

JANUARY 24, 2003

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO PRESIDENT BUSH:

"MAKE EVERY ATTEMPT TO ACHIEVE IRAQ'S DISARMAMENT THROUGH DIPLOMATIC MEANS AND WITH THE FULL SUPPORT OF OUR ALLIES"

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Members of Congress called on President Bush to *"make every attempt to achieve Iraq's disarmament through diplomatic means and with the full support of our allies, in accordance with the process articulated in UN Security Council resolution 1441.*

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□ In a letter organized by U.S. Representatives Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Ron Kind (D-WI), Robert Wexler (D-FL) and Lloyd Dogget (D-TX), and signed by U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) and others, the members urged the President to demonstrate to the American people and the world that the United States is *"committed to the diplomatic approach and comprehensive inspections process agreed to in UN Security Council resolution 1441.*

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□ The full text of the letter to President Bush is below:

January 24, 2003

President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

On November 8, 2002, the United Nations Security Council unanimously endorsed a resolution designed to force Iraq to give up any weapons of mass destruction.□ We believe the U.S. should make every attempt to achieve Iraq's disarmament through diplomatic means and with the full support of our allies, in accordance with the process articulated in UN Security Council resolution 1441.

The UN resolution calls for a tough new weapons inspection regime; it requires the government of Iraq to provide inspectors with immediate, unimpeded, unconditional, and unrestricted access, and requires that Iraq permit inspectors to interview officials,

scientists, and other individuals as necessary to fulfill the mandate of the resolution. This is an inherently difficult task, requiring patience and perseverance.

The report scheduled to be given by Chief UN weapons inspector Dr. Hans Blix and Director General Mohamed ElBaradei on January 27, 2003 will assess whether the United Nations Monitoring, Verification, and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) and International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) comprehensive mission is proceeding in the unobstructed and effective manner necessary to realize the aims of UN Security Council resolution 1441. We encourage your Administration to sufficiently weigh future decisions regarding Iraq on the assessment given by UNMOVIC/IAEA, including additional inspection time and resources as appropriate. Your commitment to working through the UN Security Council and your vocal support for resolution 1441 are critical to UNMOVIC/IAEA's eventual success.

In addition, we respectfully urge you to use the opportunity provided in the upcoming State of the Union Address to offer assurances both to the American people and the international community that the United States remains committed to the diplomatic approach and comprehensive inspections process agreed to in UN Security Council resolution 1441.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to your response.