

Administration Statements About Iraqi - al Qaeda Links

Bush	09/25/02 Al Qaeda hides. Saddam doesn't, but the danger is, is that they work in concert. The danger is, is that al Qaeda becomes an extension of Saddam's madness and his hatred and his capacity to extend weapons of mass destruction around the world...[Y]ou can't distinguish between al Qaeda and Saddam when you talk about the war on terror.	Photo Op w/Pres. Urbe of Colombia
Bush	09/26/02 The regime has long-standing and continuing ties to terrorist organizations. And there are al-Qaeda terrorists inside Iraq. The regime is seeking a nuclear bomb, and with fissile material, could build one within a year.	Rose Garden
Bush	09/28/02 The regime has long-standing and continuing ties to terrorist groups, and there are al Qaeda terrorists inside Iraq.	Radio Address
Bush	10/07/02 We know that Iraq and al Qaeda have had high-level contacts that go back a decade. Some al Qaeda leaders who fled Afghanistan went to Iraq. These include one very senior al Qaeda leader who received medical treatment in Baghdad this year, and who has been associated with planning for chemical and biological attacks. We've learned that Iraq has trained al Qaeda members in bomb-making and poisons and deadly gases.	Speech in Cincinnati
Bush	10/14/02 After September the 11th, we've entered into a new era and a new war. This is a man that we know has had connections with al Qaeda. This is a man who, in my judgment, would like to use al Qaeda as a forward army.	Remarks in Dearborn, MI
Bush	01/31/03 [Colin Powell] will also talk about al Qaeda links, links that really do portend a danger for America and for Great Britain...	Remarks w/ P. M. Blair
Bush	02/06/03 One of the greatest dangers we face is that weapons of mass destruction might be passed to terrorists, who would not hesitate to use those weapons. Saddam Hussein has long-standing, direct and continuing ties to terrorist networks. Senior members of Iraqi intelligence and al Qaeda have met at least eight times since the early 1990s. Iraq has sent bomb-making and document forgery experts to work with al Qaeda. Iraq has also provided al Qaeda with chemical and biological weapons training.	Statement in the Roosevelt Room
Cheney	12/02/02 His regime has had high-level contacts with al Qaeda going back a decade and has provided training to al Qaeda terrorists. And as the President has said, "Iraq could decide on any given day to provide biological or chemical weapons to a terrorist group or to individual terrorists" -- which is why the war on terror will not be won till Iraq is completely and verifiably deprived of weapons of mass destruction.	Remarks at Air National Guard Conference
Cheney	03/16/03 We know he's used chemical weapons. We know he's reconstituted these programs since the Gulf War. We know he's out trying once again to produce nuclear weapons and we know that he has a long-standing relationship with various terrorist groups, including the al-Qaeda organization.	Meet the Press
Feith	02/21/03 Well if you're focused specifically on the question of the links between the Saddam Hussein regime and al-Qaeda, people who do not see the link are just not familiar with the evidence...	ABC Interview
Powell	01/26/03 Saddam should tell the truth, and tell the truth now. The more we wait, the more chance there is for this dictator with clear ties to terrorist groups, including al-Qaida, more time for him to pass a weapon, share a technology, or use these weapons again.	Remarks at the World Economic Forum

Powell	02/05/03	But what I want to bring to your attention today is the potentially much more sinister nexus between Iraq and the al-Qa'ida terrorist network, a nexus that combines classic terrorist organizations and modern methods of murder.	Address to the UN Security Council
Rice	11/15/02	Saddam Hussein has a long terrorist past. Whether it is in support of Palestinian rejectionists or the Abu Nidal organization, or helping some al Qaeda operatives gain training in CBRN, or having meetings with -- between Baghdad and al Qaeda in various parts of the world, there's a relationship here.	Briefing on NATO Summit
Rice	03/09/03	And secondly, a very strong link to training al-Qa'ida in chemical and biological weapons techniques. We know from a detainee that--the head of training for al-Qa'ida, that they sought help in developing chemical and biological weapons because they weren't doing very well on their own. They sought it in Iraq. They received the help.	<i>Face the Nation</i>
Rice	03/09/03	Now the al-Qa'ida is an organization that's quite dispersed and--and quite widespread in its effects, but it clearly has had links to the Iraqis, not to mention Iraqi links to all kinds of other terrorists. And what we do not want is the day when Saddam Hussein decides that he's had enough of dealing with sanctions, enough of dealing with, quote, unquote, "containment," enough of dealing with America, and it's time to end it on his terms, by transferring one of these weapons, just a little vial of something, to a terrorist for blackmail or for worse.	<i>Face the Nation</i>
Rumsfeld	09/21/02	He has relationships with terrorists networks and there are al Qaeda currently in the country so he is a classic example of the nexus between a terrorist state and well advanced weapons of mass destruction programs and relationships with terrorists.	<i>Sunday Times</i> London
Rumsfeld	09/24/02	Q: Did he say anything about whether there is a connection between Iraq and al Qa'ida? Rumsfeld: Oh, certainly, there is.	Poland Press Conference
Rumsfeld	09/25/02	Q: Are there linkages between al Qaeda and Iraq? And where are they? Rumsfeld: The deputy director of Central Intelligence briefed on that subject. I have no desire to go beyond saying the answer is yes.	Warsaw Press Conference
Rumsfeld	01/29/03	Q: Mr. Secretary, what hard evidence does the administration have showing a direct link between Saddam Hussein and the al Qaeda? Rumsfeld: The -- I have here listed a series of facts that the agency provided me as to their assessment and evidence with respect to the relationship. I won't repeat that. I can say this, that every day that has passed since I did that, the evidence has grown.	Press briefing
Tenet	10/07/02	Our understanding of the relationship between Iraq and al-Qa'ida is evolving and is based on sources of varying reliability. Some of the information we have received comes from detainees, including some of high rank. We have solid reporting of senior level contacts between Iraq and al-Qa'ida going back a decade. Credible information indicates that Iraq and al-Qa'ida have discussed safe haven and reciprocal nonaggression. Since Operation Enduring Freedom, we have solid evidence of the presence in Iraq of al-Qa'ida members, including some that have been in Baghdad. We have credible reporting that al-Qa'ida leaders sought contacts in Iraq who could help them acquire W.M.D. capabilities. The reporting also stated that Iraq has provided training to al-Qa'ida members in the areas of poisons and gases and making conventional bombs. Iraq's increasing support to extremist Palestinians coupled with growing indications of a relationship with al-Qa'ida, suggest that Baghdad's links to terrorists will increase, even absent U.S. military	Letter to Senator Bob Graham

Tenet 02/11/03 WARNER: Now, what evidence can you share publicly that Iraq is disseminating through worldwide terrorist organizations or in other ways any of their alleged cache of literally tons of these chemicals and biological agents which can bring about mass destruction of our people? TENET: ... Obviously we have some concerns about the safe haven that's been created, and I did not suggest operational direction and control. But over time you learn more things. How that plays out is -- and whether, you know, these things get to second- or third-hand players is something that you're always worried about. So I think we've -- we've taken these cases as far as we can and given all these papers to you... WARNER: But that is a threat to the security here at home. Am I correct? TENET: Sir, you have to -- you have to worry about how those things can ultimately be transported in the hands of multiple groups to affect the security of the American people.

Wolfowitz 02/06/03 And, worst of all, his connections with terrorists, which go back decades, and which started some 10 years ago with al Qaeda, are growing every day. KGO-TV Interview

Wolfowitz 02/23/03 Saddam is not quite as foolish as the Taliban. But the support for terrorism is clear-cut. The support for al Qaeda is clear-cut. Detroit News Interview