

Table 17.1 Summary of Iraq’s Nuclear Weapons Program

Prewar Concerns	Pre-2002 Intelligence Assessments	October 2002 NIE Assessment	UN Findings 2002-2003	Administration Statements	Evidence Since March 2003
Iraq reconstituted its nuclear program after 1998.	Probably Not. Consensus was that Iraq “probably continued low-level theoretical R&D.”	Yes. Iraq “probably will have a nuclear weapon during this decade.” State disagreed.	Probably Not. No evidence Iraq had restarted a program. ElBaradei: majority of sites “deteriorated substantially.”	Yes. Saddam would acquire nuclear weapons soon. Bush: “We don't know whether or not he has a nuclear weapon.”	No. Duelfer: No program after 1991. Senate: Claims “not supported by the intelligence.”
Iraq attempted to enrich uranium for use in nuclear weapons.	Maybe. “Baghdad may be attempting to acquire materials that could aid in reconstituting its nuclear weapons program.”	Yes. Iraq imported aluminum tubes and high-strength magnets. Energy and State disagreed.	No. IAEA: Unlikely tubes or magnets could be used for centrifuges.	Yes. Cheney: Iraq purchased high-strength tubes and magnets for uranium enrichment.	No. Tubes were for rockets. Kay: “evidence does not tie any activity directly to centrifuge research or development.” Senate: NIE “misleading.”
Iraq attempted to purchase uranium from abroad.	No. No pre-2002 reports mention any attempts to purchase uranium.	Yes. “Iraq also began vigorously trying to procure uranium ore and yellowcake.” State rejected reports that Iraq sought to buy uranium in Africa.	No. IAEA: African uranium documents were forgeries.	Yes. Bush: “The British government has learned that Saddam Hussein recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa.”	No. U.S. officials were aware that the evidence for the African uranium claim was unfounded. Senate: The CIA and DIA failed to find the “obvious problems” with the forged documents.

ABBREVIATIONS:

NIE = National Intelligence Estimate; R&D = research and development; IAEA = International Atomic Energy Agency; CIA = Central Intelligence Agency; DIA = Defense Intelligence Agency.

NOTE:

This table is updated from Joseph Cirincione, Jessica Mathews, and George Perkovich, *WMD in Iraq: Evidence and Implications* (Washington, D.C.: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2004); available at www.ProliferationNews.org.