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Iraq: Themes from CK

- **Giving the UN the run-around:** Saddam is determined to keep his weapons, and believes he can successfully hide them from the UN. He is no fool. He has had years to plan this, drawing on his experience of the previous inspections. We have reliable intelligence, which we have been sharing with the UN inspectors, that for the last few months the Iraqis have been dispersing and concealing the evidence: hiding munitions for chemical warfare, engines for long-range missiles, top secret documents.
- **Spying on the inspectors:** intelligence has confirmed that there is a huge, well-coordinated Iraqi operation to spy on the inspectors. Their offices, hotel rooms and cars are bugged. They are followed everywhere, and there are well-rehearsed plans to delay or prevent them from having access to sites where the weapons are concealed. Iraq's security agents have orders even to stage car accidents, if necessary, to prevent at all costs the inspectors from finding anything significant. These agents dare not fail: they know only too well what the consequences for them personally would be.
- **Saddam rules by fear and repression:** we have intelligence Saddam has ordered that any scientists who dare to co-operate with the inspectors will be severely punished, even killed, along with their families. They have been forced to hide secret documents at home. Iraq's ruthless security apparatus has placed minders alongside everyone who could give the game away to the inspectors, to ensure they don't step out of line and to remind them what will happen to them if they do.
- **But cracks are beginning to show:** intelligence reveals that, despite their cruel grip on the Iraqi people, some senior Iraqi officials - even members of Saddam's family - are beginning to realise the game is up, and are planning their own escape. They have been selling up property and cars, moving their assets abroad, and preparing bolt-holes.

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