

MPS IN CALL TO PUT BRITAIN IN DOCK OVER IRAQ BY ROSA PRINCE

FORTY MPs have called on UN chief Kofi Annan to haul Britain through the International Court of Justice over the Iraq war.

The cross-party group believes Tony Blair was in breach of the Charter of the United Nations when he joined America to invade Iraq .

They sent a letter to Mr Annan to seek clarification through the court as to whether it was legal for war to be declared when it had not been approved by the UN Security Council.

The MPs wrote: "It is clear that, in Britain and the United States , war was justified on the basis of intelligence reports of current and serious threats from weapons of mass destruction, purportedly held by Iraq , all of which turned out to be without foundation.

"We look to the court for an advisory opinion on this war, not only to address the casualties and damage done to the people and country of Iraq , but also to offer clear guidelines for the future about the legality of pre- emptive wars." The MPs, led by Labour's Alan Simpson, have also written to 18 heads of state who opposed the war, as they can also refer cases to the court.

Mr Simpson said: "Lots of people have concerns about the legitimacy of the war and it seems we do need to have clarification of this." He added that if a case was brought, he would expect to see the Attorney General's legal advice on the war published in full for the first time.

Meanwhile it emerged that the only person to lose their job in the wake of the Butler inquiry into intelligence failures ahead of the Iraq war was an official who criticised Mr Blair.

John Morrison's contract as chief investigator to the Commons Intelligence and Security Committee is being terminated in October.

He told the BBC how he could "almost hear the collective raspberry going up around Whitehall " as the PM claimed the threat from Saddam's WMD was "current and serious". He added: "The Prime Minister was going way beyond anything any professional analyst would have agreed." Mr Blair yesterday jetted off for a three-week break at Cliff Richard's mansion in Barbados, after telling Labour chiefs to "draw a line" under Iraq and focus on domestic issues for the next election.

-PRO-EUROPE Tory Michael Heseltine yesterday vowed to boycott Tony Blair's campaign for the European referendum because of the Iraq war.