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**To:** "Chris Doyle (CAABU)" <doylec@caabu.org>  
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CAABU British Broadsheet Summary - 18-10-06

Tony Blair's intervention yesterday in the 'veil row' has sparked further controversy; in what he described as a 'difficult but necessary debate about how Islam integrates into British society' (The Guardian) the Prime Minister said that many view the full-face veil as a 'mark of separation' and that people find it 'uncomfortable' (The Daily Telegraph, The Independent, The Times).

There are reports that support for the war is waning (The Financial Times) and that Blair and Bush are isolated in their foreign policy (The Independent). Lord Steyn is even reported to have said that Britain has merely become a 'lapdog' to America. Despite Bush's attempts to dispel doubts about Iraq (The Financial Times) and Tony Blair's comments in defence of the war (The Daily Telegraph) there seems to be widespread belief in an altered future policy. Both 'The Times' and 'The Guardian' have described a likely 'change of tack' and a radical change in foreign policy whilst 'The Daily Telegraph' reports that from the preliminary findings of the bipartisan congressional taskforce into US policy in Iraq the issue is one of 'ignominy' versus 'nobility'.

The Daily Telegraph

UK News

Veil seen as mark of separation Blair tells Muslims

George Jones

"Tony Blair intervened yesterday in the growing controversy over Muslim women wearing veils in public with a plea for the Islamic community to come to terms with the modern world. Mr. Blair risked angering Muslim leaders by saying that wearing the full face veil was a "mark of separation" in society that made other people feel uncomfortable."

<<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2006/10/18/nveil118.xml>>

Veils keep people apart, says Blair

George Jones

"The wearing of full face veils by Muslim women in public was a "mark of separation" in society that made other people feel uncomfortable, Tony Blair said yesterday."

<<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2006/10/18/nveil18.xml>>

MPs kept in the dark over terror suspects

Philip Johnston

"The Home Office was accused of misleading Parliament last night by

failing to tell MPs that two terrorism suspects had gone on the run. It made no mention of the escapes in an official report to the Commons last month on how its contentious control orders were operating."

<<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2006/10/18/nterror18.xml>>

#### Comment

Government complacency has cost the lives of soldiers

Simon Heffer

"The Prime Minister apparently agreed with every word uttered by Gen Sir Richard Dannatt last week, when the general called for a time limit on our presence in Iraq. None the less, Tony Blair seems to have felt sufficiently defensive about his foreign policy to have made the case for it again yesterday, at his monthly news conference."

<<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/main.jhtml?xml=/opinion/2006/10/18/d01801.xml&sSheet=/opinion/2006/10/18/ixopinion.html>>

#### Labour loses faith in multi-culturalism

"At his press briefing yesterday, the Prime Minister made it clear his Government's approach to cultural diversity had changed. He may have couched his position in careful language, but the conclusion was inescapable: integration, rather than multi-cultural separatism, is now official policy."

<<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/main.jhtml?xml=/opinion/2006/10/18/d11801.xml>>

#### Does the Muslim veil create a divided society?

"Tony Blair has finally weighed in on the growing debate over the appropriateness of religious dress, describing the veil that some Muslim women wear as a "mark of separation" that makes people uncomfortable."

<<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?view=BLOGDETAIL&grid=P30&blog=yourview&xml=/news/2006/10/18/ublview18.xml>>

#### Getting out of Iraq

"The preliminary findings of the bipartisan congressional taskforce into US policy in Iraq have served an invaluable purpose. They have finally shattered the notion - to which Washington and London have clung limpet-like since the invasion three and a half years ago - that there are only two options facing the coalition: the ignominy of 'cutting and running' or the nobility of 'staying the course'."

<<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/main.jhtml?xml=/opinion/2006/10/18/d11802.xml&sSheet=/opinion/2006/10/18/ixopinion.html>>

#### Letters

Terror at large

<<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/main.jhtml?menuId=1588&menuItemId=-1&view=DISPLAYCONTENT&grid=P8&targetRule=0#head6>>

#### The Financial Times

UK

Blair warns against 'buying into' blame

James Blitz

"Tony Blair yesterday warned that the west was losing the war against Islamist extremism because people were "buying into" the Muslim sense of grievance that the US and UK were somehow responsible for the violence

in Iraq."

<<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/ac503b6a-5e45-11db-82d4-0000779e2340.html>>

Safety 'not hit' by control orders breach

Jimmy Burns

"John Reid, the home secretary, last night gained some potentially important backing in the latest row surrounding his department when the independent watchdog on anti-terror legislation said national security had not been compromised by the breach of two control orders."

<<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/c74dc082-5e44-11db-82d4-0000779e2340.html>>

World

Support for war proves more resilient in the South

Andrew Ward

"Karen and Tommy Dingler's spacious home on a new residential development in Hiram, Georgia couple, appears to be the epitome of the American dream. Look more closely, however, and the dream becomes a nightmare."

<<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0a093076-5e1a-11db-82d4-0000779e2340.html>>

US presses Iraq on amnesty issue

Roula Khalaf and Guy Dinmore

"The Bush administration is pressing the Iraqi government of Nouri al-Maliki to issue a "broad" and "painful" amnesty for insurgents in spite of intense opposition to the proposal from politicians both in Iraq and the US, according to a senior administration official."

<<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/798743a2-5e0b-11db-82d4-0000779e2340.html>>

US tries to dispel Iraq doubts

Edward Luce and Demetri Sevastopulo

"George W. Bush has long resisted calls to set a deadline for the withdrawal of US military forces from Iraq. However, the president has been repeatedly compelled to reassure Nouri al-Maliki, Iraq's prime minister, that no such deadline exists for the withdrawal of support for his government of "national unity".

<<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/7ccb2644-5e3a-11db-82d4-0000779e2340.html>>

Egypt sells off 80% stake in bank

William Wallis

"Italy's Sanpaolo yesterday bid \$1.6bn, towards the upper end of analysts' expectations, to acquire an 80 per cent stake in the Bank of Alexandria, Egypt's third-largest state-owned bank."

<<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/9094f27c-5e44-11db-82d4-0000779e2340.html>>

Editorial

Revenge of the realists over the radicals

"For more than three years after the invasion of Iraq, America's debate about what to do about the worsening situation there has been cast in terms of two extremes: "stay the course" or "cut and run". The first has been the mantra of the Bush administration, which has used the second to caricature all alternatives as surrender."

<<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/2e15cd82-5e45-11db-82d4-0000779e2340.html>>

The Guardian

Blunder over terror suspect's disappearance before police arrived to

serve control order

Vikram Dodd and Will Woodward

"The government has been accused of fresh blunders over the disappearance of two terror suspects, after it emerged that one of the men disappeared before police had served him with a control order."

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/terrorism/story/0,,1924833,00.html>>

Britain condemned for 'abdication to US'

Clare Dyer

"One of Britain's most senior retired judges last night accused Tony Blair and his government of allowing themselves to become the "lapdog" of the Bush administration by abdicating Britain's foreign policy role to the US."

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/guardianpolitics/story/0,,1924713,00.html>>

Blair backs suspension of class assistant in debate over veil

Will Woodward

"Tony Blair yesterday said he backed a council which suspended a Muslim classroom assistant for refusing to remove her veil, as part of what he described as a difficult but necessary debate about how Islam integrates into British society and the modern world."

<<http://education.guardian.co.uk/schools/story/0,,1924826,00.html>>

World

Iraq war cost years of progress in Afghanistan - UK brigadier

Richard Norton-Thomas

"The invasion of Iraq prevented British forces from helping to secure Afghanistan much sooner and has left a dangerous vacuum in the country for four years, the commander who has led the attack against the Taliban made clear yesterday."

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/afghanistan/story/0,,1924794,00.html>>

Bush confidant prepares way for radical shift by US on Iraq

Julian Borger

"A radical change in US policy over Iraq after the November elections appeared increasingly likely yesterday after reports that a bipartisan commission headed by a Bush family confidant will recommend an approach to Iran and Syria for help or a withdrawal to bases outside Iraq."

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/Iraq/Story/0,,1924927,00.html>>

Gaza doctors say patients suffering mystery injuries after Israeli attacks

Rory McCarthy

"Doctors in Gaza have reported previously unseen injuries from Israeli weapons that cause severe burning and leave deep internal wounds, often resulting in amputations or death."

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/israel/Story/0,,1924675,00.html>>

Britain to look at boosting Darfur force

Jonathan Steele

"Britain is preparing to consider new ways of getting extra troops into Darfur to protect civilians if the Sudanese government continues to reject a UN force, Hilary Benn, the development secretary, said yesterday."

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/sudan/story/0,,1924625,00.html>>

## Comment

If this onslaught was about Jews, I would be looking for my passport "I've been trying to imagine what it must be like to be a Muslim in Britain. I guess there's a sense of dread about switching on the radio or television, even about walking into a newsagents. What will they be saying about us today?"

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/comment/story/0,,1924677,00.html>>

America has finally taken on the grim reality of Iraq

Simon Jenkins

"The Baker report on an exit strategy from Iraq, leaked this week in the US, is as sensible as it is sensational. It rejects "staying the course" as no longer plausible and purports to seek alternatives to just "cutting and running". Stripped of political sweetening, it concludes that there is none."

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/Iraq/Story/0,,1924735,00.html>>

## Letters

New on campus: a BA in snooping

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/letters/story/0,,1924585,00.html>>

This carry-on about Muslim dress

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/letters/story/0,,1924583,00.html>>

We need to renegotiate the role of religion in public life

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/letters/story/0,,1924587,00.html>>

## The Independent

UK news

Blair: Veils make others feel uncomfortable

Andrew Grice

"Tony Blair has said that the veil worn by many Muslim women in Britain is a "mark of separation" that makes people from other backgrounds feel uncomfortable."

<<http://news.independent.co.uk/uk/politics/article1886647.ece>>

## World news

Bush and Blair isolated as criticism of war grows

Colin Brown and Rupert Cornwell

"George Bush and Tony Blair were looking more isolated than ever last night as the ground shifted further under their strategy of remaining in Iraq 'until the job is done'."

<<http://news.independent.co.uk/world/politics/article1886648.ece>>

Troops will be in Afghanistan for next 20 years, says commander

Kim Sengupta

"The commander of the British forces returning from Helmand said that his forces were having to make up for the time lost by the decision of the US and UK to invade Iraq instead of concentrating on post-Taliban Afghanistan."

<<http://news.independent.co.uk/world/asia/article1886633.ece>>

Blair peace quest is a waste, says Israeli and Palestinian leaders

Andy McSmith

"Leaders of both sides in the Israel-Palestine conflict believe that Tony Blair may prove to be a "lame duck" figure in his quest to restart the deadlocked Middle East peace process."

<[http://news.independent.co.uk/world/middle\\_east/article1886696.ece](http://news.independent.co.uk/world/middle_east/article1886696.ece)>

#### Leading article

A change of tack on both sides of the Atlantic

"Suddenly, all those tough words about staying the course in Iraq are mutating into an incipient debate about an exit strategy. This is highly inconvenient for George Bush and Tony Blair, both of whom were on parade yesterday in their separate capitals, with twin pledges about it being imperative to get the job done and now not being the time to "walk away". The times, though, seem to be moving implacably against them."

<[http://comment.independent.co.uk/leading\\_articles/article1886608.ece](http://comment.independent.co.uk/leading_articles/article1886608.ece)>

#### Comments

Why should we have separate faith schools at all?

Mary Dejevsky

"A hallmark of life in Britain is supposed to be a willingness to deal with the world as it is, rather than as we would like it to be. This is sometimes called pragmatism, sometimes common sense; at other times, it is muddling through."

<[http://comment.independent.co.uk/columnists\\_a\\_1/mary\\_dejevsky/article1879375.ece](http://comment.independent.co.uk/columnists_a_1/mary_dejevsky/article1879375.ece)>

#### Letters

Sensible Muslims:

Bigots who insist on the veil pose a threat to sensible Muslims

The West Bank is being strangled

The general spoke up for sanity

Schools for division

<<http://comment.independent.co.uk/letters/article1886610.ece>>

#### The Times

UK

All faith schools 'must cross ethnic and religious barriers'

Greg Hurst

"MEASURES to make all faith schools open their doors to children from other religions are to be considered in an attempt to break down barriers between communities."

<<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2-2409230,00.html>>

The Muslim veil is a sign of separation, says Blair

Philip Webster

"TONY BLAIR described the wearing of the veil by Muslim women as a "mark of separation" yesterday and backed a local education authority that suspended a Muslim teaching assistant for refusing to remove her veil during lessons."

<<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,17129-2409164.html>>

'We burnt their homes, and killed all the men women and children'

Martin Fletcher

"OUTSIDE the back window Bakerloo Line trains rattle past. Downstairs someone makes tea. But in the upstairs living room of a nondescript

house off Lambeth Road in South London a slight, softly spoken young man tells a story of atrocities in a far-off land that is anything but mundane."

<<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,3-2409336,00.html>>

'Consigliere' draws up routes out of Iraq for embattled President Tom Baldwin and Richard Beeston

"JAMES BAKER, the man also known as the Bush family's consigliere, is preparing the ground for the White House to change course on Iraq after mid-term congressional elections in November."

<<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,3-2409202,00.html>>

3,000 police are sacked as rulers remain cut-off and impotent James Hider

"THE Iraqi Government sacked 3,000 police officers for human rights abuses, corruption and complicity with militias yesterday."

<<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,3-2409207,00.html>>

Chris Doyle  
Director

CAABU (Council for Arab-British Understanding)

"Islamic Science and the Making of the European Renaissance" A lecture by Professor George Saliba - 19 October - for details:

[http://www.caabu.org/index.asp?homepage=events&article=events&detail=george\\_saliba](http://www.caabu.org/index.asp?homepage=events&article=events&detail=george_saliba)

Why not sponsor me this Sunday to help Palestinian and Lebanese children?

<http://www.justgiving.com/chrisdoyle>

see the CAABU section on the current Israel-Lebanon conflict

[http://www.caabu.org/index.asp?homepage=key\\_issues&article=israel\\_lebanon](http://www.caabu.org/index.asp?homepage=key_issues&article=israel_lebanon)

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