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"Robust Monitoring"

Peaceful and Effective Solution to the Iraq Crisis

The debate concerning Iraq's possible weapons of mass destruction and their elimination has become a debate about inspections vs. war. In the interest of international peace and security, this debate must be transformed into a debate about ***how many UN inspectors and monitors are needed in Iraq to render the world safe?***

1. UN Security Council Resolutions Call for Robust Monitoring

The goal of UN Security Council Resolutions 715 (1991), 1154 (1998), 1284 (1999) and 1441 (2002) is to assure Iraqi compliance with the disarmament obligations formulated under UN SC Res. 687 (1991). These resolutions all call for a transition from the ongoing short-term inspections at selected facilities to *long-term monitoring and verification by a substantial number of UN inspectors and monitors* (so-called "robust" monitoring) until the Security Council establishes that such monitoring is no longer needed to assure Iraqi compliance with international disarmament obligations.

2. Senator Byrd Introduces Res. 28 to Allow More Time for Inspectors

In a resolution introduced January 29, Senator Robert Byrd (D-WV) together with eight Senate co-sponsors, asked the Senate to give the UN weapons inspectors sufficient time for a thorough assessment of the level of compliance by the Government of Iraq with UN SC Res. 1441 (2002), and that the U.S. should seek a UN Security Council resolution specifically authorizing the use of force before initiating any offensive military operations against Iraq.

3. President Carter: Robust Monitoring Represents Most Effective Alternative

In his January 31 statement, "An Alternative to War," former U.S. President Jimmy Carter stressed that robust monitoring represents the most effective alternative to resolve the Iraq disarmament crisis:

<http://www.cartercenter.org/printdoc.asp?docID=1165&submenu=news>

"...[W]hat can be done to prevent the development of a real Iraqi threat? The most obvious answer is a sustained and enlarged inspection team, deployed as a *permanent entity* until the United States and other members of the U.N. Security Council determine that its presence is no longer needed.... Even if Iraq should come into full compliance now, such *follow-up monitoring* will be necessary."

4. France Calls for Strengthened Inspections; Move Backed by China, Russia, Germany

A French position paper, circulated on February 11, stated that "...[Inspections] must be *more intensive, more carefully targeted, more intrusive*. Our approach is based on the need to compel Iraq to cooperate by taking the peaceful approach of intrusive inspections. To do this, *it is necessary for the inspections to be carried out to their logical end*, with the political, technical and material support of member States."

"...The inspections were designed from the outset as a necessary intrusive instrument *to ensure the elimination of banned Iraqi programs*. Their role has always been conceived as compelling the Iraqis to comply with their obligations."

In a more recent position paper, released on February 24, France underscored the need for strengthened UN inspections. Pointing out that "no evidence has been given that Iraq still possesses weapons of mass destruction" and that inspections "are functioning without hindrance," France called for the adoption of a "*clear program of action*" outlining the key substantive tasks for Iraq to accomplish, and proposed that *inspections continue for at least another four months* – provided Iraq cooperates fully. A majority of UN Security Council members, including China, Russia and Germany, support the French proposal.

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