

Oct 12, 1999
O-uk

[REDACTED]

C-Span

Bellingham, WA. 98225 happened

up [REDACTED]

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Dear Washington Journal, ع-ك

I had never watched C-Span until yesterday when I happened upon your program and I was so impressed with your even handedness and respect for both Rothschild and Pinkerton! And your permitting criticism of U.S. foreign policy in Iraq! That is so remarkable.

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from New Internationalist
(September, 1999 issue)

Biological warfare

A little fly which causes horrendous injury and death to both animals and people. Courtesy of Uncle Sam?

Iraq accuses the US of complicity in a plague of foot and mouth disease and screw worm which is reaching epidemic proportions due to the collapse of the veterinary infrastructure. Iraq's major veterinary plant, one of the main producers of a vaccine for foot and mouth disease in the area, was closed by UNSCOM in 1995 (see page 17) and consignments of veterinary medicines are routinely vetoed by the Sanctions Committee.

Screw worm, indigenous to the US, Mexico and Central America, infects the wounds and orifices of warm-blooded livestock and can affect humans. The screw worm fly can travel up to 290 kilometres in several days and under warm, favourable conditions completes its life cycle in as few as three weeks. The larvae can consume an entire cow in five to seven days. At least 40 people have also died in Iraq.

Screw worm was unknown in Iraq until September 1996 when it suddenly appeared north of Baghdad and spread quickly to 12 of Iraq's 18 governorates. 'We have no idea how it got here, in the heart of the country,' said Professor Basil of Iraq's Ministry of Agriculture. 'But to date there have been over 70,000 reported cases.'

The US has had considerable success in eradicating screw worm by breeding sterile male screw worm flies and releasing them from the air into infected areas. An article in the *Baghdad Observer* in July 1997 noted that 'a fast-breeder factory capable of producing up to five million flies a week has unsterilized parent flies for every sterilized fly... That these Latin American

parasites are now to be found in Iraq should provoke a few questions about the probability of biological warfare.'

The article went on: 'To answer the question of how the flies came to Iraq, one does not have to look far; the same way the sterilized insects are delivered, in boxes on a small plane.' The only flights in and out of Iraq are those of the UN or, more recently, the bombings by US and British planes.

There was an alternative treatment being produced at the El Shifa factory in Khartoum, Sudan – and being exported at a fraction of the world market price. But on 20 August 1998 US planes bombed the factory, claiming it was producing

chemical weapons – an allegation subsequently disproved.

Iraq is not the only country of which the US disapproves to have suffered such an infestation. The CIA have admitted a range of biological attacks in Cuba. A biological warfare expert at the German Bundestag noted that 'Iraq is the latest victim of what appears to be a deliberate introduction of screw worm... in Libya an outbreak occurred in 1989 at a time of exceptionally strained relations with the US. In a year it covered 5,000 kilometres and killed 12,000 livestock.'

In early July of this year, Ian Broughton, a New Zealand national, employed by the UN in demining work, was expelled from Iraq for allegedly planting boxes of locust larvae in the north of the country, an allegation the UN categorically denies.



The screw worm fly, unknown in Iraq before 1996, has devastated cattle.

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