

No Iraq inquiry in Britain

by UPI

LONDON -- The British foreign secretary says the government has no plans to form an independent inquiry into mistakes made before and after the invasion of Iraq. Foreign Secretary David Miliband said in response to a question about whether an inquiry would be held after British troops are out of Iraq that the government needs to focus on the future of Iraq, not the mistakes of the past, The Independent reported Wednesday. "I am obsessed with the next five years in Iraq, not the last five years in Iraq," he said. "And I think that the best 'inquiry' is putting the best brains to think about how to make sure the next five years in Iraq get that combination of political reconstruction, economic reconstruction and security improvement that are so essential." British Prime Minister Gordon Brown said in September that there were no immediate plans for an inquiry, but left the possibility open for the future. "There will be a time to discuss the question you raise but for the moment nothing has changed," he said. "The security and safety of our forces -- and there are more than 5,000 people in Iraq -- remain the first and foremost consideration."

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