

Lecture by Tariq Ali

23 September 2003

Tariq Ali gave a talk at the British Museum about his new book which is entitled *Bush in Babylon: The Recolonisation of Iraq*. The talk was organised by James Putnam, curator of the British Museum's Arts and Cultures Programme, and there was an audience of about 100 people. Tariq Ali was introduced by Neil MacGregor (Director, British Museum), who put the talk into context by describing what the British Museum had already done in connection with the threat to the Iraqi cultural heritage. After Tariq Ali had spoken for about 40 minutes, there was a question and answer session with James Putnam, in which Tariq Ali was asked about the British Museum's role in the Iraq crisis. He simply replied that it was too dangerous to send experts at the present time. He also cautioned against bringing objects to London for treatment, but this had never been the intention of the British Museum.