

## The Political White-Anting of Our Great Country Australia

The Political white-anting of our once great country began in the 1980s with the Bob Hawke, Paul Keating Labour government (govt) ably supported by the left-wing Greens party. They planted the seed which has propagated the sell off of the Australia's prime agricultural land and real estate properties to the Communist Chinese Govt's stakeholders. This sell off, of our country's assets continued its cancerous growth with the blessings of the Rudd, Gillard, Rudd govts. And continued under the auspices of the Liberal-National Coalition, Abbott, Turnbull and the present Scott Morrison Govt. It is the Liberal-National Coalition that allowed the 99-year lease of the gateway to Australia, The Darwin ports to the Communist Chinese Govt, interests.

The aforementioned govts have hidden behind their unelected bureaucrats from the Foreign Investment Review Board, who are responsible for allowing the sale of our prime agricultural land to the agents of the Communist Chinese. The aforementioned govts have failed to protect the security of our country's sovereignty. This is obvious when you consider that the Chinese Communist Govt. fully funds their "Confucius Learning Institutes" at 13 Australian Universities. Is it possible that these classes are brainwashing students into supporting Chinese communist ideology?

If that's not enough, Scott Morrison's energy minister Angus Taylor will be subsidising to the tune of \$2 billion dollars of Australian taxpayers' money on wind farms. It appears that the minister is hijacking the far left-wing Labour and Australian Green's bogus climate policies. In fact, one of the major multi-national power companies who will financially benefit from tax-payer subsidises will be AGL. AGL, the same company who is closing down their Liddell power station.

Google- VOICE OF THE PEOPLE LOBBY GROUP. Scroll down their home page to the word Enter and " on the main page, click on:

“Global warming facts”

“Climate change- could ruin Australia”

“Agenda 21- timeline”

If you believe our govts tell us the truth, click onto:

“The USFTA trade agreement”, and the

“Australian wheat board scandal”. At the end of the written explanation, there will be a YouTube contact, which will provide you with a video on the govt’s AWB cover up. If you wish to make any comments: Email-Votpp@yahoo.com.au.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2006

# Ambassador tried to kill bribes inquiry

Michael Gawenda  
Herald Correspondent  
in Washington  
and Marian Wilkinson

THE Australian ambassador to the United States lobbied Congress to drop an investigation into allegations that Australia's wheat exporter paid kickbacks to Saddam Hussein's Iraqi regime.

The Federal Government confirmed last night that the then ambassador, Michael Thawley, met the chairman of a US Senate investigations committee in late 2004 to head off the planned inquiry.

The AWB investigation was ultimately dropped, despite the US Government having information that an AWB wheat contract might have been inflated to cover kickbacks to Iraq. This information included a report, seen by the *Herald*, from the US Defence Contract Audit Agency.

It is understood a Senate subcommittee did not pursue the AWB investigation in the face of the fierce resistance of AWB.

Mr Thawley met Norm Coleman, chairman of the Senate permanent sub-committee on investigations, in the weeks before the Australian general election on October 9, 2004.

A statement to the *Herald* last night from the office of the Foreign Minister, Alexander Downer, confirmed Mr Thawley "argued strongly" to Senator Coleman for AWB's case, which was to block a US Senate inquiry.

"The Government was very concerned that because of the strong campaign by American wheat interests, the Senate committee would be used by those interests to damage Australia's wheat interests with Iraq," the statement said.

Mr Thawley had "expressed surprise" to Senator Coleman that his committee was focusing on AWB. The statement said the Government was "very concerned at the time that AWB Ltd would be unfairly treated". It added: "The Government had no reason to believe other than that the AWB Ltd was behaving properly."

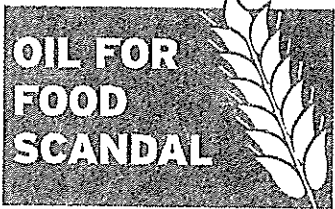


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### THE DIPLOMAT

Michael Thawley was John Howard's eyes and ears in Washington. He was the perfect ambassador: discreet, clever and loyal to the boss. - Page 6

Troops out of Iraq - into Afghanistan - Page 2



Around the time of Mr Thawley's meeting it is understood there was also a meeting involving Australian government officials and the Senate committee staffers during which the US-Australia alliance and Australia's role in the "coalition of the willing" was raised.

Senator Coleman's committee at the time was launching investigations into several companies and individuals accused of paying kickbacks to Iraq in return for lucrative oil, food and equipment contracts. With the information that AWB may have been paying such kickbacks, the committee began negotiating with the company's US lawyers to obtain internal company documents.

It is understood there was a series of meetings in the second half of 2004 between Senate staffers and AWB lawyers, who argued that Senator Coleman's committee had no jurisdiction to investigate the wheat exporter.

Mr Thawley's meeting with Senator Coleman came after these meetings as well as those with Australian government officials.

It is understood that in at least one of those meetings AWB

executives were present and emphatically denied AWB had knowingly paid kickbacks.

Senator Coleman's office did not return calls from the *Herald*. It is unclear whether his committee will reopen investigations into AWB following the revelations in Sydney at the Cole inquiry into the affair.

The *Herald* has been told that Senator Coleman's committee dropped the investigation into the AWB because it had its hands full pursuing the dealings of the British MP George Galloway.

The *Herald* could find no evidence that any officials from any other government made representations to the committee on behalf of companies implicated in the scandal. There is no evidence to suggest any other company refused to co-operate with it. As far back as November 2003, when a group of US senators wrote to the then secretary of state, Colin Powell, expressing "grave concerns" about reports that AWB had been paid inflated prices for wheat by Iraqi, the Australian embassy in Washington was arguing that US wheat interests were trying to blacken AWB's reputation.

When the then Senate minority leader, Tom Daschle, wrote to President George Bush in October 2003 asking him to raise the allegations about AWB with the Prime Minister, John Howard, during his visit to Australia, the Australian embassy wrote to Senator Daschle saying the allegations against AWB were "reprehensible".

Mr Thawley, who finished his five-year stint as US ambassador last year and is now in private business in Washington, could not be contacted for comment.

Denis Richardson, who replaced Mr Thawley last year, said the embassy often made representations to members of Congress. Asked whether he knew of contacts between the embassy and committees of Congress investigating the United Nations oil-for-food program, he said he could not comment, and these questions should be put to Mr Downer's office.

# Downer alerted to bribes in 2000

By MARIA HAWTHORNE

FOREIGN Minister Alexander Downer yesterday admitted he was warned six years ago in secret cables that AWB may have been paying bribes to Saddam Hussein's regime.

Australia's trade commissioner in Washington tried to alert Trade Minister Mark Vaile about the same time that AWB could be paying kickbacks to the then Iraqi dictator.

The Government has repeatedly denied knowing about the kickbacks before last October.

But four secret diplomatic cables released by the Cole inquiry into \$300 million in kickbacks yesterday showed that Australian officials were told in January 2000 about possible irregularities in the way AWB had been paid under the UN oil-for-food program.

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade officer Bronte Moules, who was based at Australia's mission to the UN in New York, sent a cable to her superiors in Canberra on January 13, 2000, discussing the UN's concerns about AWE.

Ms Moules said in light of the "highly irregular" nature of the transactions, the UN wanted Australia to make "discreet, high-level inquiries" to ensure AWE was not involved.

The cable, which was also sent to Mr Downer's office, said the UN's Office of the Iraq Program (OIP) had been told Iraq was asking for an additional payment of \$US14 a tonne on wheat.

The extra money was to be paid into a Jordanian bank account and was to be funded by charging the UN a slightly inflated price for the wheat.

The OIP believed the company involved in the scheme was owned by Saddam's son, the cable said. DFAT put the allegations to AWB, which denied paying kickbacks.

Asked yesterday by Opposition Leader Kim Beazley if he

## Shining light amid the export gloom

UNCERTAINTY about Australia's future wheat shipments to Iraq has failed to take the shine off the commodity's export performance, with a new government report tipping the biggest shipping volumes in a decade.

The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics is predicting a 13 per cent rise in exports to 18 million tonnes in 2006-07 — the biggest sales in 10 years.

The report said Indonesia remained our biggest customer, taking 15 per cent of total exports over the past five years.

had been briefed on the cables, Mr Downer admitted he would have read them himself.

"Of course I would have read them. I was perfectly satisfied with the response of the department," he told Parliament.

Prime Minister John Howard defended the Government's response, saying the cables were prompted by a complaint from Canada — a wheat export rival.

"The United Nations, which raised the complaint in the first place at the insistence of the Canadians, indicated this had removed any grounds for misconception," Mr Howard said.

"I rest on my claim that we responded correctly."

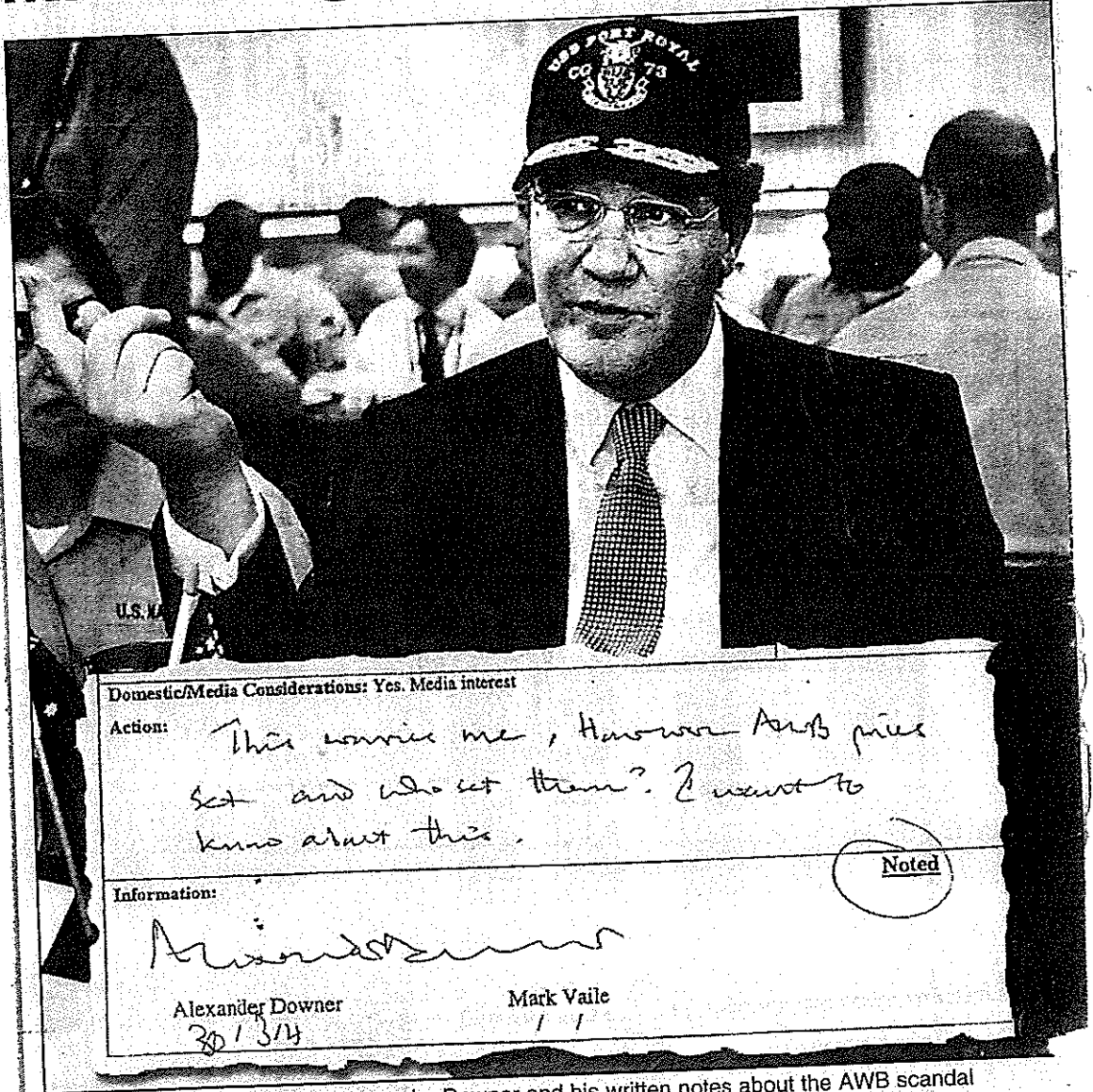
The Canadian complaint, according to evidence before the Cole inquiry, was the Howard Government's first warning about AWB's Iraq deals and came only a few months after AWB began paying kickbacks.

Austrade commissioner Alistair Nicholas suggested in March 2000 that his bosses in Canberra tell Mr Vaile there could be irregularities in AWB's contracts which breached UN sanctions against Iraq.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2006  
THE SYDNEY DAILY TELEGRAPH

# Downer bribe denials sunk

## Minister signed 2004 AWB memo



Domestic/Media Considerations: Yes. Media interest

Action:

*This worries me, how were AWB prices set and who set them? I want to know about this.*

Information:

*Alexander Downer*

Alexander Downer

30/3/14

Mark Vaile

1/1

Noted

Signature role ... Alexander Downer and his written notes about the AWB scandal

# Truss link to wheat scandal

By BYRON KAYE

WARREN Truss has become the fourth senior frontbencher dragged into the AWB scandal — on the day he was sworn in as Australia's new Trade Minister.

In an explosive final day of hearings, a new document produced by the Cole inquiry showed Mr Truss knew about the former Wheat Board's dealings with Saddam Hussein's Iraq six years ago when he was agriculture minister.

The document was one of hundreds of pieces of damning evidence AWB had tried to suppress but which were finally released this week eight months after the inquiry began.

In the document — a draft letter dated April 5, 2000 — AWB chairman Trevor Flugge wrote to the Iraqi Trade Minister assuring him the Australian Government supported the exporter's arrangements for trucking wheat around the war-torn country.

The UN had just received a complaint from Canadian wheat



Warren Truss

growers that AWB may be breaching sanctions through its Iraqi trucking contracts. The contracts have since been found to have funnelled \$300 million to Saddam's regime.

Mr Flugge says in the letter: "When we last met in October 1999 in Baghdad I undertook to pass your comments regarding Iraq/Australia trade to our Government and in particular to the Minister of Agriculture. My comments met with a very positive response from the Australian Government.

"I will ask AWB to discuss the recent communication from the United Nations concerning trucking fees. It is our intention to remain committed to the terms of trade agreed by IGB [the Iraqi Grain Board] and AWB.

"The Australian Government

equally supports this commitment to our trade."

Mr Flugge — who returned to the witness box yesterday along with his CEO Andrew Lindberg — denied writing the letter, authorising it, or having seen it before.

Counsel assisting the inquiry, John Agius, SC, said investigations had found the letter was saved by AWB's Middle East manager Mark Emons — one of the men who set up the illegal trucking contracts.

Mr Truss joins Prime Minister John Howard, Foreign Minister Alexander Downer and the man Mr Truss replaced as Trade Minister — Deputy PM Mark Vaile — on the list of those who were sent key information on the bribe scheme.

But the new holder of Australia's fourth most senior Cabinet portfolio will not join his peers in the witness box now that the inquiry has closed.

Mr Truss's office denied any knowledge of discussions with Mr Flugge about the Iraqi trucking arrangements.