

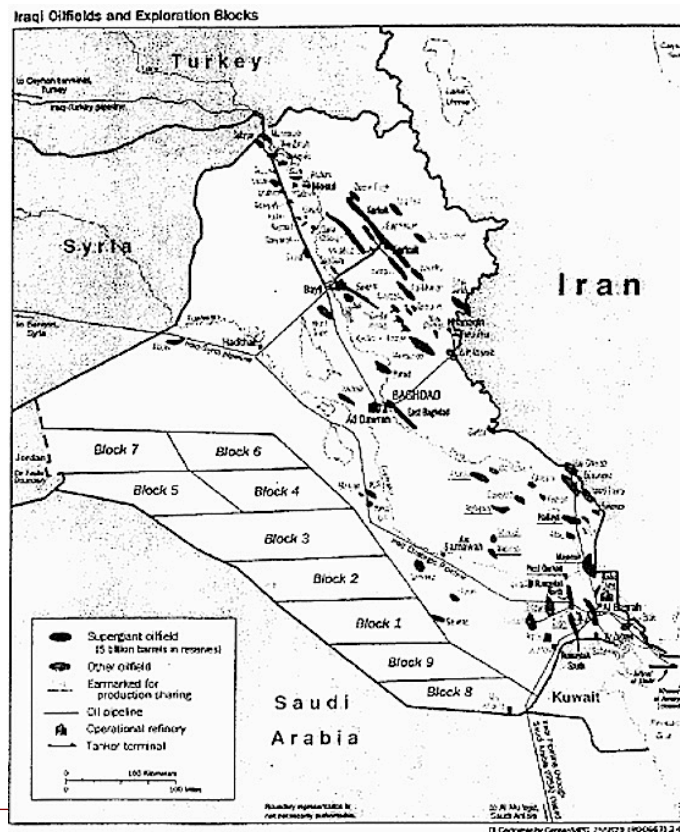
via: <http://www.outragedmoderates.org/OpenandHonestGovernment.html>

Cheney's Energy Task Force mapped Iraq's oilfields during 2001

On January 29, 2001, just after he entered office, President Bush announced the creation of a new Cabinet-level National Energy Task Force, to be headed by Vice President Cheney. [CNN] Given Vice President Cheney's close ties to the energy industry, there were concerns about potential conflicts of interest from the start. Here's an excerpt from the President's Question and Answer session that afternoon:

Reporter: . . . given the Vice President's past ties to oil, what can you say to consumers that would allay any fears they might have that any deal that you come up with on energy, any national energy policy, may be more geared toward oil companies than to consumers? **President Bush:** Well, Dick Cheney is a person who loves America and cares about the future of the country, just like I do. And he understands what I understand, that if we don't find more energy supplies to meet growing demand in places like California, the consumer is going to pay a dear price. [The White House]

In closed meetings about a month later, Cheney's Energy Task Force discussed the map and chart shown below.



(Full document PDF: [Judicial Watch](#); also available through our [Download For Democracy](#) P2P campaign)

This map of Iraq's oilfields shown above was obtained by [Judicial Watch](#) from the Commerce Department, as a result of the group's Freedom of Information Act lawsuit regarding the activities of the Cheney Energy Task Force. The map is dated "3-01."

The document below, "Foreign Suitors for Iraqi Oilfield Contracts," dated March 5, 2001, lists firms that have oil contracts for the individual oilfields, as well as the current status of those contracts. According to former Wall Street Journal reporter Ron Suskind, the author of "The Price of Loyalty," this document was also used by the Pentagon during Iraq War planning discussions during early March 2001. [[CBS News](#)]

Foreign Suitors for Iraqi Oilfield Contracts
as of 5 March 2001

Country	Firm	Iraqi Oilfield/Block/Projects	Current Status
Algeria	Sonatrach	Toba Blocks 6 & 7	Discussions. PSC. Collecting data.
Australia	BHP	Halfaya Block 6	Discussions. PSC. Collected data.
Belgium	Petrofina	Ahdab Block 2	Technical/economic studies (China's CNPC awarded PSC). Collected data.
Canada	Ranger Bow Canada	Block 6, other Khurmala Harrin	Signed MOU with Baghdad. Joint proposal w/Czech Republic's Strojexport Joint proposal w/Czech Republic's Strojexport
	Alberta Energy CdnOxy	Unidentified Ratawi Block 5	None Discussions. PSC. Collected data.
	Chauveo Res.	Ayn Zalah	Advanced talks by late 1996. Service contract for advanced oil recovery (gas injection project) in this aging field.
	Escondido	Ratawi Block 5	Discussions. PSC. Collecting data.
	Talisman IPC	Harrin, E. Baghdad Harrin	Service contract negotiations October 1999. Discussions. Service contract.
	PacCanadian CNPC	Unidentified Ahdab Halfaya Luhals & Subba Block 5	None Production Sharing Contract (PSC) signed June 1997. Bid for \$4 bn, 23-year PSC. Discussions. Service contract. Collected data, discussions.
China	Norinco	Ahdab Rafidain	PSC signed June 1997 (CNPC consortium partner). Discussions. PSC.
	Sinochem	Rafidain	Discussions. PSC.
Czech Republic	Strojexport	Harrin Khurmala	Joint project with Bow Canada. Sent team to Iraq in Sept 1997. Joint project with Bow Canada
Finland	Neste Oy	Unidentified	None
France	Total Elf Aquitaine Forasol SA IBEX Perenco	Majnoon Saddam Harrin Rafidain	PSC "agreed in principle" January 1997. Feasibility study presented to Baghdad in 1997, updated in 1998. Technical discussions. Discussions. PSC.
	Total Elf Aquitaine	Nahr Umr	PSC "agreed in principle" January 1997.
Germany	Deminex Preussag	Block 1 Al-Jab Block 2	Collected data. Technical/economic studies (China's CNPC later awarded PSC). Collected data.
	Stavroft	N. Rumaylah	Subcontractor to Lukoil consortium.

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I don't believe in conspiracy theories. In and of themselves, these documents do not prove anything. But they raise some very serious questions:

Why was the Energy Task Force discussing oil contracts in a foreign country, on a field-by-field, and contract-by-contract, basis? Is this within the scope of the group's activities as listed in the Executive Order that established it?

Did the Energy Task Force participate in the planning of the war in Iraq, as some critics of the Bush administration have claimed? If so, is this within the scope of the group's activities as listed in the Executive Order that established it?

Considering the crucial importance of the topics the Energy Task Force appears to have discussed in meetings, don't the American people deserve disclosure of the participants and nature of these meetings? And isn't that type of disclosure supposed to be guaranteed by Federal law under the Federal Advisory Committee Act?