

**More proof needed before we go to war**

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Should we go to war with Iraq? I agree with Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf that we should follow the inspection regime.

The president has not proved that Iraq poses an imminent threat to the United States. Unfortunately, the president has brought us to the brink of war and alienated most of our allies by adopting a "my way or the highway" posture. Rather than use our superpower status to lead our allies toward forceful but peaceful disarmament of Saddam Hussein, the U.S. seems bent on military action. The new Bush doctrine based on the use of pre-emptive strikes, including the potential use of nuclear weapons, has put the U.S. in greater danger and has made the world a more dangerous place. The administration, in its focus on war with Iraq, is short-changing the fight against those who actually pose an imminent threat -- al-Qaida and Osama bin Laden.

How can President Bush convince skeptical Americans that war is justified? The American people have a right to be skeptical of President Bush. He has failed to present a clear case on why we should risk the lives of military men and women in a war with Iraq while at the same time ignoring the economic crisis and major domestic priorities. President Bush, who is spending billions of dollars preparing for a war that will not make us safe, refuses to help the unemployed, uninsured and middle-class working families, fund education or assist the states. War is not just another policy option; it represents a failure of civilized society to deal with serious problems peacefully.