

BROTHERS IN ARMS: THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BAE SYSTEMS AND NEW LABOUR

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Abstract:

When the New Labour government's justifications for maintaining political and economic support for arms exports is subject to scrutiny, either the government has failed to prove its case or their case is simply unsustainable. This begs the question why does New Labour continue to support arms exports? One way of answering this is to look at the relationship between the second largest military contractor in the world, UK-based BAe Systems and New Labour as a government and as a party including a look at the environment in which it has found itself operating. A brief survey of just some of the links between BAe and Labour MPs, Labour Peers, party funding, the MoD, task forces and international lobby groups is highly suggestive of a close relationship.

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