February 24, 2003

OPEN LETTER TO MEMBERS OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL

Open Iraq's Borders to a UN Disarmament Force

Dear Mr. Ambassador,

Rather than authorizing, directly or indirectly, the use of armed force against Iraq in the new draft Security Council resolution being prepared by the United States and the United Kingdom, it would, in my personal view, be worthwhile to explore the possibility of a non-violent outcome in Iraq based on the "open city" treatment of Rome in World War II. Once implemented, this course would definitively resolve suspicions that Iraq possesses weapons of mass destruction.

Specifically, it is proposed that a new Security Council resolution on Iraq should conclude with a final paragraph that calls on the government of Iraq to peacefully open its borders to and to cooperate fully with a United Nations force which will peacefully enter Iraq for the sole purpose of completing the disarmament of weapons of mass destruction underway since 1991. While this UN force is carrying out its functions in Iraq, Iraqi armed forces should remain in their camps and barracks.

The number, composition, and activities of this UN force would be coordinated by the Secretary General of the United Nations under direction of the Security Council with the advice of UNMOVIC and of the IAEA. This force should be prepared to enter Iraq by June 1, 2003. The UN force will leave Iraq and sanctions will be lifted when its mission has been fully completed to the satisfaction of all members of the Security Council.

Sincerely,

Ambassador (ret.) Jonathan Dean
Adviser on Global Security Issues

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