

Reagan, Bush Gave CBW Agents to Saddam

Aug. 29—Declassified CIA documents published by *Foreign Policy* on Aug. 26, showing that the Reagan Administration knew about Iraqi chemical weapons in 1988, but didn't do anything about it, picks up the story many years too late. As *EIR* and others have reported, it was the policy of the Reagan and George H.W. Bush administrations, up until the eve of the first Gulf War, to supply Iraq with many “dual use” materials, including chemical and biological agents, which were used by Iraq for the development of chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons. This was all in the expectation, of course, that such weapons would be used against Iran.

Documentation was presented to Congressional hearings in 1994-95, showing how the U.S. had provided biological cultures to Iraq, including a nerve



Saddam Hussein welcomes presidential envoy Donald Rumsfeld in Baghdad, Dec. 20, 1983. The U.S. knew Iraq was building stocks of chemical weapons.

gas far more lethal than sarin, crop-destroying germs, *E. coli*, salmonella, staphylococcus, anthrax, botulism, and West Nile virus. British and Swiss firms also sent biological cultures to Iraq, and Britain provided training for Iraqi scientists.

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“Iraq was considered an ally of the U.S. in the 1980s,” said an officer of one of the companies that made such shipments. “All these were properly licensed by the government; otherwise they would not have been sent.” Full diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Iraq were restored in May 1984, after which the U.S. provided biological and chemical agents, as well as military

equipment and intelligence, to Iraq during the next five years, until the end of the Iran-Iraq War.

The United States and Britain were also providing arms and equipment to Iran at the same time! As British Trade Minister Alan Clark admitted in 1992, “The interests of the West are well served by Iran and Iraq fighting each other, the longer the better.”

—Edward Spannaus