

U.S. Affairs

“the big stud in town,” as one Washington official describes him, famed for his frank talk at the podium about killing Al Qaeda and imperious but jocular manner. Even some White House press aides are said to study Rumsfeld’s briefing transcripts for tips. So rampant is Rummy worship at the White House that one insider says, “I think they’re kind of afraid of him.”

The scene in Texas was also about the man who wasn’t there—and who represents the opposite pole in a foreign-policy team ever-riven by infighting, especially over Iraq. Colin Powell was off vacationing with friends in the Hamptons, and in an atmosphere of war talk, the absence of the Bush team’s leading moderate was widely noted. Bush went out of his way to stress that the Crawford meeting was about missile defense and “contingency plans,” not Iraq. But it was yet another reminder of Rummy’s ascendan-

cy and the partial eclipse of Powell, especially since the war on terror began. After all, it was only 18 months ago, at another dusty Texas stop, that Bush had emotionally introduced his new secretary of State as “an American hero,” saying Powell “believes as I do that we must work closely with our allies and friends [and] project our strength and our purpose with humility.”

TODAY HUMILITY SEEMS IN short supply in the Bush administration, critics say. This time the complaints aren’t coming from Europeans, or most Democrats, but Bush’s fellow Republicans, many of them frustrated moderate allies of Powell’s. Their chief worry: the spreading war fever. GOP stalwarts such as Brent Scowcroft—the national-security adviser to Bush’s father—

fear a unilateral rush into pre-emptive war in Iraq that could undercut worldwide support for the war on terror and cast the U.S. as an aggressor nation for the first time in its history. They complain that the old policy of moderate “internationalism” has been trashed by an influential coterie of superhawks who are a little too eager to assert America’s vast power, unconcerned with the qualms of its longtime allies.

The get-Saddam hard-liners are led by Rumsfeld himself and his deputy and comrade-in-arms from the Ford administration days, Vice President Dick Cheney (who joked in a dinner conversation not long ago that Rummy “still treats like a deputy”). They are backed up by a klatch of hawkish deputies and staff, among them Cheney’s powerful chief of staff, Lewis (Scooter) Libby, and Rumsfeld’s top deputy, Paul Wolfowitz. B



REP. DICK ARMITAGE
HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER
■ The GOP’s No. 2 in the House surprised fellow conservatives by opposing a pre-emptive strike on Iraq. By the way—he’s not running for re-election.



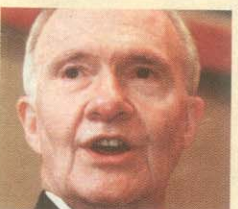
RICHARD ARMITAGE
DEPUTY SEC. OF STATE
■ A few years ago, State’s second in command signed a letter urging an Iraqi insurrection ASAP, but he now backs Powell’s more moderate stance.



LARRY EAGLEBURGER
FMR. SECRETARY OF STATE
■ Bush Sr.’s diplomatic guru wants Dubya to hold off until there’s solid intel that Saddam has his finger on the trigger of a nuke or chem-bio weapon.



CHUCK HAGEL
GOP SENATOR
■ A Vietnam vet, the Nebraska lawmaker stresses that war is ugly—and notes the lack of battle experience among the get-Saddam crowd.



BRENT SCOWCROFT
FMR. NAT’L-SECURITY ADV.
■ The elder Bush’s close confidant lobbed the most damaging shot in the war of words over Iraq. Was this Daddy’s way of telling Junior to back down?

A Who’s Who in the Batt

The Doves

They warn that rushing into war without direct provocation would alienate America’s allies and mark a dangerous turn in U.S. foreign policy.

COLIN POWELL
SECRETARY OF STATE
■ The Bush team’s chief moderate is trying to convince the president that action against Iraq will fail without the support of other nations.

