

Withdrawn/Redacted Material

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DOCUMENT NO.	FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
031	Chart	Presidential Phone Calls...	1	09/16/2002	P5;
032	Draft	Telcon with President of Indonesia	3	09/16/2002	P1/b1;
033	Q and A	Iraq Qs & As	8	N.D.	P5;
034	Report	EUR Input - POTUS UNGA Speech	7	N.D.	P1/b1; P5;
037	Report	[Report]	3	N.D.	P1/b1; P5;
038	Talking Points	[Talking Points]	5	N.D.	P5;
040	Memorandum	Memorandum - To: Maura Harty, et al. - From: Stephen E. Biegun	1	09/17/2002	P3/b3;

COLLECTION TITLE:

National Security Council - National Security Advisor, Office of the

SERIES:

Rice, Condoleezza

FOLDER TITLE:

[Iraq] [Folder 3] [3]

FRC ID:

34717

RESTRICTION CODES

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PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

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040b	Resolution	Joint Resolution	3	09/17/2002	P5;
041	Report	[Report]	5	09/17/2002	P1/b1; P5;
043	List	[List]	2	N.D.	P1/b1; P5;
045	Note	[Notes]	1	N.D.	P1/b1; P5;

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SEPTEMBER 2002

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 SASC CIA Tenet/DIA Jacoby 9:30AM (Closed) SSCI CIA/Tenet 2:00PM (Closed)	18 HASC DOD Rumsfeld/JCS Myers 10:00AM	19 SASC DOD Rumsfeld/JCS Myers 2:30PM Open/Closed	20	21
22	23 HOUSE Possible Consideration of Resolution this week	24 HIRC State/Powell 2:00PM (try to move to Sept. 19)	25 (T) SFRC State/Powell (proposing 25,26,27)	26 HIRC Requesting DOD	27 SFRC State/Powell Time TBD	28
29	30					

OCTOBER 2002

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 SENATE Consideration of Resolution?	8	9	10	11 Projected Adjournment	12

Hearings/Briefings are open unless otherwise noted.

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 SASC CIA Tenet/DIA Jacoby 9:30AM (Closed) SSCI CIA/Tenet 2:00PM (Closed)	18 HASC DOD Rumsfeld/JCS Myers 10:00AM	19 SASC DOD Rumsfeld/JCS Myers 2:30PM Open/Closed	20	21
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9/13/02 4:20PM

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A CATALOGUE OF EVIL

10 Reasons to Fear Saddam Hussein

For decades, Saddam Hussein has threatened the stability and safety of the world. He's harbored terrorists, threatened his neighbors -- and his own people -- and has amassed a stockpile of the deadliest and most dangerous weapons known to man -- weapons he's proven time and time he's willing to use. More than a decade ago, Saddam agreed to full weapons inspections and disarmament of his weapons of mass destruction. Since then, weapons inspectors have been expelled and Iraq continues to develop and stockpile chemical and biological weapons capable of killing thousands. Most alarming of all, Iraq may be dangerously close to developing a crude nuclear weapon. Saddam Hussein's Iraq remains the most dangerous terrorist regime on earth. No other nation represents such a threat to the safety and security of the world. Here are 10 reasons why:

1. **A COLD HEART: Saddam openly praised the September 11th attacks on America**
 - In the aftermath of the attacks on America that killed thousands of innocents from 80 countries, Saddam Hussein said, "America harvests the thorns that its rulers planted in the world."
2. **A SUPPORTER OF TERRORISM: Iraq harbors, finances, and aids terrorists**
 - Iraq shelters and supports terrorist organizations that direct violence against Iran, Israel, and Western governments.
 - Al Qaeda terrorists escaped from Afghanistan and are known to be in Iraq.
 - In 1993, Iraq attempted to assassinate the Emir of Kuwait and a former U.S. President.
3. **A NUCLEAR OBSESSION: Saddam is actively working to acquire nuclear weapons -- and he may be closer than we think**
 - He's been close before -- were it not for the Gulf War, Iraq would likely have possessed a nuclear weapon by 1993.
 - Iraq still employs capable nuclear scientists and technicians and retains physical infrastructure needed to build a nuclear weapon.
 - Iraq has made several attempts to buy high-strength aluminum tubes used to enrich uranium for a nuclear weapon.
 - Iraq's state-controlled media has reported numerous meetings between Saddam Hussein and his nuclear scientists, leaving little doubt about his continued appetite for these weapons.
4. **A CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ARSENAL: Saddam's stockpile of biological and chemical weapons threatens the world**
 - United Nations' inspections revealed that Iraq likely maintains stockpiles of VX, mustard and other chemical agents, and that the regime is rebuilding and expanding facilities capable of producing chemical weapons.
 - Saddam Hussein has killed thousands with his chemical weapons -- even using them to attack his own people. On at least 10 occasions, Saddam Hussein's military forces have attacked Iranian and Kurdish targets with combinations of mustard gas and nerve agents.
 - Iraq has admitted to producing tens of thousands of liters of anthrax and other deadly biological agents for use with Scud warheads, aerial bombs, and aircraft spray tanks.
 - U.N. inspectors believe Iraq has produced two to four times the amount of biological agents it declared, and has failed to account for more than three metric tons of material that could be used to produce biological weapons.
 - Iraq is expanding and improving facilities that were used for the production of biological weapons.

5. BLOODY HANDS: Saddam's record of murder against his own people.

- In the late 1980's Saddam Hussein launched a large-scale chemical weapons attack against Iraq's Kurdish population killing thousands.
- Saddam Hussein has **murdered thousands of political opponents** -- 1,500 people in 1997 alone.
- Iraqi security agents have reportedly **decapitated numerous women and men in front of their families** and displayed the victim's heads in front of their homes for several days.

6. A SADISTIC BENT: Saddam's regime routinely tortures and persecutes Iraqi citizens

- Tens of thousands of political opponents and ordinary citizens have been subjected to arbitrary arrest and imprisonment, summary execution, and torture by beating and burning, electric shock, starvation, mutilation, and rape.
- Wives are tortured in front of their husbands, children in the presence of their parents.
- Those who criticize Saddam Hussein or his family are punished by having their tongues amputated.
- Iraqi soccer players are reportedly detained and tortured for losing matches.

7. WOMEN AND CHILDREN ARE NOT SPARED: Saddam's cruelty extends to women and children.

- Saddam has apparently **starved children** for public relations gain, cutting baby milk rations and then blaming US and UK sanctions for their suffering. There is no shortage. The United Nations has approved all baby milk contracts submitted by Iraq. Saddam blames the suffering of Iraq's people on the U.N., even as he uses his oil wealth to build lavish palaces for himself, and to buy arms for his country.
- **Child labor persists** and there are instances of forced labor.
- **Children's eyes are gouged out** to force confessions from their adult relatives.
- **Children are forced into rigorous military training** – some are as young as 10 years old.
- In October 2000, the Iraqi Government **executed dozens of women** accused of prostitution. In May 2002, the Iraqi Government reportedly **tortured to death the mother of three Iraqi defectors** for her children's opposition activities.
- **Rape is a method of torture.** Female relatives of prisoners are raped in front of them and relatives of political opponents are raped on videotape for blackmail purposes. Human rights agencies report numerous instances of women raped while in Iraqi custody.

8. AN AMERICAN STILL MISSING: Iraq has failed to return hundreds of POWs and MIAs, including an American, missing or captured during the Gulf War

- In 1991, the U.N. Security Council demanded that Iraq return all prisoners from Kuwait and other lands. Iraq's regime agreed. It broke its promise.
- **600 people** remain unaccounted for.
- **One American pilot is among them.**

9. MISSILES AT THE READY: Saddam has a force of ballistic missiles to attack his neighbors.

- Iraq **possesses Scud-type missiles** with ranges beyond the 150 kilometers permitted by the U.N.
- Work at testing and production facilities shows that **Iraq is building more long-range missiles** that it can use to inflict mass death throughout the region.

10. WE MAY NOT KNOW WHAT HE'S HIDING UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE

- It's been almost four years since the last U.N. inspectors set foot in Iraq, four years for the Iraqi regime to plan, and to build, and to test behind the cloak of secrecy.
- The first time we may be completely certain he has a nuclear weapons is when, God forbids, he uses one.

NOTE: More information on the dangers Saddam Hussein poses can be found in "A Decade of Defiance," a background document available on the White House web site, www.whitehouse.gov.

EYES ONLY

7855

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 17, 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR

MS. MAURA HARTY
Executive Secretary
Department of State

MR. ALBERTO R. GONZALES
Counsel to the President

COL JAMES A. WHITMORE
Executive Secretary
Department of Defense

(b)(3), 50 USC 403g, sec. 6

MR. ANDREW H. CARD
Chief of Staff to the
President

COL EDWARD W. SNEAD, USA
Secretary, Joint Staff

MR. LEWIS LIBBY
National Security Advisor to
the Vice President

SUBJECT: Principals Committee Meeting on September 18,
2002, on Draft Congressional Resolution

There will be a meeting of Principals tomorrow Wednesday,
September 18, 2002, in the Situation Room from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m.
Attendance is principals plus one. The purpose of the meeting
will be to discuss the attached draft Congressional Resolution.

Please pass the attached supporting papers to Principals (to
include plus one, if applicable) EYES ONLY.

Stc,
Stephen E. Biegun
Executive Secretary

Attachments

Tab A Agenda
Tab B Discussion Paper

EYES ONLY

NSC PRINCIPALS COMMITTEE MEETING ON
DRAFT CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION

DATE: September 18, 2002
LOCATION: White House Situation Room
TIME: 8:30 - 9:00 a.m.

AGENDA

- I. Introduction NSC
II. Discussion Item NSC
III. Summary NSC

Withdrawal Marker

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FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
Resolution	Joint Resolution	3	09/17/2002	P5;

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COLLECTION:

National Security Council - National Security Advisor, Office of the

SERIES:

Rice, Condoleezza

FOLDER TITLE:

[Iraq] [Folder 3] [3]

FRC ID:

34717

OA Num.:

NSC 0480

NARA Num.:

FOIA IDs and Segments:

2014-0457-F

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American Views

Senator Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee (D-DE) – “President Bush's speech was a powerful indictment, by the United Nations' own standards, of Saddam Hussein's contempt for the world ... The president did the right thing by going to the United Nations and reminding it that Saddam Hussein is the world's problem and the U.N. has an obligation to act.”

Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-SD) – The President's address was a “strong presentation,” and it “encouraged” him.

Senate Minority Leader Trent Lott (R-MS) – “I thought the president was clear, forceful. It was obvious that he is committed to dealing with this very serious threat. And now I think it's vital for the Congress to show the world that we back this president and will give him the authority he needs to protect the American people and the world community. We must vote to show support for the president right now.”

Rep. Roy Blunt (R-MO) – “I think the president made the right step, going to the world community and making the case that time after time, Saddam defied the U.N. This is exactly the kind of case that the U.N. was formed to stop.”

Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) – “I think the president has embarked on a well planned effort to rid the world in this country of the threat of the use of weapons of mass destruction by Saddam Hussein. The president, I believe, deserves a vote on the part of the Congress of the United States before we go out of session, for the following reasons. One, when he consults with our allies and makes his case for a robust weapons inspection regime, he needs to tell our allies and people throughout the world that the American people are behind him, as articulated by a vote on the part of the Congress. And I am confident that the president will receive a majority vote.”

Senator Joe Lieberman (D-CT) – “President Bush today delivered a powerful and convincing indictment of Saddam Hussein and the grave threat he poses not just to the United States and the people of the world, but to the legitimacy and authority of the United Nations, which Saddam has

outrageously defied and deceived for more than a decade. I fully support the President's call to action to the members of U.N....”

Representative John Boehner (R-OH) – “Today’s speech reinforces President Bush’s commitment to consult the international community - just as he has consistently consulted Congress - in his development of a strategy to replace the outlaw regime in Iraq. The President laid out a clear and convincing case for a regime change.”

Representative Henry Waxman (D-CA) – “I don't see that doing nothing is a good option....”

Former Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger on ABC News "Nightline" (9/12) – “The President's speech, as far as I'm concerned, was superb.... The President with that speech has turned this now into a direction that some of us who were critical, find very, very – much more reassuring. Namely, let's try to get some of the rest of the world on our side, too.”

Former US Ambassador to the UN Richard Holbrooke on ABC News "Nightline" (9/12) – “This was a well crafted, well delivered speech.... The Administration dramatically strengthened its position today...”

Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright writes in the New York Times (9/13) – “The core of President Bush's forcefully delivered message on Iraq at the United Nations yesterday was irrefutable.”

Sen. Chuck Hagel (R-NE) – The president's speech was “a compelling first step in laying out what a dangerous situation the world faces.”

House Majority Whip Tom DeLay (R-TX) – “The president used strong moral leadership to underscore the grave dangers that would follow an abdication of responsibility by the United Nations. The U.N.'s credibility is on the line.”

Foreign Opinions

European Commission statement as read to a daily briefing by external relations spokesman Gunnar Wiegand (Reuters) – Bush sent “an important, strong and clear signal” outlining why the world should be concerned about Iraq and making clear that the authority of the United

Nations was on the line. "The United States' strong engagement with the United Nations will make it easier to find a common line between the United States and the European Union. Iraq must now take all steps as required by the U.N. Security Council resolutions."

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw – "No one who heard President Bush's speech could be in any doubt... about the urgency of dealing with the threat posed by Saddam Hussein."

British Defense Minister Geoff Hoon – "[A] U.N. process as well as a clear ultimatum with a sting in its tail, as far as prospective military operation is concerned, is part of making it clear to Iraq just how seriously we view this situation."

Spanish Prime Minister, Jose Maria Aznar – "If I have to choose between the camp of freedom and the camp of tyranny or I have to choose between President Bush or Saddam Hussein I have no doubt which is my place or what Spain's place should be."

Arab League President Amr Mussa – "Bush's speech, in which he said the United Nations should shoulder its responsibilities towards Iraq, is a good thing. It is possible (for Arabs) to deal with."

"I believe that the turn President Bush has taken in asking the United Nations to take up its responsibility is a good one, but it needs time."

French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin – "The president ... stressed the central role the United Nations must play and this is a very good thing. We appreciate this."

"We cannot accept the current status quo, we cannot accept the flouting of U.N. Security Council resolutions ... all the international community's energies have to be focused on this threat."

"The clear priority today is the struggle against proliferation and to get the (weapons) inspectors back in."

Alain Juppé (former French Prime Minister, now aide to Chirac) –

"France must not give the impression that the use of force is improbable. If we make too many conditions, we'll lose all credibility."

Austrian Foreign Minister Benita Ferrero-Waldner – (Reuters) “[S]he fully agreed with Bush that all Security Council resolutions on Iraq must be implemented immediately and without conditions.”

Norwegian Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik – “What was positive in his speech is that future action is rooted in the United Nations ... It's clear for me that the United Nations has to act.”

Norwegian Foreign Minister Jan Petersen – President Bush “challenged us to (live) up to our responsibilities and he was very clear on all the violations which we certainly have to take seriously.”

European Union External Relations Commissioner Chris Patten – “We want to see multilateralism as an effective way of dealing with problems, not as an excuse for failing.”

Danish Prime Minister H.E. Anders Fog Rasmussen on behalf of the European Union – “Iraq is in breach of several resolutions of the Security Council on her disarmament obligations - these obligations must be complied with immediately. The European Union is determined to support further efforts of the United Nations to that end. We agree with the United States that this matter should urgently be dealt with by the Security Council.”

Canadian Foreign Minister Bill Graham – “Our reaction is very positive...we consider that Iraqi compliance with U.N. resolutions is strictly a matter for the Security Council ... We're very pleased that Mr Bush has said that we're going to engage in the United Nations and that the United States has confidence in the United Nations to resolve this issue. I think his statement was very well received and is very positive for the whole world.”

Romanian Foreign Minister Mircea Geoana – “We support the United States and its allies in NATO. For us, it's very important to see this threat to security addressed.”

Portuguese Foreign Minister Martins da Cruz – “We believe it is a mistake some allies are doing – blaming the United States. We need to blame Iraq. Iraq is not respecting U.N. resolutions.”

“We believe that we cannot close the door to other options. ... For Portugal, it is very clear that all the options must be open.”

Bulgarian Foreign Minister Solomon Passy – “I fully agree with the thrust of the message in the speech delivered by President Bush in the UN General Assembly this morning: we must preserve our democratic values and our commitment to the stability of the world in an era of war against terrorism.”

From the office of Turkish President Ahmet Necdet Sezer – “(Turkish) President Ahmet Necdet Sezer welcomes with pleasure the U.S. administration's will to work with the United Nations on the Iraq issue and to act jointly with the international community.”

Foreign Minister of Qatar, Sheik Hamad bin Jassem bin Jabor Al Thani – “The United Nations has to play a role. We have to work, all of us, to make an effort with the United Nations to say exactly what they want with Iraq.”

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak (AFP) – He “welcomed the door that the US president has opened in order to solve the Iraqi problem, by stressing the pivotal role that the UN, and especially the UN Security Council, should play regarding Iraq.”

Other Comments

ABC Network News Response to President's Speech, Peter Jennings – “A great speech of moral clarity, the kind of speech we've come to expect from President Bush.”

CNN's European Political Editor Robin Oakley – “Bush's speech to the U.N. pressed some key buttons for European doubters.”

Martha Brant, *Newsweek* – Presenting the facts as he did “was a smart strategy.... You want multilateralism? Bush seemed to be saying. Here's your chance.”

David Kay, Former UN Nuclear Weapons Inspector, CNN Live Today, 9/12/02 – “I thought it was an extraordinarily impressive speech. I think most Americans don't realize how hard it is to give a good speech for an American in the General Assembly ... The president did something that I have very seldom seen from an American speaker there, and I have watched them for 35 years. That is he started by getting applause ... And then he laid

out what I thought was a very specific indictment of 11 years of behavior by Saddam Hussein designed to frustrate the Security Council's will in removing those weapons. I found it, I must say, as impressive as a speech he gave to the U.S. Congress for a very different purpose a year ago."

CNN – "President Bush's speech to the United Nations assailing Saddam Hussein was widely applauded Thursday by U.S. lawmakers...."

Howard Fineman, *Newsweek*, on Imus – The speech was a "classic example of methodical planning and good timing" on the President's part.

London Times – "What had been presented as a personal challenge to Bush ended as a political challenge to his audience at the UN. The president deftly turned the tables on his critics."

***Financial Times* (9/13)**– "Bush yesterday proved himself a master of the art of turning the tables on his critics. In doing so, he delivered a speech that was the most powerful indictment of Saddam.... It not only offered a strong rationale for coercive measures against Iraq, it also presented, for the first time, a possible framework for diplomatic and, if necessary, military action that could broaden the support for regime change in Baghdad beyond the current narrow coalition of the U.S. and the UK."

Michel Schiffres in *Le Figaro* (France) – "It is not enough to say that yesterday President Bush once again disappointed those who willingly see him as a somewhat silly cowboy, obsessed with seeking solitary power and eager to render his own type of justice. The man is clever.... He came on as a resolute leader who has chosen to go through the channels of the UN."

Jacques Amalric in *Liberation* (France) – "President Bush scored high marks for pointing out that Saddam Hussein has challenged the UN for over ten years...."

Berthold Kohler in *Frankfurter Allgemeine* – "President Bush, who pointed to the UN's weakest spot on Thursday and acted as someone who speaks on behalf of the UN, can consider this to be his first success. But his appeal to accept the danger from Saddam is a chance for the UN to regain lost credibility."

Danish Berlingske Tidende (9/13) – “Bush made it crystal clear that the ‘remove Saddam project’ is not about American aggression, but the world's interests. Bush's [excellent] speech has ensured that overwhelming pressure will be brought to bear on Saddam Hussein and the partners of terror.”

Newsday (9/13) – “President George W. Bush made a strong, compelling and unusually nuanced case against Iraq in his address to the United Nations General Assembly yesterday. He defied uneasy predictions that he would scoff at world opinion and act on his own. Instead, he joined with UN Secretary General Kofi Annan in putting the burden squarely on the UN Security Council to live up to its failed obligations to rid Iraq of its weapons of mass destruction. In doing so, Bush has averted a potential crisis with his allies and a looming domestic imbroglio. By pledging to work with the United Nations first - and take unilateral action against Iraq only if the UN fails to act again - Bush has laid to rest domestic and international fears of a preventive U.S. military intervention that could set a dangerous precedent.”

The New York Times (9/13) – “After a summer of discordant and belligerent rumblings about Iraq by various members of the administration, President Bush gave some welcome coherence to Washington's policy yesterday in a strong and, for the most part, sensible speech to the United Nations. While Mr. Bush reserved the right to act independently to restrain Iraq, he expressed a preference for working in concert with other nations and seemed willing to employ measures short of war before turning to the use of force. These are welcome and important statements.”

The Washington Post (9/13) – “President Bush yesterday put the case of Iraq before the United Nations and challenged the institution to act. It was the right way to go.” The president “compellingly spelled out one set of indisputable facts, showing that Iraq has defied a host of Security Council resolutions over the past 12 years.”

USA Today (9/13) – “Bush took a vital preliminary step Thursday as he moves toward confrontation with Saddam. By pressuring the U.N. to do its part, the president made it more likely that in any future showdown, the USA won't have to go it alone.”

Chicago Sun-Times (9/13) – “In the hours and days leading up to George Bush's address to the United Nations Thursday, there was talk of it being a defining moment for him, his administration and the war on terrorism. That

it may have been, but as his words issued forth with sturdy clarity, it wasn't the president who was under scrutiny as much as the body to which he made his urgent appeal. In a brilliantly laid out speech that eschewed the rhetorical flourishes of some of his other calls to arms to enunciate straightforward truths, Bush challenged the UN..."

Minneapolis Star Tribune (9/13) – "President Bush's speech to the U.N. General Assembly Thursday may well be cited decades hence as a defining moment in U.N. history – and as an essay as powerful and important as Winston Churchill's 'Iron Curtain' speech."

Bob Schieffer, CBS News – "I think it's fair to say the President couldn't have hoped for a better reaction than he got at the Capitol today."

Arab pundits

Abdel Moneim Said, head of the al Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies in Cairo – "I think he made a strong case. I think he made it in the form of multilateralism, and, in this case, he put the ball in the U.N. court, in one way or another. He didn't say, 'I will act if you didn't,' but it was there. It was implicit in his speech. I think he made a strong case, with a long list of clear violations of Iraq to U.N. resolutions."

Hamid al-Bayati, a spokesman for the Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq, AP Worldstream, 9/12/02 – "The speech for the first time made it clear that the U.S. is committed to defending the basic human right of the Iraqi people and their right to live in peace and dignity without coercion and suppression," he said in a telephone interview from London. "We call on world nations to follow suit and support the Iraqi people's right in protection against the repression of (Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's) regime."

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● Rachael L. Sunbarger

09/16/2002 08:04:10 PM

Record Type: Record

To:

cc:

Subject: STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 16, 2002

STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY PRESS SECRETARY

As the President said, the UN Security Council needs to decide how to enforce its own resolutions, which the Iraqi regime has defied for more than a decade.

This will require a new, effective UN Security Council resolution that will actually deal with the threat Saddam Hussein poses to the Iraqi people, to the region, and to the world. That is the course the Security Council is on, and the United States is engaged in consultations with Council members and other partners in New York at this time.

This is not a matter of inspections. It is about disarmament of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and the Iraqi regime's compliance with all other Security Council resolutions.

This is a tactical step by Iraq in hopes of avoiding strong UN Security Council action. As such, it is a tactic that will fail.

It is time for the Security Council to act.

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