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W. CALLS CHIRAC 'JACKASS' - AUTHORS

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October 5, 2004 -- President Bush privately refers to French President Jacques Chirac, who bitterly opposed Bush's Iraq policy, as "The Jackass," according to a new

book.

And Bush knows how little Chirac thinks of him because U.S. intelligence eavesdrops on phone calls by Chirac at the Elysée Palace in Paris, the book says, according to The Times of London.

"The relationship between your president and ours is irreparable on the personal level," a U.S. official told a senior French military aide, according to the book, "Chirac Versus Bush — The Other War."

Among the revelations of bad blood between the two leaders, detailed by authors Henri Vernet and Thomas Cantaloube:

* Before the bitterly divided U.N. Security Council took up Iraq in early 2003, the French entourage met in Germany's U.N. mission because it was the only unbuggable place they could find.

* The White House wouldn't take any calls from the French leadership for weeks after the U.S.-led invasion. *Andy Soltis*



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