

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3301

October 3, 2002

Mr. James Miner
208 C Hyde Park Court
Cary, North Carolina 27513

Dear Mr. Miner:

I genuinely appreciate hearing from you about the possible conflict with Iraq. It is indeed a very important matter on which the Foreign Relations Committee held two days of hearings with several well informed panels addressing the very same issues you have raised.

More hearings were being held last week because there are so many concerns that need to be addressed. Regime change in Iraq is imperative, but the need to rid the world of such a dangerous entity is equally clear.

Saddam has developed, and continues to develop, weapons of mass destruction. He has used chemical weapons against his own nation; he has stockpiles of biological agents; he has a huge appetite for a nuclear bomb; and he has a history of aggression against his neighbors that has twice resulted in wars.

Moreover, evidence of Al-Qaeda activity in Iraq is compounding the situation. The possibility of terrorist groups acquiring weapons of mass destruction for use against American citizens must not be ignored. (Such an attack could be hundreds of times more devastating than the attacks of September 11.)

As for U.N. sanctions on Iraq, it is neither the United States nor the United Nations that is punishing the people of Iraq. It is Saddam Hussein. The United States has worked within its policy of sanctions to address the humanitarian concerns of the Iraqi people.

In 1996, the U.N. adopted the Oil-for-Food program allowing Iraq to sell oil and use the revenue for food, medicine, and infrastructure needs, including water sanitation facilities. Saddam Hussein, however, refuses to distribute the revenues in an appropriate manner. (For example, in 1999 the Iraqi government failed to distribute approximately \$275,000,000 in imported medicines.) Moreover Saddam's regime has even rejected foreign donations of humanitarian goods. Obviously, Saddam Hussein prefers to spend money on solidifying power while acquiring illicit weapons than on the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people.

Saddam Hussein has rejected every opportunity over a decade to prove himself