Ghosts of Iraq Policy Still Haunt State

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The ghosts of Iraqgate glide about Foggy Bottom and haunt the Clinton adminstration.

There's **April C. Glaspie**, former ambassador to Baghdad who had been toiling away in obscurity the last year or so in the U.S. mission at the United Nations in an exceedingly low-profile job—dealing with environmental issues as a follow-up to last June's Rio Summit.

Glaspie was quietly minding her own business there until U.N. Ambassador **Madeleine K. Albright** showed up one day in January and gave her five hours to pack up and get out, according to a knowledgeable source.

Now Glaspie is a diplomat without a job, doing some work in the director general's office. There was talk of naming her—at her suggestion—sources say, to the diplomatic (and actual) equivalent of the end of the Earth: a job with the U.N. operation in Hargeysa, Somalia, the northern part of the country that was hardly a garden spot even before the civil war devastated the country.

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Glaspie, who is also being considered for a job inside the department, said yesterday she didn't know where she was going. "I'm here waiting for reassignment. I would like to be abroad somewhere." Surely not Hargeysa?

"I'd be happy to go there if someone wants to send me," Glaspie said.

Word's out on another, albeit less radioactive, Iraqgate veteran: **James P. "Jock" Covey.**

Covey was nominated by Bush to be assistant secretary of state for South Asia—which the Senate let die, apparently because of questions regarding his work on Bush's pre-Persian Gulf War policy.

The Clinton administration had him in line as an assistant secretary for Defense, but that was derailed by the same concerns. Now it appears Covey's in line for a deputy job at State under **Robert L. Gallucci**, assistant secretary for politico military affairs.

The deputy job does not require Senate confirmation, but there are rumblings on the Foreign Relations Committee that Covey will be blasted on Iraq the minute he goes up to testify on any issue.