

# AfterDowningStreet.org

## TALKING POINTS ON DOWNING STREET MINUTES

The recent release of the Downing Street Memo provides new and compelling evidence that the President of the United States has been actively engaged in a conspiracy to deceive and mislead the United States Congress and the American people about the basis for going to war against Iraq. If true, such conduct constitutes a High Crime under Article II, Section 4 of the United States Constitution: “The President, Vice President, and all civil officers of the United States shall be removed from office on impeachment for, and conviction of, treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors.”

In light of the emergence of the Downing Street Memo, Members of Congress should introduce a Resolution of Inquiry directing the House Judiciary Committee to launch a formal investigation into whether sufficient grounds exist for the House of Representatives to exercise its constitutional power to impeach George W. Bush, President of the United States.

The Downing Street Memo reveals that, by the summer of 2002, President Bush had decided to overthrow Iraqi President Saddam Hussein by launching a war which, Dearlove reports, would be “justified by the conjunction of terrorism and WMD [weapons of mass destruction].” Dearlove continues: “But the intelligence and facts were being fixed around the policy.” British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw states that “[i]t seemed clear that Bush had made up his mind to take military action, even if the timing was not yet decided.” “But,” he continues, “the case was thin. Saddam was not threatening his neighbours, and his WMD capability was less than that of Libya, North Korea, and Iran.”

If the evidence revealed by the Downing Street Memo is true, then the President’s submission of his March 18, 2003 letter and report to the United States Congress would violate federal criminal law, including: the federal anti-conspiracy statute, 18 U.S.C. § 371, which makes it a felony “to commit any offense against the United States, or to defraud the United States, or any agency thereof in any manner or for any purpose...”; and The False Statements Accountability Act of 1996, 18 U.S.C. § 1001, which makes it a felony to issue knowingly and willfully false statements to the United States Congress.

### FOR CONGRESS MEMBERS:

- Please introduce or support a Resolution of Inquiry into possible grounds for impeachment of the President in relation to justifications for the war.
- Please co-sponsor the Resolution of Inquiry that is being drafted by Congresswoman Barbara Lee's office, although it does not do everything that is needed, because it does not mention impeachment.
- Please contact Congressman John Conyers' office and support his work on this issue.

### FOR SENATORS:

- Please urge the House of Representatives to introduce and pass a Resolution of Inquiry into possible grounds for impeachment of the President in relation to justifications for the war.
- Please sign letter being circulated by Senator John Kerry.
- Please contact Senator Ted Kennedy's office and support his work on this issue.