

TABLE 3. SUMMARY OF IRAQ'S NUCLEAR WEAPON PROGRAM

PREWAR CONCERNS	PRE-2002 INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS	OCTOBER 2002 NIE ASSESSMENT	UN FINDINGS 2002–2003	ADMINISTRATION STATEMENTS	EVIDENCE SINCE MARCH 2003
Iraq reconstituted its nuclear program after 1998.	PROBABLY NOT. Consensus was that Iraq “probably continued low-level theoretical R&D.”	YES. Iraq restarted its nuclear program after UNSCOM left in 1998: “probably will have a nuclear weapon during this decade.” Department of State disagreed.	PROBABLY NOT. No evidence that Iraq had restarted a nuclear program. The IAEA dismantled all known aspects of the program in the 1990s. ElBaradei: majority of Iraqi nuclear sites “deteriorated substantially” over decade.	YES. Saddam restarted Iraq’s nuclear program and would acquire nuclear weapons fairly soon. Bush: “We don’t know whether or not he has a nuclear weapon.”	NO. No signs of any active program. Kay: “to date we have not uncovered evidence that Iraq undertook significant post-1998 steps to actually build nuclear weapons or produce fissile material.”
Iraq attempted to enrich uranium for use in nuclear weapons.	MAYBE. Concern that “Baghdad may be attempting to acquire materials that could aid in reconstituting its nuclear weapons program.”	YES. Iraq imported aluminum tubes and high-strength magnets for uranium enrichment—but the Department of Energy and Department of State disagreed.	NO. IAEA: Unlikely the tubes or magnets could be used for a centrifuge program.	YES. Vice President Cheney: Iraq was procuring equipment to enrich uranium. Iraq purchased high-strength tubes and magnets for uranium enrichment.	NO. No evidence that the tubes or magnets were meant for uranium enrichment. Iraqi scientists maintain the tubes were for rockets. Kay: “the evidence does not tie any activity directly to centrifuge research or development.”
Iraq attempted to purchase uranium from abroad.	NO. None of the pre-2002 reports mention any attempts to purchase uranium, although most noted that “a sufficient source of fissile material remains Iraq’s most significant obstacle to being able to produce a nuclear weapon.”	YES. “Iraq also began vigorously trying to procure uranium ore and yellowcake.” Department of State rejected reports that Iraq sought to buy uranium in Africa.	NO. IAEA: The documents supporting the African uranium claim were forgeries.	YES. President Bush: “The British government has learned that Saddam Hussein recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa.”	NO. In July 2003, various reports revealed that U.S. officials were aware that the evidence for the African uranium claim was unfounded. The administration acknowledged that the remark should not have appeared in the president’s State of the Union address.