

'Iraq war a cover for US's real motives'

KUALA LUMPUR: The United States invaded Iraq, not just for its oil, but to control its supply to countries like China so that it would remain the world's economic giant, freelance journalist Dr Gwynne Dyer said yesterday.

Going to war with Iraq was just a distraction from the actual intention, which was to control the entire supply of oil in the Persian Gulf, he said on the second of the three-day *Expose War Crimes - Criminalise War* conference here.

Dyer, who is also a lecturer on international affairs, spoke on *The ultimate war crime and how to distract the media*.

He said he had spoken with intelligence friends about the invasion of Iraq in the course of his work in the US and Britain, and much of the focus was on China and not the threat of terrorism or weapons of mass destruction.

"No point talking to politicians as they talk from the script. Many of my intelligence friends say, the

entire invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan was manufactured and sold to the people on the pretext of terrorist threats."

Dyer said the real reason for the invasion had to do with the great power game and America protecting its economic interests.

"China is becoming a real economic threat to the US, as it is expected to become an economic giant by 2040, and a few years after that, it will be India.

"The US does not like to be in the number two or three position economically.

"You don't need to invade a country to get its oil, when they are actually in the business of selling it. But if you want to control where the oil is being sold, then you might want to invade a country."

Dyer said the principal aim of the invasion was to control the flow of oil to China as most of the oil from Middle Eastern countries did not go to the US, but to Southeast Asian countries.