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NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
AUGUST 2, 1991

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USE OF FORCE ON IRAQ

DOLE/LIEBERMAN AMENDMENT PUTS SADDAM HUSSEIN ON NOTICE: COME CLEAN ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS OR PAY THE PRICE

I SEND AN AMENDMENT TO THE DESK AND ASK THAT IT BE READ IN ITS ENTIRETY. I AM PLEASED TO JOIN THE DISTINGUISHED SENATOR FROM CONNECTICUT, SENATOR LIEBERMAN, IN OFFERING THIS IMPORTANT AND TIMELY AMENDMENT. I AM ALSO PLEASED THAT MANY SENATORS, FROM BOTH SIDES OF THE AISLE, HAVE JOINED IN THIS TRULY BIPARTISAN EFFORT. I ASK UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO INCLUDE IN THE RECORD A LIST OF OUR COSPONSORS.

I WANTED THE RESOLUTION TO BE READ IN ITS ENTIRETY BECAUSE I BELIEVE ITS WORDS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES.

SOME PEOPLE NEVER SEEM TO GET THE MESSAGE. SADLY, SADDAM HUSSEIN IS ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE.

ONE YEAR AGO TODAY, SADDAM HUSSEIN ORDERED HIS ARMY INTO KUWAIT. THROUGH ALL THE BUILD-UP TO THAT INVASIONS, SADDAM DIDN'T GET THE MESSAGE THAT THE WORLD WOULD NOT TOLERATE HIS AGGRESSION -- AND THE PEOPLE OF KUWAIT AND, INDEED, OF IRAQ PAID A TERRIBLE PRICE.

APPARENTLY, HE HASN'T YET GOTTEN THE MESSAGE THAT THE WORLD WILL NOT TOLERATE HIS POSSESSION OR DEVELOPMENT OF CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL OR NUCLEAR WEAPONS. AND UNLESS HE SOON DOES GET THAT MESSAGE, IRAQ MAY HAVE TO PAY A HEAVY PRICE AGAIN.

SADDAM: YOU'RE OUT OF BLUFFS

THIS AMENDMENT WILL PUT THE CONGRESS SQUARELY BEHIND THE PRESIDENT IN SENDING THE MESSAGE TO SADDAM IN THE LOUDEST AND CLEAREST POSSIBLE TERMS: YOU ARE OUT OF WIGGLE ROOM. YOU ARE OUT OF BLUFFS. YOU ARE OUT OF TIME.

UNLESS YOU, SADDAM HUSSEIN, ACT NOW, TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND ELIMINATE YOUR CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAMS -- WE, THE UNITED STATES, THE PRESIDENT AND THE CONGRESS WORKING TOGETHER, WILL DO THE JOB FOR YOU.

LET ME ALSO ADD THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE SUPPORT THIS POSITION, TOO. A BOSTON GLOBE POLL PUBLISHED LAST WEEK, FOR EXAMPLE, REPORTS THAT 85% OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE BELIEVE THE UNITED STATES SHOULD TAKE ACTION TO STOP DICTATORS FROM ACQUIRING CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL OR NUCLEAR WEAPONS; AND 79% WOULD FAVOR GOING TO WAR TO ACCOMPLISH THAT GOAL, IF DIPLOMACY AND ECONOMIC SANCTIONS DON'T WORK.

WE DON'T WANT WAR

NONE OF THIS MEANS WE WANT WAR, OR FURTHER MILITARY ACTION.

BACK IN JANUARY, JUST MOMENTS AFTER THE SENATE PASSED THE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE USE OF FORCE TO REPEL SADDAM'S INVASION OF KUWAIT, I ASKED THE THEN-IRAQI AMBASSADOR, MR. AL-MASHAT, TO COME INTO MY OFFICE. A NUMBER OF SENATORS, INCLUDING MANY OF THE COSPONSORS OF THIS AMENDMENT, JOINED ME AT THAT MEETING.

WE TOLD THE AMBASSADOR FRANKLY THAT PASSAGE OF THE RESOLUTION WAS NOT AN EXPRESSION OF ANY DESIRE ON OUR PART TO USE FORCE -- BUT INDEED A LAST EFFORT TO AVOID ITS USE. WE TOLD THE AMBASSADOR TO PASS ON THE WORD TO SADDAM THAT WE DIDN'T WANT WAR -- BUT THE ONLY WAY LEFT TO AVOID WAR WAS FOR SADDAM TO UNDERSTAND THAT WE WERE UNITED, AND DETERMINED TO DO WHATEVER WAS NECESSARY TO OUST HIM FROM KUWAIT.

TRAGICALLY, THAT MESSAGE DIDN'T SINK IN.

SO NOW WE TRY AGAIN, THROUGH THIS AMENDMENT, TO SEND A MESSAGE TO SADDAM. A MESSAGE NOT THAT WE WANT TO USE FORCE -- BUT ON THE CONTRARY WANT TO MAKE ONE LAST EFFORT TO AVOID IT.

THE UNITED NATIONS HAS OUTLINED ITS DEMANDS -- ITS LEGITIMATE DEMANDS -- IN RESOLUTION 687.

STAND WITH PRESIDENT

THE PRESIDENT HAS LAID OUT OUR DEMANDS -- OUR LEGITIMATE DEMANDS -- IN THE CLEAREST POSSIBLE TERMS.

BY PASSING THIS AMENDMENT, WE WILL REINFORCE THE PRESIDENT'S DECLARATIONS, AND -- HOPEFULLY -- MAKE SADDAM UNDERSTAND, AT LONG LAST, THAT ALL OF US ARE UNITED IN OUR DEMANDS; AND IN OUR DETERMINATION TO DO WHATEVER WE MUST TO INSURE THAT THOSE DEMANDS ARE MET.

ON THIS DAY, THE ANNIVERSARY OF IRAQ'S INVASION OF KUWAIT, I URGE ALL SENATORS TO VOTE FOR THIS AMENDMENT, IN THE INTEREST OF OUR NATIONAL SECURITY, AND IN THE INTEREST OF PEACE.

(TEXT OF RESOLUTION ON BACK)

An Amendment to support the use of all necessary means to accomplish the elimination of Iraq's chemical, biological and nuclear weapons capability.

The Congress finds:

American and Coalition armed forces achieved great success in the Persian Gulf War in accomplishing the goals set forth by the United Nations Security Council.

Subsequent to the cessation of hostilities in the Persian Gulf, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 687, which has now been in effect for more than 100 days, and which required that Iraq submit within 15 days of its adoption a declaration of "the locations, amounts and types" of its weapons of mass destruction.

Resolution 687 further required that Iraq "shall unconditionally accept the destruction, removal, or rendering harmless, under international supervision," of all of its "chemical and biological weapons," and shall place all of its nuclear weapons-usable material under the "exclusive control, for custody and removal, of the International Atomic Energy Agency."

Iraq has failed to meet any of these requirements of Resolution 687, and further:

(a) Refused to acknowledge the existence of its biological weapons program.

(b) Obstructed, including through the use of armed force, the efforts of the United Nations Special Commission established by the Resolution to inspect Iraq's nuclear facilities to carry out its mandate.

In a report issued on July 30, the Commission concluded that Iraq has undertaken a systematic effort to conceal its nuclear weapons development program, and has four times as many chemical weapons as previously estimated.

President Bush has stated his determination to accomplish the goals of Resolution 687.

It is the sense of Congress that:

1. Iraq's failure to meet the requirements of Resolution 687 constitutes a continuing and grave threat to vital American national security interests and to the peace, security and stability of the Persian Gulf region.
2. The Congress supports the use of all necessary means to achieve the goals of Resolution 687.
3. The President is urged to continue consulting closely with our partners in the Desert Storm Coalition, and with the United Nations Security Council, on efforts to achieve the goals of Resolution 687.
4. Should the use of force prove necessary, the President is urged to take all reasonable precautions to ensure that innocent civilian casualties are avoided or minimized.