.

Members of his Iraq Survey Group, Kay said, have discovered weapons "activities" and equipment that were concealed from U.N. inspectors when they returned to Iraq late last year. Those include apparent biological weapons research and Iraqi attempts between 1999 and 2002 to import technology for 900-mile range missiles from North Korea, he said.

Reaction from intelligence committee members ranged from support for Kay's work to frustration over the meager findings to dismay that one of the central justifications for war had not been proved.

"This raises real questions about the doctrine of pre-emption," said Sen. Jay Rockefeller, of West Virginia, the rank-

ing Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee. "You just don't make decisions like we do and put our nation's youth at risk based upon something that appears not to have existed."

The committee chairman, Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., declared himself "not pleased with what I heard today."

"Everybody involved in this effort ... would have hoped by now there would have been a breakthrough," he said.

But Rep. Porter Goss, chairman of the House panel, said Kay's report showed Bush's decision to remove Saddam was justified. "From the information uncovered to date, it is clear that the threat Saddam presented to the region and to the world was real, growing and grave," said Goss, R-Fla.

Bush aides said Thursday that they still expect to find proof that Saddam possessed weapons of mass destruction.

"I have not seen anything that leads me to believe that the intelligence that I relied on is necessarily, in the aggregate, inaccurate," said Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. "I believed it then. I believe it now."

Kay said interviews with Iraqi scientists confirmed that the Iraqi leader remained committed to acquiring atomic arms, perhaps after U.N. sanctions were lifted.

But Kay, speaking to reporters after his testimony, said evidence to date indicated "a restart" of the nuclear program — which was halted by the 1991 Persian Gulf War — was only "at the very most rudimentary level."

"It clearly does not look like a massive resurgent program," he said.

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North Korea plans to boost supply of nuclear weapons

North Korea's ambitions to increase its arsenal could force the Bush team to focus on that region more

By Tim Johnson
Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)

BEIJING — North Korea declared Thursday that it has processed spent nuclear-fuel rods in order to make nuclear weapons, and a North Korean diplomat reportedly said his country would boost its nuclear arsenal but wouldn't market weapons abroad.

The claims from the largely closed communist nation were impossible to verify but are certain to add pressure on the Bush administration to focus on the instability that may unfold in East Asia

as a result of North Korea capital city Pyongyang's nuclear ambitions.

"(North Korea) successfully finished the reprocessing of some 8,000 spent fuel rods," a spokesman for North Korea's foreign ministry said in a statement carried by the official KCNA news agency.

The spokesman, who wasn't identified, said his nation was using plutonium from the fuel rods at a once-mothballed nuclear plant north of Pyongyang "in the direction (of) increasing its nuclear deterrent force."

Deputy Foreign Minister Choe Su Hon, speaking to reporters at North Korea's mission to the United Nations, said his country was determined to fortify its nuclear arsenal, according to China's official Xinhua News Service.

"Since the United States has threatened (North Korea) with nuclear weapons to launch a pre-emptive nuclear attack against (North Korea), we have no choice but to be in possession of the nuclear deterrent," Choe said.

Choe declined to say how many nuclear weapons his nation has. The CIA has said North Korea might have one or two nuclear weapons. The plutonium from the reprocessed rods could produce five to six more nuclear weapons within about six months.

"One thing we can tell you is that we are in possession of nuclear deterrent and we're continuing to strengthen that deterrent," Choe said, according to Xinhua.

Secretary of State Colin Powell said in Washington that North Korea had claimed twice before that it had fin-

ished the reprocessing.

"We have no evidence to confirm that," Powell said.

"I believe that this is a matter of serious concern for the international community," Powell added, "and I think North Korea's neighbors should also be delivering a message to (North Korean leader) Kim Jong Il that the solution to the problem is for them to stop moving in this direction, continue to participate in the diplomacy that is under way."

Powell said U.S. officials were looking into how they might "provide the kinds of security assurances that might help to move the process along."

A U.S. official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the latest North Korean claim appeared to be posturing in preparation for a new round of talks on its nuclear weapons program.

The last talks — involving the United States, North Korea, Russia, China, South Korea and Japan — took place in late August. While no date has been set, observers expect a new round of talks before the end of the year.

Choe, who was in New York attending the annual U.N. General Assembly, said his nation wasn't committed to further talks.

"Certain mass media (are) circulating rumors as though we have just made promises to participate in the next round of the six-party talks," Choe was quoted as saying. "Unfortunately, this is not true."

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How To Throw A Responsible Party

Information for Students Hosting Parties: The ASUO, Eugene Police Department, and University of Oregon Office of Student Life have developed these ten steps to help you have a successful party in campus neighborhoods.

1. Invite your friends. Make sure you control the guest invitations so you don't find yourself with 300 people showing up, saying they have been invited by someone who was invited by someone you invited. Don't put up fliers, posters, etc. about your party. A moderate-sized party is one at which you can have fun. A party that grows out of control is one where you will spend all your time dealing with problems instead of socializing and having a good time yourself.
2. Keep the planned size of your party in line with the size and capacity of your facility, including bathroom facilities. Remember that your party cannot use your neighbors' yards or city streets.
3. Find ways to celebrate that do not involve alcohol. If you choose to serve alcohol, ensure that you are only serving to people 21 years of age or older.
4. Determine who will be the party's designated non-drinking monitor; those persons can do a lot to keep things under control and should be the ones to interact with the police if they get called to your party (see 7, 9, and 10).
5. Remember that if you host a party that gets out of control, you may be legally liable for criminal and civil action or restitution for police and other city services.
6. Remember that if you host a party, you are legally liable if persons under 21 drink alcohol or if someone drinks until they are intoxicated.
7. Control access to your party. Have a door monitor with specific instructions about whom to admit. Don't let random people into your house who are walking around looking for a party.
8. Notify your neighbors of your party plans. Let them know what you plan in terms of size, hours, music, etc. Tell them they can contact you if they have problems created by your party.
9. There are several circumstances that will draw police attention to your party:
 - loud noise.
 - admitting people under 21 years old.
 - letting people carry beverages outside from your party.
10. Be cooperative with neighbors, police, or other concerned persons who come to you during the party to discuss a problem. Being cooperative will keep the problem from escalating to a higher-level response (e.g., your arrest!).
11. Your neighbors may be more tolerant of your next party if you clean up promptly after your party. Clean up all debris your guests have carried outside and left in your yard, in other people's yards, or in the street.

