

**MARCH 20, 2003**

**STATEMENT OF U.S. REPRESENTATIVE  
JAN SCHAKOWSKY ON WAR IN IRAQ**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. - Now that the war has begun, I hope for the safety of our troops, a speedy conclusion to the conflict, and the least loss of American and Iraqi lives. My thoughts are with our brave men and women in the Persian Gulf and with their families here at home.**

**President Bush's decision to invade Iraq, a country that did not pose an imminent threat to its neighbors or to the United States, and to engage in an unnecessary and unwise war that most of the world views as illegitimate, is unjustified. By attacking Iraq, a nation that did not attack the United States, President Bush has set in motion the frightful doctrine of preemption.**

**In a post war Iraq, the Bush Administration must live up to its obligation to the Iraqi people to rebuild their nation. Already, the Bush Administration is enlisting the support of the international community for that effort. I just hope that President Bush did not forever burn the bridges of international cooperation that were in place after 9/11.**