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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE SEPTEMBER 18, 1991

NEWS

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IRAQ

PRESIDENT GIVING SADDAM ONE LAST CHANCE TO COMPLY WITH U.N. RESOLUTIONS; SENATE ALREADY ON RECORD SUPPORTING "ALL NECESSARY MEANS"

ON AUGUST 2, THE DISTINGUISHED SENATOR FROM CONNECTICUT, SENATOR LIEBERMAN, AND I INTRODUCED A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE USE OF, QUOTE, "ALL NECESSARY MEANS," UNQUOTE, TO FORCE IRAQ TO LIVE UP TO THE CONDITIONS OF THE U.N. CEASEFIRE RESOLUTION.

THE RESOLUTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY -- FURTHER EVIDENCE THAT THE UNITED STATES IS, INDEED, UNITED AND DETERMINED TO INSURE FULL AND COMPLETE IRAQI COMPLIANCE WITH THE U.N. RESOLUTIONS; IN PARTICULAR, TO INSURE THAT SADDAM HUSSEIN'S CAPACITY TO BUILD OR TN USE WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION IS ELIMINATED.

CHOICE UP TO SADDAM

ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, IRAQ WILL COMPLY. LET'S BE CLEAR:

THE QUESTION IS: WHICH WAY WILL SADDAM CHOOSE?

HIS TRACK RECORD DOESN'T GIVE ANYONE MUCH HOPE THAT HE WILL CHOOSE THE SANE AND SENSIBLE COURSE -- VOLUNTARY COMPLIANCE WITH

AN AGREEMENT TO WHICH, LET US NOT FORGET, IRAQ DID AGREE. INSTEAD, HE SEEMS ONCE AGAIN TO BE FORCING US TO TAKE THE OTHER COURSE: TO COMPEL HIS COMPLIANCE -- IF NECESSARY, THROUGH THE USE OF FORCE.

PRESIDENT BUSH IS TAKING THE APPROPRIATE PRECAUTIONS. HE IS ORDERING CERTAIN AMERICAN FORCES ON ALERT, AND TAKING OTHER STEPS TO PUT US IN THE POSITION TO DO WHATEVER NEEDS TO BE DONE.

IN TAKING THOSE STEPS, PRESIDENT BUSH IS NOT SEEKING A CONFRONTATION OR MILITARY SOLUTION. ON THE CONTRARY, WHILE PREPARING FOR MILITARY ACTION, IF NECESSARY, THE PRESIDENT IS SENDING YET ANOTHER -- AND PERHAPS A FINAL -- SIGNAL TO SADDAM, AND GIVING HIM ONE LAST CHANCE: COMPLY VOLUNTARILY, OR PAY THE PRICE.

NO ONE WANTS CONFLICT

THERE IS NOT A SINGLE SENATOR, OR A SINGLE AMERICAN, WHO

WANTS A RESUMPTION OF MILITARY CONFLICT. BUT THERE ARE FEW, IF ANY SENATORS OR AMERICANS WHO WILL NOT STAND SOLIDLY BEHIND THE PRESIDENT IF THE USE OF FORCE PROVES NECESSARY.

WE CAN'T BUILD AND PRESERVE A NEW WORLD ORDER -- IF OLD STYLE DICTATORS CAN GET THEIR WAY BY BLUFF, BLUSTER AND THE BRANDISHING OF NUCLEAR AND CHEMICAL WEAPONS.

SADDAM'S DAY IS DONE. HIS WAY OF DOING THINGS IS OVER.

SOMEHOW, EVEN NOW, HE HASN'T GOTTEN THAT MESSAGE. PRESIDENT BUSH IS MAKING ONE LAST EFFORT TO DELIVER THE

MESSAGE PEACEFULLY.

IF THAT DOESN'T WORK, IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO HAVE THE NEXT MESSAGE DELIVERED BY UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES.

THE CHOICE, ONCE AGAIN, IS SADDAM'S.

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