

Will the US Cont Threats Against

by Janet Jagan

As far back as July, 2003, I wrote in this column: "Other double standards are becoming public property, like the labeling of Iran as an axis of evil and the subsequent efforts to push that country to its knees, to admit having nuclear power and maybe another excuse for another invasion." And as an aside, in these columns, I too pointed out before the Iraqi invasion that there were no weapon of mass destruction there – the excuse given by Bush and his warmongers to start the disastrous war in Iraq. And, of course, there were no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

The same scenario, like a bad movie being promoted at heavy expense, has been going on now for some four years against Syria and Iran, but mostly gearing up for an offensive against Iran.

The London "Guardian" reported in February last that "claims, reminiscent of the intelligence fiasco surrounding the Iraq war, coincided with a sharp increase in international tension as the International

Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reported that Iran was defying a UN Security Council ultimatum to freeze its nuclear programme."

But the "Guardian" also reported that much of the intelligence on Iran's nuclear facilities provided to UN inspectors by US spy agencies has turned out to be unfounded. This point, made back in February, must

international media, could undermine the US efforts to convince other world powers to put tougher sanctions on Iran.

All along, Iran, like Iraq in the past, has consistently declared that its nuclear programme is not military, but for domestic electricity.

Mr Bush and his war-minded clique want war for

preparation for the invasion of Iraq, they created false information. Who can forget Secretary of State Colin Powell's shameful performance before the UN Security Council, when he was given false documents and photos to show the nuclear build-up in Saddam Hussein's Iraq?

A once proud and respected man, used by

But the "Guardian" also reported that much of the intelligence on Iran's nuclear facilities provided to UN inspectors by US spy agencies has turned out to be unfounded. This point, made back in February, must be kept in mind following the recent reports this month on new intelligence reports from the USA which state that Iran halted its nuclear weapons programme in 2003. This latter world shattering news throws President Bush's accusations and probable preparation for another invasion, completely out of gear.

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The National Intelligence Estimate (NIE), it was reported on the

very specific reasons which I summarize as:

- 1) Controlling oil in the Middle East
 - 2) Having a more powerful influence, based on military strength, in the Middle East
 - 3) Protecting Israel
 - 4) Re-enforcing the concept that the USA is the most powerful nation in the world
- Providing more profits to the arms industry.

As the US intelligence sectors did in

White House hardliners, lost his credibility. In the case of Iran, there was one contentious issue which purported to show plans of a nuclear warhead Iran was building. The CIA claimed that it was found in a stolen laptop computer. (even in English)! This was later proved to be forged and so on and on go the efforts to prepare the groundwork for another invasion, this time Iran.

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What is so important in the analysis of the Bush threats to Iran regarding the accusation that it is building nuclear weapons is this recent information from US Intelligence that completely contradicts the Bush claims. The report of NIE said clearly "We do not know whether (Iran) currently intends to develop nuclear weapons." It was the same NIE that five years ago concluded that Iraq was developing weapons of mass destruction, which helped pave the way for the March 2003 invasion.

Said the NIE: "Tehran's decision to halt its nuclear weapons programme suggests it is less determined to develop nuclear weapons than we have been judging since 2005." It is significant that no tough threats were made to North Korea which openly flaunted its nuclear

war heads and even tested one publicly some months ago. But then geography has an important role to play in the Bush Administration's warmongering. Yet, back in October, President Bush was hinting about a 3rd World War because of Iran's alleged nuclear arms programme.

The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, initiated by the Bush regime, have caused unbelievable hardships in both countries. Millions have fled from Iraq to Syria and Jordan and away from the war zone, but within Iraq. The total numbers are about 4 million refugees. The war destruction has led, in both countries, to tens of thousands of deaths and injuries and much lower living standards - no electricity, water, or regular education, sparse food supplies and extreme poverty.

At the same time, the US is spending billions on the war, estimated recently at \$607 billion! If, for a minute, we could imagine that amount of money, instead of being wasted on killing, being used to feed and provide health care to the millions of the world's poor, what a better world this would be!

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