



Straight Talk

by Muriel Sluyter

Ladies & Gentlemen, We Got 'im

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Greetings, Gentle Reader,

Paul Bremmer has never spoken more exciting words. Cornered, Saddam had crawled out of a "spider hole," which he shared with rats (most appropriate), and announced, "I am Saddam Hussein. I am president of Iraq. I am willing to negotiate."

Willing to negotiate? Talk about delusions of grandeur! This guy's a classic case!

Other terrorists are voicing their disappointment at this fearless leader's cowardly surrender. They trusted he would go out in a blaze of gunfire and glory. A dead hero is preferable to a live weasel any day. Too bad they chose to follow a weasel. Funny how things work out that way.

President Bush says, for the sake of the Iraqi people, Saddam's trial must be able to withstand international scrutiny. I understand what he is saying, but a Benito Mussolini replay would work for me.

Unfortunately, President Bush is right. It wouldn't work in today's world, because the magnitude of his, his sons' and his henchmen's crimes against the Iraqi people indeed the world must be showcased for all to see.

There is now solid proof of his connections to Al Qaeda and Osama bin Laden. That, too, must be exposed, because he has many supporters in this country, especially in our universities. Such exposure will change few of their minds or loyalties, but it is important that their gullible followers and students see things as they really are, rather than as they have been led to believe them to be.

He was captured with valuable papers pertaining to his organization, which are leading our men to his subordinates at this very moment. That's good. We could not have found this much information any other way.

These papers may implicate the leaders of surrounding countries. That, too, would be good, since many of them are his willing partners in crime.

Predictably, President Bush's enemies are saying Saddam's capture was precisely timed for maximum political advantage. That's to be expected. They have to say something, but that one is even dumber than most

declarations.

So, will this lead to a rapid defeat of terrorists and terrorism? After all, Saddam was a primary supporter of terrorism, so capturing him should stop it, right? No. In fact, it may do no more than cut off one of the heads of the hydra-headed monster we call terrorism. There are many heads, most of which we Americans know nothing.

So, have I discouraged you? I hope not. Our being confronted by terrorists does not mean we will be defeated by them. We will suffer more attacks, but Americans aren't cowards at least most of them are not.

We will fight our attackers as Americans should fight them. When the English were under attack, Churchill made many speeches to his besieged people, within which we find these two immortal statements. The first: "Victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror, victory however long and hard the road may be; for without victory there is no survival." The second: "We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender." My sentiments precisely.

Some of our politicians would prefer that we crawl into a corner, assume a fetal position and beg the UN to keep the bad guys from hurting us.

Sorry. While we Americans must become neither arrogant nor unwisely sure of ourselves, we neither crawl nor beg.

Our men are behaving with meticulous dignity and honor. Surely, we at home can do no less.