

## **Iraq Talking Points – The Case for Action**

### **September 16, 2002**

\*\*\*(*Information provided by White House report, "A Decade of Deception and Defiance: Saddam Hussein's Defiance of the United Nations" Sept. 12, 2002*)

- In the last 10 years, **Saddam Hussein has repeatedly violated 16 U.N. Security Council Resolutions** designed to ensure that Iraq does not pose a threat to international peace and security. These resolutions require that Iraq must unconditionally accept the destruction of all chemical and biological weapons, must agree not to acquire nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction and must allow unfettered access to international weapons inspectors.

#### Biological Weapons

- UNSCOM reported to the UN Security council in April 1995 that **Iraq had concealed its biological weapons program and had failed to account for 3 tons of growth material for biological agents.**
- In 2001, an Iraqi defector reported visiting some 20 secret facilities in Iraq for chemical, biological and nuclear weapons. The defector, a civil engineer, supported his claims with stacks of Iraqi government contracts complete with technical specifications.
- Iraq admitted to producing biological agents, and after the 1995 defection of a senior Iraqi official, Iraq admitted to the weaponization of thousands of liters of anthrax, botulinum toxin, and aflatoxin for use with Scud warheads, aerial bombs and aircraft.

#### Chemical Weapons

- Saddam launched a large-scale chemical weapons attack against Iraq's Kurdish population in the late 1980s, killing thousands.
- On at least 10 occasions, Saddam's military forces have attacked Iranian and Kurdish targets with combinations of mustard gas and nerve agents through the use of aerial bombs, 122-millimeter rockets, and conventional artillery shells.
- Gaps identified by UNSCOM in Iraqi accounting and current production capabilities strongly suggest that Iraq maintains stockpiles of chemical agents, probably VX, sarin, cyclosarin and mustard.

### Nuclear Weapons

- A new report released in September 2002 from the International Institute for Strategic Studies (independent research organization) concludes that **Saddam could build a nuclear bomb within months if he were able to obtain fissile material.**
- In the last 14 months, Iraq has sought to buy thousands of specially designed aluminum tubes which officials believe were intended to be used as components of centrifuges to enrich uranium – a key step in developing nuclear weapons.
- Iraq still has the technical expertise and some of the infrastructure needed to pursue its goal of building a nuclear weapon.

### Support for Terrorism

- Iraq is one of 7 countries on the State Departments list of state sponsors of international terrorism. UN resolution 687 prohibits Saddam from committing or supporting terrorism, or allowing terrorist groups to operate inside Iraq. Once again, Saddam is flagrantly violating a UN requirement:
- In 1993, the Iraqi Intelligence Service directed and pursued an attempt to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush through the use of a powerful car bomb.
- Iraq shelters numerous terrorist groups including the Mujahedin-e-Khaiq Organization (MKO), which has used terrorist violence against Iran; the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF), which is known for aerial attacks against Israel and the murder of at least one known U.S. citizen; and the Abu Nidal Organization, which has been linked to the killing or injuring of almost 900 people – including U.S. citizens.
- Each of these groups have offices in Baghdad and receive training, logistical assistance, and financial aid from the government of Iraq.
- In April 2002, Saddam increased from \$10,000 to \$25,000 the money offered to families of Palestinian suicide bombers. The rules for the reward are strict – with full payment going ONLY to those who blow themselves up with explosive belts.
- Former Iraqi military officers have described a highly secret terrorist training facility in Iraq, known as Salman Pak, where both Iraqis and non-Iraqi Arabs receive training on hijacking planes and trains, planting explosives in cities, sabotage and assassinations.