

Welcome, President Bush

We join **Alan Forrester** and **Oliver Kamm** in welcoming President Bush to Britain on his forthcoming State Visit.

Against a background of “**tense rows**” between Scotland Yard and the US Secret Service about security measures, some British commentators are playing nasty little word games, in effect complaining about the **very fact** that the President is to be protected from murder during his visit. Their argument runs something like this: “bloody paranoid Americans seeing non-existent terrorists behind every tree just like they used to see reds under beds how dare they tell us how to run our own security services they just want to suppress legitimate dissent after all why shouldn't thousands of peace marchers be allowed to mob Bush then he'll see how much the world hates him because he's the number one threat to peace and freedom and if he gets assassinated he'll have only himself to blame and it won't be a moment too soon”.

But as **Andrew Sullivan** says:

I don't believe that the Brits are, as a whole, that hostile either to the war or to Bush. The minority who hates him appeals to the ignorance of those who condescend to him. And the BBC has whipped up anti-Americanism to fever pitch. But my native country isn't renowned for its common sense for nothing. I have faith that the majority will eventually see through the propaganda to the truth.

Indeed.

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