

PREDICTABLE FAILURE UPDATE

Justin Rood points to this Observer article which supports two of my past speculations.

emptywheel, 8/18

But I suspect he may be misreading the administration's dominant impulse with regards to information. Rood argues that because the administration hates leaks, the leak must either have been sanctioned or just something the administration missed.

Most likely, the leak was sanctioned. Alternatively, it was originally unsanctioned but aided the administration's goals, so they let it slide.

But I would argue—and (as Rood himself admits) you can ask Valerie Plame about this—that the administration doesn't so much hate leaks. Its primary motivating impulse is that it hates **losing control** of the information. If leaks serve its immediate political purpose, they're all well and good, according to the administration.

Observer, 8/21

Anti-terror police in Britain have made an angry request to their US counterparts asking them to stop leaking details of this month's suspected bomb plot over fears that it could jeopardise the chances of a successful prosecution and hamper the gathering of evidence.

The British security services, MI5 and MI6, are understood to be dismayed that a number of sensitive details surrounding the alleged plot—including an FBI

estimate that as many as 50 people were involved -were leaked to the media.