

United States Senate
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COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
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October 2, 2002

Mr. James Miner
208 Hyde Park Court, Apartment C
Cary, NC 27513-4270

Dear Mr. Miner:

Thank you for contacting me about U.S. policy toward Iraq. I appreciate hearing from you on this important issue.

As I am sure you agree, Saddam Hussein is a brutal dictator. He threatens the stability and security of the entire Middle East, a region critical to U.S. interests. Over the past decade, his regime has continually violated the cease-fire agreement which ended the Persian Gulf War and has repeatedly thwarted efforts by the United Nations to monitor Iraqi weapons facilities. Iraq is in violation of 16 U.N. Security Council resolutions, inaction for which Hussein shows no remorse and has no excuse.

There is no question that Iraq has chemical and biological weapons. Unlike others with weapons of mass destruction, Hussein has *used* these weapons on his own people and on his neighbors. There is strong evidence that Hussein is expanding his arsenal and developing nuclear weapons. It is a very real concern that Iraq will provide this technology to our active enemies. Iraq has provided safe harbor to terrorists and the organizations that support them.

For these reasons, I believe that our interests in this part of the world require that the threat posed by Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction be eliminated.

It is imperative that the U.S. and its allies work together. The U.S. must rally the international community through the U.N. Security Council. If the U.N. Security Council does not support our efforts, then we must act with as many allies as possible to ensure that Iraq meets its obligations to the international community, and is rid of its weapons of mass destruction once and for all.

The U.S. must lead an allied effort to commit to Iraq's political and economic reconstruction. After more than 20 years under Hussein, the Iraqi people deserve sustained assistance from the U.S. and its allies to help rebuild and stabilize their country. Ultimately our goal must be to free the global community from the fear of weapons of mass destruction and to help the people of the Middle East fulfill their potential to live in peace, democracy, and freedom.