

# UN against death for Saddam

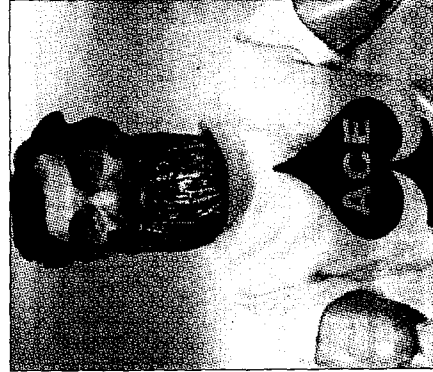
17/12

Agencies

Washington, December 16

WITH PREPARATIONS under way for Saddam Hussein's trial, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan made it clear on Tuesday that he was opposed to awarding the death penalty to the deposed Iraqi dictator. The court should adhere to international norms and standards. "The UN does not support death penalty. All the courts we have set up have not included death penalty. So, as the Secretary-General, as the UN, as an organisation, we are not going to turn around and support death penalty," he said.

Annan's comments came a few hours after President Bush's statement that Saddam would be put on public trial for his crimes in a manner to be set in consultation with Iraqis. He did not clarify whether Saddam should eventually face execution, saying: "It is going to be up to the Iraqis to make those decisions," he added.



REUTERS  
The 'Captured Saddam' action figure produced by Herobuilders.com.

Iraq Governing Council members favoured a televised trial to "expose" Saddam's "atrocities" and begin a process of national healing. "This man has killed hundreds of thousands of people. If he has to be

killed once, I think he has to be resurrected hundreds of times and killed again," said council member Mouwafak al-Rabii, a human rights activist who was imprisoned under Saddam.

But war crimes legal experts fear that a planned trial of Saddam Hussein before a special Iraqi-led tribunal — in which he could face a swift trial and the death penalty — would be a travesty of justice without a role for the international judicial community. Several professional jurists, including a retired US judge from the Yugoslav war crimes tribunal, said that without international expertise, the court risks compromising its credibility.

Late at night, the US tried to allay such fears. "There is an element of that tribunal that allows foreign or outside assistance and participation," Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage said. "There is no question that it (Saddam's trial) has to be fair, it has to stand up to international scrutiny."

# UN unveils new strategy to fight AIDS

Press Trust of India

NEW YORK, Dec. 1. — A new UN initiative aimed at providing anti-retroviral drugs to three million people in developing countries and those in transition by 2005 was unveiled today as part of World AIDS Day.

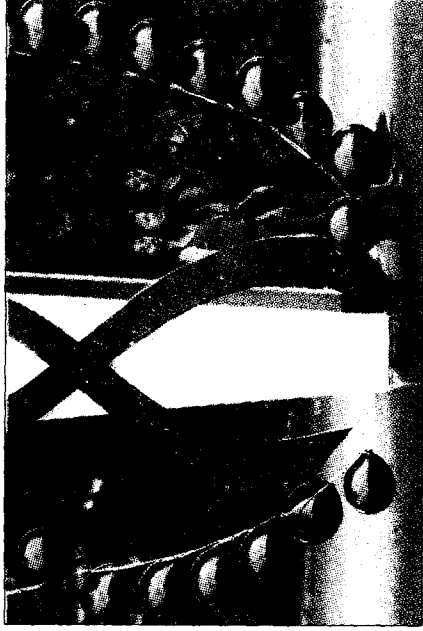
Titled '3/5 strategy', the ambitious WHO and UNAIDS programme seeks to train tens of thousands of community health workers to support the delivery of medicines and for monitoring of millions suffering from HIV/AIDS in the worst affected countries which face chronic shortage of doctors and

other medical staff.

"Preventing and treating AIDS may be the toughest health assignment the world has ever faced, but it is also the most urgent," Dr Lee Jong-wook, the WHO director-general, said. "The lives of millions of people are at stake. This strategy demands massive and unconventional efforts to make sure they stay alive."

Dr Jack Chow, assistant director-general of WHO, said: "The 3/5 framework is a plan for action by a broad alliance of nations, institutions, and committed people, including those living with HIV/AIDS..."

**Global stand:** Activists and health workers walked,



TOWARDS A SAFER WORLD... Filipino women pass by red balloons and the red ribbon emblem, that symbolises the worldwide crusade against HIV/AIDS, in Manila on Monday. — AFP

ran, taught and rallied battle against a still-incurable disease that ravaged a record number of people in 2003, adds AP.

# 'Character of United Nations peacekeeping has changed'

HF 12  
19/10  
By Sandeep Dikshit

**NEW DELHI, OCT. 18.** India has pointed out that since U.N. peacekeeping missions in the post-cold war tend to escalate into 'peace-enforcing' operations, the troop strength should be large and suitably equipped with lethal equipment such as armoured personnel carriers, attack helicopters and artillery.

The views have been expressed at a time when the U.N. has passed a resolution on a multinational force for Iraq under a unified command.

The post-cold era not only saw an increase in outside intervention but the character of U.N. missions also changed. Most of them began as peacekeeping operations but escalated to peace enforcement because they "invariably lacked the consent of both sides", noted a study providing the Indian perspective to U.N. peacekeeping operations.

Dividing U.N. peacekeeping operations into two phases — during the cold war and post

cold war, it says the consent of both parties was obtained during the first phase, so peacekeeping missions were fewer, smaller and lightly armed.

In the post-cold era, not only did the number of U.N.-led interventions increase, but most of them escalated to peace enforcement. This was because they "invariably lacked the consent of both sides", noted an internal paper providing the Indian perspective to U.N. peacekeeping

The post cold war tendency of U.N. operations to become messier due to the lack of consent by the other side involved in the conflict requires a larger troops presence because a smaller detachment is generally considered weak and invites attack by the other side.

Many missions such as those in Congo, Somalia and Congo suffered escalations from peacekeeping to peace enforcement and a concomitant expansion in the size and scope of the contingent.

India had rich experience of participating in peacekeeping

missions and its troops were not deterred by the difficulty of the task.

It has provided 10 force commanders and three deputy commanders and 109 Indian personnel have so far sacrificed their lives in U.N. peacekeeping operations. Indian troops were totally committed to the overall aim of U.N. missions.

India had always held the view that many instances of peacekeeping units from other countries awaiting orders from their national commanders before executing U.N. orders "needs to be discouraged".

The main shortcoming in U.N. missions was training. Peculiar situations that could arise must be war-gamed and response options clearly laid down. But institutes to conduct such studies were rare.

Countries should emulate the Centre for U.N. Peacekeeping jointly set up in India by the Ministries of Defence and External Affairs since U.N. missions are distinct from conventional operations and need-specialised training.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

19 DEC 2003

# Israel violates UN resolution on scrapping barrier

**United Nations:** Israel has failed to comply with the United Nations general assembly resolution asking it to halt construction of a security barrier which



**Kofi Annan**

runs deep into the Palestinian areas in some places and thus violates the international law, secretary-general Kofi Annan has said.

The resolution was adopted by the 191-member assembly by an overwhelming majority with 144 members voting for it and only four, including the US and Israel, opposing. But the assembly resolutions, unlike those of the security council, are not binding or enforceable and have only moral force.

The report, released on Friday, sets the stage for Arabs to call an emergency session of the 191-member assembly next week and ask it to seek the opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the legality of the barrier, a course opposed by the US and several European nations who argue that it would politicise the peace process and make reaching an agreement difficult.

"I have concluded that Israel is not in compliance with the assembly's demand that it 'stop' and reverse the construction of wall in the occupied Palestinian territory," Mr Annan said in the report submitted in terms of the assembly resolution adopted on October 21 at the urging of the Arabs.

Acknowledging that Israel

has the "right and duty" to protect its people against terrorist attacks, Mr Annan said the barrier, which cuts as much as 22 km deep into the 1967 border with the West Bank and violates the international law, increases the sufferings of the Palestinian people.

"In the midst of the roadmap, when each party should be making good-faith confidence measures, the barriers construction in the West Bank cannot, in this regard, be seen as anything but a deeply counterproductive act," Mr Annan said.

The roadmap developed by the international quartet comprising the US, Russia, European Union and Mr Annan is a set of measures that Israel and Palestinian should take to reach the goal of two states living side by side in peace and security and within their internationally recognised borders.

Israel said the barrier is a temporary measure to deter suicide bombers from entering Israel but the Palestinians contend that the Tel Aviv's move is aimed at grabbing the areas it took in 1967 war and are demanding that it stops the construction.

Meanwhile, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat has launched a series of appeals to western leaders to relaunch the stalled West Asia peace process, one of his aides said.

In the written messages, sent to British Prime Minister Tony Blair and French President Jacques Chirac among others, Mr Arafat appeals for western leaders "to act to relaunch the peace process". Agencies

# Israel accuses UN of hypocrisy

**EVELYN LEOPOLD**  
UNITED NATIONS, NOVEMBER 27

ISRAEL withdrew a resolution on protecting Israeli children from terrorism, and its ambassador accused the UN of hypocrisy, duplicity and double standards.

Ambassador Dan Gillerman said on Wednesday that amendments from Egypt and others in a General Assembly committee amounted to a "hostile takeover" of his draft resolution, subverting its purpose, shifting its focus and erasing every reference to Israeli children. "Today we put the UN to the ultimate moral test," Gillerman said. "It failed this litmus test miserably. This demonstrated just how far the

hypocrisy, duplicity and double standard policy of the General Assembly and its committees go."

At issue was Israel's first introduction of a resolution since 1976, a draft condemning Palestinian suicide bombings against Israeli children. It was meant to mirror a resolution demanding protection for Palestinian children, which was adopted by the panel last week.

Amendments proposed collectively by Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan and others would have substituted "Middle East" for "Israeli" children and inserted language condemning "foreign occupation" and "violation of international law".

Gillerman signalled that Israel,

the target of hundreds of critical resolutions, was changing strategy and taking the offensive instead of responding with speeches in the 191-member Assembly that is sympathetic to the Palestinian cause.

In a separate news conference, the Palestinian UN observer Nasser al-Kidwa called the Israeli draft an attempt to divert from the unique situation of Palestinian children, who were deprived of every right included in a 1990 UN treaty on the rights of the child, from the right of statehood to the right of physical protection. General Assembly resolutions are not legally binding, as most Security Council resolutions are, but they are a reflection of world opinion. —Reuters

# For a U.N. role in Iraq

By R. Kannan

JALAL TALABANI, this month's president of the Iraqi Governing Council, has indicated that town hall meetings will be held to select a national assembly, which in turn will select a provisional government by the end of June 2004. Mr. Talabani's announcement followed the American civil administrator in Iraq, Paul Bremer's announcement that the Anglo-American coalition provisional authority would cede sovereignty to an Iraqi provisional government that would later help craft a constitution and hold elections by the end of 2005. This alone, however, may not be enough to rein in the resistance as long as the occupying forces remain in Iraq.

Though tens of thousands of Iraqi police and military are being recruited quickly, Mr. Bremer and others have clarified that U.S. troops will stay for as long as necessary. The difference will be that they and their coalition allies will be at the invitation of the Iraqi provisional government from June 2004. Nonetheless, the perception that the interim homegrown government is dependent on the former occupiers for its security renders the situation incongruous and fertile for guerrilla resistance. For the political process to succeed, it is important that any semblance of occupation is removed totally. Five weeks ago, in mid-October this could have been remedied if the occupying powers were willing to turn over control of the security functions to a multinational force. Instead, they desired to remain in charge. Therefore, despite Security

Council Resolution 1511 re-christening the coalition a "multinational force", troops have not materialised from any other country other than from the coalition's allies.

Although not a similar situation, it is not accidental that in Afghanistan and Kosovo, while the regional security organisation, NATO, is in charge of the security arrangements, the U.N. has the enabling political role.

Council unity, they would have preferred it to have gone further regarding the transfer of sovereignty and the associated U.N. role. The resolution simply calls on the Iraqi Governing Council to come up with a timetable for a constitution and elections by December 15.

On that occasion, the U.N. Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, himself had advocated a swift transfer of

the U.N. to play an "active role" in Iraq and give advice and help in implementing the new decisions. Mr. Annan said he would consider "what advice we can offer and what role we can play, how and where."

Though Mr. Annan has accorded the highest consideration to the security of his staff, he has also indicated that the organisation would like to help even in these impossible circumstances. He has therefore argued that the organisation's international staff need not be based in Iraq "100 per cent" to carry out the U.N. role.

What appears to be contemplated is staff being based in the neighbourhood but visiting Iraq whenever possible till the time ripens for their return to Iraq. One would hope that that would happen sooner than later. For it is clear that the U.N. can play a very useful role in enabling the political transition. But so long as the occupying forces are in charge the circumstances permitting a robust U.N. role might be delayed.

Some have pointed out that the Allied Powers took four years before they ended their occupation of Germany. Though the circumstances are barely comparable, the obvious difference is that there was no resistance against the Allies as they were wholly accepted as liberators. The message from Iraq from both friends and foes alike of the occupying powers appears to be that even liberators should not overstay their welcome.

(R. Kannan heads civil affairs with the U.N. peacekeeping force in Cyprus. The views expressed here are his own.)

## For the political process to succeed, it is important that any semblance of occupation is removed.

power to the Iraqis. Mr. Annan felt the resolution did "not represent a major shift in the thinking of the coalition" and warned: "As long as there is occupation, the resistance will grow."

As for a U.N. role, the resolution called on the organisation to lend its "unique expertise" to the political transition. In the aftermath of the brutal August 19 attacks against the U.N. in Baghdad and the worsening security situation, the Council, however, deferred to Mr. Annan's suggestion that the U.N. engagement occur when circumstances permit, a euphemism for the appalling security situation which has not spared even wholly humanitarian agencies like the Red Cross from violence. The resolution also left the coalition in charge of the multinational force.

Nonetheless, Mr. Annan has welcomed the coalition's political road map for Iraq. He said Mr. Talabani had expressed to him his desire for

Initially, the U.N. umbrella was sufficient for countries like India and Pakistan to send troops to Iraq. But resolution 1511 failed to etch the U.N. imprimatur firmly enough on the current force. The volatility in Iraq and the political dynamics in these prospective troop-contributing countries made it untenable for them to be associated with anything that still smacked of occupation.

Resolution 1511 itself was a compromise showcasing the unity of the Council. Unity, however, at a price. The Anglo-Americans felt that the demand for swift timelines for the return of sovereignty was unrealistic; the French and others considered it imperative that a timeframe be set for the end of the occupation. In the end, the resolution simply left it to the coalition to decide when sovereignty would be transferred to the Iraqis. Russia, France, Germany and China made it clear that while they backed the resolution for the sake of

# UN watchdog censures Iran's N-programme

Associated Press

VIENNA, Nov. 26. — The UN atomic watchdog agency's board adopted a resolution today censuring Iran for past nuclear cover-ups.

The resolution, adopted by the 35-nation board of governors of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency, did not confront Iran with a direct threat of sanctions resolving a sticking point between the USA and key European powers over how to deal with Teheran.

Adopted by consensus, the resolution warns against "further serious Iranian

## Teheran hails resolution

TEHERAN, Nov. 26. — Iran today hailed the IAEA resolution by saying that it was an achievement (because of no mentions of sanctions) for the Islamic republic and the "proof of its transparency".

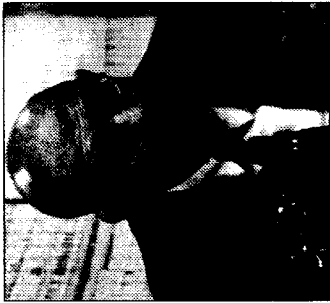
A foreign ministry official here said: "This resolution is an achievement for Iran and shows that the country has carried out its civilian nuclear activities honestly and transparently, and despite the uproar of certain oppressive circles has not sought to manufacture a nuclear weapon." By "oppressive circles" the statement meant the USA and its ally Israel, which claims that Iran's nuclear programme is a threat to the Jewish state's existence. — AFP

failures" saying that could lead the board to consider actions allowed by its statute — shorthand for UN Security Council action. While welcoming Iran's "offer of active cooperation and openness" — including

suspending uranium enrichment and agreeing to thorough inspections on IAEA demand the measure calls for a "particularly robust verification system" to test Teheran's honesty.

The USA, which alleges that Iran plans to develop nuclear arms, had wanted a specific mention of Security Council action — with an implicit threat of sanctions — should Teheran fail to come clean on past nuclear secrets and renege on pledges to open present activities to full IAEA inspection.

Washington had insisted last week it would hold out



IAEA chief Md El-Baradei:  
Balancing act

for at least a threat of Security Council action over 18 years of clandestine activities by Iran, including uranium enrichment and plutonium processing.

# UN rap & pat for Iran on nukes

HT-15 27/11

Vienna/Tehran, November 26

THE UN atomic watchdog agency's board adopted a resolution on Wednesday censuring Iran for past nuclear cover-ups but welcoming its new openness. Iran's foreign ministry hailed the resolution as an "achievement" for Tehran, which proved it was not seeking to build nuclear weapons.

The resolution, adopted by the 35-nation board of governors of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency, did not confront Iran with a direct threat of sanctions — resolving a sticking point between the United States and key European powers over how to deal with Tehran.

IAEA head Mohamed ElBaradei told a news conference he was pleased with the resolution. However, he added: "The board is sending a very serious message that failures in the future will not be tolerated and that the board will use all options available to it to deal with these failures."

Adopted by consensus, the resolution warns against "further serious Iranian failures", saying that could lead the board to con-

sider actions allowed by its statute — shorthand for UN Security Council action.

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The United States, which alleges that Iran plans to develop nuclear arms, had wanted a specific mention of Security Council action — with an implicit threat of sanctions — should Tehran fail to come clean on past nuclear secrets and renege on pledges to open present activities to full IAEA inspection.

Washington had insisted last week it would hold out for at least a threat of Security Council action over 18 years of clandestine activities by Iran, including uranium enrichment and plutonium processing. The US sees Iran as part of an international "axis of evil" and believes it has been using a secretive atomic energy program to hide development of nuclear arms. **AP, Reuters**

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

27 NOV 2003



# Iraqis give UN time-table to end occupation

**I**nterim Council leader writes to Annan; mum on troop presence

**EVELYN LEOPOLD**  
UNITED NATIONS, NOVEMBER 25

**I**RAQ'S interim authority on Monday submitted a timetable for self-rule and asked the UN Security Council for a new resolution that would end the US-led occupation in June.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Monday released a November 11 letter from Talabani that said the "active participation

of the United Nations" in the political process was essential.

The timetable, which was due on December 15 and worked out with US and British officials, had been requested in an October 16 Security Council resolution, which created a multinational force in Iraq.

In a letter to the Security Council, Jalal Talabani, the current President of the Iraqi Governing Council, pledged respect for human rights and promised to establish the "principle of civilian control over the armed forces".

Talabani's letter did not men-

tion continued deployment of US and other foreign troops.

The 24-member US-appointed Council said that it would select a "provisional legislative body" no later than May 31 next year. This Assembly would elect a provisional government by the end of June 2004 at which time "the Coalition Provisional Authority will be dissolved and the occupation...will end," the letter said.

A new Constitution would be drafted by March 15, 2005 and then presented to Iraqis in a referendum, after which a general election for a new government is to take place, before December 31, 2005, according to Talabani's letter. "In light of what had transpired, it has become appropriate for the Secu-

larity Council to adopt a new resolution taking into consideration the new circumstances," Talabani wrote.

The US and Britain are considering a new resolution that would welcome or endorse the accelerated timetable, which Washington had opposed in October.

France, Russia and Germany told the Council on Friday that they would like to see any new resolution give the UN a major role in the political transition, and urge a broader participation of Iraqi political groups, an apparent reference to nationalists and members of Saddam Hussein's Baathist party. They also proposed a conference to bring Iraq's neighbours into the political process. —Reuters



**Sunites pray in front of a US army tank for Id ul-Fitr in the Baghdad suburb of Al Sadr city on Tuesday. Reuters**

# U.N. endorses West Asia road map

By Sridhar Krishnaswami  
**WASHINGTON, NOV. 20.** The United Nations Security Council has unanimously endorsed the road map to permanently solving the Israel-Palestinian conflict, a move that was welcomed by the Palestinians but criticised by Israel.

The Council measure calls on the parties "to fulfil their obligations under the road map in cooperation with the quartet and to achieve the vision of two states living side by side in peace and security."

The "quartet" refers to the prime actors — Russia, the U.S., the European Union and the United Nations.

The Council decision was at

the insistence of Russia which wanted positive development on the road map it helped design a year ago. At first, the U.S. hesitated in supporting the resolution and said that there had to be some tough language on terrorism and in the process named Hamas, the Islamic Jihad and the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade.

## Militants for talks

Reuters reports:

Meanwhile, the main Palestinian militant factions said they had agreed with Egyptian mediators to meet in Cairo early next month to discuss a truce with Israel.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad said after the meeting in Gaza on

Wednesday night that they had welcomed an invitation from the Egyptians for talks set provisionally for December 2.

The Palestinian President, Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction would also attend.

A truce is widely seen as crucial to real progress on a U.S.-backed "road map" for peace in West Asia.

## Russia hails vote

By Vladimir Radyuhin

**MOSCOW, NOV. 20.** Anxious to build on its diplomatic triumph in the U.N. Security Council which endorsed the "road map", Russia today called for early implementation of the

West Asia peace plan.

"Any further delay in putting through the 'road map' can result in the situation getting out of control in Israel, the Palestinian territories and the Middle East as a whole," the Russian Foreign Ministry warned today hours after the Security Council unanimously passed a Russia-proposed resolution putting a formal seal of approval to the "road map".

Russia has been calling for Security Council endorsement of the road map ever since it was jointly devised earlier this year by the quartet of the West Asia peace co-sponsors comprising the U.S., Russia, the U.N. and the European Union.

# Security Council adopts West Asia roadmap to peace

Press Trust of India

UNHQ, Nov. 19. — The UN Security Council today unanimously adopted a Russian-sponsored resolution endorsing the "roadmap" to a permanent two-state solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

The peace plan drafted by the "Quartet" comprising Russia, the USA, UN and the European Union, calls on parties to fulfil their obligation under the roadmap in cooperation with them and to achieve the vision of

two states living side by side in peace and security.

The USA supported the resolution despite objections by Israel which opposes the UN playing any role in the West Asia peace process.

Russia initially circulated the resolution on 30 October, but a vote was delayed because the USA demanded inclusion of strong language against terrorist groups attacking Israeli civilians which included Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade.

But Moscow insisted that this

resolution was aimed solely at endorsing the road map, and diplomats said the USA agreed to a reference to "terrorism."

The resolution expresses the Council's "grave concern at the continuation of the tragic and violent events in West Asia."

It reiterates "the demand for an immediate cessation of all acts of violence, including all acts of terrorism, provocation, incitement and destruction."

**Israeli troops kill infiltrator from Jordan**

A gunman trying to infiltrate a

border crossing from Jordan fired on a crowd of tourists, wounding at least five people on the Israeli side of the border, Israeli officials said. The attacker was killed.

Menachem Zeligovsky, manager of the Israeli Ports Authority, said the wounded were part of a South American tourist group from Argentina and Uruguay. Rescue workers said one person was gravely wounded.

The incident occurred at the Rabin terminal, an open-air checkpoint near Eilat, a Red Sea tourist town.

## Shun Arafat, Bush tells Europe

LONDON, Nov. 19. — US President George W Bush today urged Europe to join the USA and Israel in shunning Mr Yasser Arafat to encourage the rise of a new Palestinian leader.

"Leaders in Europe should withdraw all favour and support for any Palestinian ruler who fails his people and betrays their cause," Mr Bush said in a speech in London on the first full day of his state visit to Britain.

Mr Bush also renewed longstanding US calls for Israel and the Palestinians to move toward peace, telling the Jewish state to halt settlement building and demanding that the Palestinian Authority clamp down on violence. And he said the world should redouble the fight against anti-Semitism — particularly in Europe, where there has been a recent spike in incidents. — AFP

20 NOV 2003

THE STATESMAN

# UN phases out staff in Iraq, 2 killed

11/1-15  
2/21

Baghdad, November 1

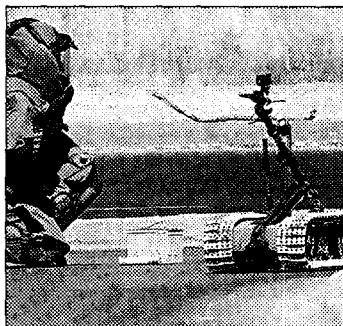
THE UN'S international staff left their bomb-scarred Baghdad headquarters on Saturday hours before another bomb blast in the north killed two US soldiers while a fresh wave of fear swept through Iraq confirming the world body's fears. In Baghdad schools were closed and shops shuttered after rumours warning of more bloodshed and suicide bombs spread like fire.

Rumours were rife in the capital that guerrillas had declared a "day of resistance" this weekend and planned a series of bombings as UN staff headed to the airport, under tight US security, from where they will fly to Cyprus for talks on whether they can operate in Iraq. Journalists were prevented from filming the departure.

In the northern city of Mosul, a bomb was detonated outside a police station as two US vehicles drove past. "There was a huge blast. The two drivers of the vehicles were killed," said a policeman who witnessed the explosion, his face spattered with blood. The US Army said two 101st Airborne Division soldiers were killed and two wounded in the blast.

The US consular office in Baghdad and the Australian embassy issued warnings of the risk of fresh terror attacks and the State Department warned Americans again to avoid travelling to Iraq, saying there was a "credible" threat to civilian aviation.

Almost all UN staff had already been evacuated from Baghdad following a suicide truck bomb at-



REUTERS

A US Army bomb squad robot moves in to defuse a suspected explosive device in Baghdad.

tack in August that devastated the UN headquarters and killed 22 people including the head of mission, Sergio Vieira de Mello. The latest pull-out is in response to Monday's serial attacks when suicide car bombs were detonated near the Red Cross and three police stations in Baghdad, killing at least 35 people. The ICRC said it was reducing foreign staff and the UN announced that staff in Baghdad would be temporarily withdrawn. Another 40 UN staff are still in Arbil in northern Iraq.

In another meeting to discuss Iraq's future, foreign ministers of neighbouring countries arrived in Damascus to discuss the country's growing instability. Baghdad, however, boycotted the talks.

In Washington, the independent Congressional Budget Office said the occupation of Iraq could cost up to \$200 billion over the next decade, depending on its length, and in a worst-case scenario tro-

ops could be there till 2013.

US officials have been quoted as saying that Saddam and one of his top aides, Izzat Ibrahim, are playing a key role in directing attacks, in cooperation with Ansar al-Islam, a group linked to the al-Qaida. But Secretary of State Colin Powell told ABC TV on Saturday he saw no signs that Saddam, with a \$25m price on his head, was coordinating attacks.

## Home truths from Tikrit tribals

Tribal elders from Saddam Hussein's home extended an invitation to US soldiers for talks - and told them they are against "terrorists" throwing bombs but also don't like soldiers putting guns to men's heads during searches".

The freewheeling discussion between 30 tribal leaders clad in traditional robes and headscarves and US forces marked a renewed effort by the coalition to win support from elders in an area that has been a hotbed of resistance.

"Who could imagine that we could sit openly and talk like this, say what we think without threats?" Lt-Col Steve Russell said. His 4th Infantry has been hunting for Saddam supporters and *Fedayeen* remnants in the area and have come under constant sniper attack.

Joined by local religious leaders, the police chief and the mayor, the meeting adopted a resolution denouncing anyone who attacked US forces as a terrorist but also endorsing the "right to resist" the occupation.

Reuters & AP

## U.N. adopts anti-corruption treaty

UNITED NATIONS, NOV. 1. In a major boost to international efforts to fight corruption, the U.N. General Assembly has adopted a landmark anti-corruption treaty which makes it mandatory for countries ratifying it to return stolen assets, outlaw bribery and requires politicians to declare campaign finance.

The treaty, which was adopted by the 191-member Assembly by consensus, asks the parties to the treaty to cooperate in investigation into corruption charges and prosecution of the culprits. It also details measures to prevent corruption in both private and public sectors.

The treaty will open for signature at a high level political conference in Merid, Mexico, and come into force and become part of international law 90 days after 30th country deposits its instruments of ratification.

Welcoming the adoption of convention, the U.N. Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, said the provision that enjoins Governments to return stolen assets to the countries that owned them, if fully enforced, would remove one of the biggest obstacles to development.

"Corrupt officials will, in the future, find fewer ways to

hide their illicit gains. This is a particularly important issue for many developing countries, where corrupt officials have plundered the national wealth, and where new governments badly need resources to reconstruct and rehabilitate their societies," he said.

The convention would give a major boost to efforts to fight corruption and provision requiring that stolen and illegally acquired assets taken out of the country be returned is a major breakthrough that would deter potential perpetrators, said Ambassador Muhyieddeen Tough, chairperson of the ad hoc committee that negotiated it.

The convention complements another landmark instrument, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime which entered into force a month ago.

The Assembly also decided that, to raise awareness of corruption and of the new Convention's role in combating and preventing it, December 9 should be designated International Anti-Corruption Day.

The 71-article Convention was negotiated over a period of about three years. — PTI

# UN, aid groups leave Baghdad amid violence

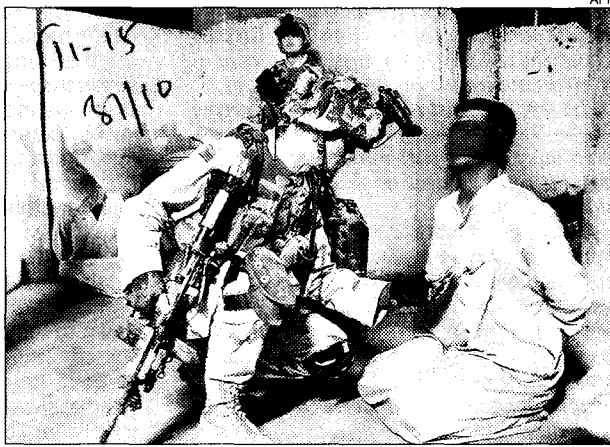
**Baghdad** : International organisations continued their exodus from Iraq on Thursday, with the United Nations announcing a further cut in its staff following this week's string of car bombings in the capital and stepped up attacks against coalition troops.

The evacuation orders came despite assurances by top US administration officials, including President George W. Bush, that the security situation in Iraq was steadily improving. It also followed a personal appeal by secretary of state Colin Powell to the international Red Cross to remain in Baghdad because "if they are driven out, then the terrorists win."

The UN decision was announced two days after a deadly suicide car bombing at the Baghdad headquarters of the Red Cross, and was believed to involve the remaining 60 UN staffers.

The United Nations scaled down its staff following the August 19 truck bombing at its Baghdad headquarters that killed 23 people, including the top UN envoy to Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello, and a smaller blast near the UN offices last month.

On Wednesday, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Medecins Sans Frontieres, or Doctors Without Borders, medical aid group also said they too were pulling their workers out of Baghdad despite pleas



A US army officer checks out the identity of an Iraqi man during a raid in Tikrit on Thursday.

from the US administration to stay. The Red Cross said it would remain in Iraq but would scale back the number of international staff, now numbering about 30, and increase security for those who stay. The agency has 600 Iraqi employees.

On Wednesday, US military authorities in Iraq said American forces were now suffering an average of 33 attacks a day—up from about 12 daily attacks in July. A total of 117 American soldiers have been killed in combat since May 1.

Meanwhile, a soldier from the 2nd brigade of the 101st Airborne Division was slightly injured early Thursday by a bomb that exploded near a US convoy in the northern city of Mosul, the military said. AP

## Iran places itself under UN scanner over its nuclear programme

Teheran: Iran is allowing UN inspectors to examine thousands of imported uranium enrichment machinery parts to determine the origin of weapons-grade uranium found in Iran this year, a senior Iranian official said

on Tuesday. The move could settle one of the key outstanding questions about Iran's nuclear programme ahead of an October 31 deadline for Teheran to prove it has no secret atomic weapons ambitions.

Teheran insists its nuclear facilities are geared solely to electricity generation and has blamed the traces of highly-enriched uranium found at two nuclear facilities on contamination from machinery bought

abroad. But Western diplomats have expressed scepticism about Iran's explanation that it does not know where the parts came from as they were bought from black market middlemen in the 1980s. Reuters

THE TIMES OF INDIA

29 OCT 2003

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# UN adopts Iraq resolution, victory for US

United Nations, Oct. 16 (Reuters): The UN Security Council voted unanimously today to adopt a resolution on post-war Iraq, a victory for the US which sought approval for its occupation of the country.

Until hours before the vote, the support of key council members, Russia, Germany and France was in doubt. All had opposed the US-led invasion of Iraq, Syria, the last hold-out and the only Arab member of the council, then also came on board for a 15-0 vote on the resolution co-sponsored by Britain, Spain and Cameroon.

President George W. Bush, under pressure over the growing cost of the Iraqi occupation in US lives and money, was hoping the resolution would encourage nations to support the occupation with troops and cash. It also asks Iraqi leaders to draw up a plan by December 15 for a new constitution and elections.

But Russia, Germany and

France made clear no further aid or military contributions would be forthcoming. "If there ever was a time to help Iraq, it is now," US ambassador John Negroponte told the council after the vote, asking all states to consider aiding the beleaguered nation.

In speeches after the vote, Russia, Germany and France said they backed the resolution for the sake of unity and stability in Iraq but regretted some of their key amendments had been rejected, especially setting a timetable for the end of the occupation. "We miss the clear signal that the transfer of sovereignty to the Iraqis will be accelerated," Germany's UN ambassador, Gunter Pleuger, told the council.

"The role of the UN and in particular of the secretary-general could have been strengthened even more," he said. "And finally we would have wished for clearer guidelines also with regard to timing."

Russia's ambassador, Sergei

Lavrov, said the resolution had "more pluses than minuses." In Moscow, deputy foreign minister Yuri Fedotov reiterated that Russia would not send troops.

Until this week, France, Germany and Russia had been expected to abstain. But yesterday diplomats said Russian President Vladimir Putin backed the resolution. The envoys said Putin had evidently decided his relations with Washington superseded opposition to the resolution. Germany then eased its stand, leaving France no choice, the diplomats said.

In Brussels, German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, after conferring by telephone with French President Jacques Chirac and Putin, announced support of the three countries early today.

But he said the measure would not induce aid to Iraq in the foreseeable future.

In a joint statement after the vote, France, Germany and Rus-

sia said: "The conditions are not created for us to envisage any military commitment and no further financial contributions beyond our present engagement."

France and Germany have pledged a modest \$232 million for Iraq's reconstruction from the 15-nation European Union's executive commission.

While the Bush administration probably had the nine votes needed for adoption in the 15-nation Security Council, a narrow victory would have been considered a political failure in recruiting support for US policies.

The resolution was revised five times since August to strengthen the role of the UN and to chart a path toward Iraqi independence. It creates a UN-authorised multinational force in Iraq under US leadership in an effort to recruit troops from Pakistan and other nations, wary of serving the occupation.

In Washington, defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld said:

"It's a good thing that it passed," adding that the document might make it easier for some countries to contribute troops.

The measure also calls on the 25-member Iraqi governing council to produce by December 15 a timetable for drafting a constitution and holding elections, a process which could take several years. But it gives no date for a transfer of power.

Adoption of the resolution was a victory for secretary of state Colin Powell, who first convinced hardliners in the administration to return to the UN and last week was ready to give up on the resolution rather than face a divided council.

UN secretary-general Kofi Annan nearly torpedoed the effort two weeks ago when he agreed with France and Germany in urging the US to shift power within a few months to a provisional government. The US refused but came back with new concessions this week.



A US soldier gives a final salute during a memorial ceremony for slain troops in Tikrit (Reuters)



## U.N. Council adopts Iraq resolution unanimously

**UNITED NATIONS, OCT. 16.** The United Nations Security Council today voted unanimously to adopt a contentious resolution on Iraq's future, a victory for the United States which sought approval for its occupation of the country.

Russia, Germany and France, key opponents of the war who had submitted amendments, announced hours before the vote that they would support the resolution, albeit with reservations. Syria, the last holdout, also came on board for a 15-0 vote.

With the U.S. President, George W. Bush, under pressure over the growing cost of the Iraqi occupation in U.S. lives and money, the resolution encourages nations to support the occupation with troops and cash. It also asks Iraqi leaders to draw up a plan for a new Constitution and elections by December 15.

France, Germany and Russia,

which opposed the Iraq war along with China, had been expected to abstain until Wednesday, when diplomats said the Russian President, Vladimir Putin, backed the resolution. The envoys said Mr. Putin had evidently decided his relations with Washington superseded opposition to the resolution.

Some amendments from France, Germany and Russia had been accepted but the U.S. refused to set a timetable for the end of the occupation and self-rule for Iraqis.

The resolution creates a U.N.-authorised multinational force in Iraq under U.S. leadership in an effort to recruit troops from Pakistan and other nations. In Islamabad, the Pakistani Information Minister, Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, said the Musharraf Government would seek Parliament approval before making any decision on sending soldiers. — Reuters

# Annan opposes US resolution

Agencies

UNHQ, Oct. 14. — The new US States draft resolution on Iraq met with strong opposition from UN Secretary-General Mr Kofi Annan and major powers, including Russia, Germany and France, who are seeking an early return of sovereignty to the Iraqis.

They expressed disappointment that the resolution does not provide a timetable for handing over administrative authority to the Iraqis as demanded by them. France, Germany and Russia said they planned to move amendments.

Reacting to the new resolution, Mr Annan said: "Obviously the current resolution does not represent a major shift in the thinking of the US-led coalition." The Germans, Russians and the Chinese indicated that the third revision of the resolution, which was circulated yesterday, was better than the two previous drafts but still fell short.

Russia's deputy UN ambassador Mr Yuri Fedotov said Moscow plans to suggest "a series of additional but very important amendments," Interfax agency reported.

Germany's UN ambassador Mr Gunter Pleuger said, "It think the Americans have made an effort to improve the resolution but we would like to see here and there some more improvements and I think that we will make some very good and constructive proposals." China's UN ambassador Mr Wang Guangya also hailed the draft as "an improvement" but said it needs further work "to make it a good resolution." French foreign min-

## Turkish embassy blast kills two

BAGHDAD, Oct. 14. — A car bomb exploded today near the Turkish embassy, killing the driver and injuring two staff members, the US military said.

A concrete security barrier close to the embassy absorbed most of the blast and prevented further damage and injuries, US officials said. A US military spokesman said an explosion occurred about 500 metres from the embassy. US troops and Iraqi police sealed off the area and prevented journalists from approaching the building. — AP

istry spokesman Mr Herve Ladsous said his country was trying to determine whether the latest draft would allow for a "real improvement of the situation and a strong international engagement."

But American diplomats rejected suggestions that Washington would agree to any major change and asserted that they would go ahead with the vote, possibly tomorrow.

Asked about the possibility of divided Council adopting the resolution, Mr Annan expressed the hope that Americans would work to get "as broad a support as possible."

**Senior Anşar al-Islam member caught:** US forces in Iraq have captured Aso Hawleri, a senior member of Ansar al-Islam, an extremist group suspected of having ties with Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaida network, a senior US defence official said today.

# UN a divided house over Israeli airstrike

Washington, October 6

US PRESIDENT George W. Bush on Monday declined to criticise Israel for its airstrike deep inside Syria, saying Israel "has got a right to defend herself".

But Bush also said he had cautioned Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to try to avoid escalating tension. In the same breath, Bush decried the "needless murder" of 19 people in the suicide attack at Haifa that provoked Israel into retaliatory airstrikes on a suspected terrorist camp near Damascus on Sunday. He said the Palestinian Authority must do more to fight terror and "use whatever means is necessary ... all parties must assume responsibility".

Israeli warplanes on Sunday bombed a suspected terrorist camp northwest of Damascus in retaliation for the suicide bombing the day before at a seaside resort in Haifa. The Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the bombing but denied having training bases in Syria.

In the Security Council, the USA urged restraint by all parties but accused Syria of being on the "wrong side" in the war against terror.

Despite Syrian demands for immediate condemnation of the strike, the UNSC adjourned on Sunday night too without a vote; the meeting breaking up after the US objection.

## Arafat names new PM

YASSER ARAFAT has named Ahmed Korei his new Prime Minister and head of an eight-member crisis cabinet following the events over the weekend and also declared an emergency in all Palestinian Authority territories. The new government would "operate for a month" after which it would seek the approval of the Palestinian Legislative Council. There was no Israeli comment.

The moves are seen as a part of strategy by Arafat to prevent Israel from going ahead with an earlier threat to "remove" him.

Ramallah, AFP

At an emergency meet called at Syria's request on Monday, most UNSC diplomats spoke out against the Israeli attack. Syrian Ambassador Fayssal Mekdad, the UNSC's only Arab member, urged colleagues to adopt the resolution condemning the "military aggression".

However, US Ambassador to the UN John Negroponte focussed his condemnation on the Haifa attack, while blaming Syria for harbouring terrorists, saying "it is on the wrong side of the war on terror".

Sunday's attack was the first Israeli strike deep within Syria since the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

Negroponte indicated that the US broadly opposed the text of a draft resolution submitted by Syria and questioned why it made no mention of Haifa. But he did not say if the US would exercise its veto. Israeli Ambassador Dan Gillerman defended the air strike as "an act of self-defence": "For Syria to ask a debate is comparable only to the Taliban calling for such a debate after 9/11."

French ambassador Jean-Marc de La Sabliere called the airstrike "an unacceptable violation of international law." Russian ambassador Sergey Lavrov said it "might lead to more dramatic and tragic consequences". British Ambassador Emyr Jones Parry called the airstrike "unacceptable," but also sounded a more sympathetic note: "We have to recognise that terrorists are continuing to attack Israel".

## Firing continues

An exchange of fire was reported across the Lebanese border on Monday night after a shooting which wounded one Israeli soldier. There were reports of Israeli shells hitting a UN water truck in Marjayoun, Lebanon, which the Israeli Army denied.

AP & Reuters

# UN role is in doubt as Annan shuns US plan

**United Nations:** The United Nations' future in Iraq was thrown in doubt on Thursday after secretary-general Kofi Annan rejected US proposals on what role the United Nations would have there, security council diplomats said.

At a lunch with the 15-member council, Mr Annan stressed he could not accept the terms

of a new US draft resolution which did not incorporate his suggestions

on how to handle the eventual transfer of political power in Iraq. Diplomats said he also bristled at taking on responsibilities given the dire security situation in Iraq, where two suicide bombings at the UN's Baghdad office since August killed 23 people, including his top envoy.

Mr Annan told reporters his proposal to let Iraqis form a government first, before writing a constitution and then holding new elections, could help stem the guerrilla-style attacks against the US occupation. "You get rid of the idea that it is an occupation and cut back on the resistance," he said.

"That doesn't mean that the international community walks away". The latest US pro-

posals, discussed by the council Thursday morning, call for writing a constitution first—a process that would take months—before a "progressive" handover of political power to Iraqis. One diplomat said Mr Annan saw no way for "two powers" to be in charge and that, as long as the US occupation maintains hold, it would be very difficult for the United Nations to take part. Mr Annan has pulled all but around 30 of the UN's international staff out of the country since the attacks, and fears UN personnel would be seen as part of the occupation unless Iraqis are given their own government.

The United States and chief war ally Britain say trying to transfer power too quickly, before Iraq has developed the institutions to manage it, is a recipe for failure. "We have to be realistic", one British diplomat said. "A symbolic fig-leaf type of transfer wouldn't be useful."

US ambassador John Negroponte on Thursday presented the council with the latest draft, which appeared to offer few of the sweeping changes called for after an earlier version last month met strong resistance. "The revised text does not address our wishes," France's UN ambassador Jean-Marc de La Sabliere said. AFP

**IRAQ  
RESOLUTION**

# USA circulates new Iraq draft to UNSC members

Press Trust of India

UNHQ, Oct. 2. — The USA began its month-long presidency of the UN Security Council by circulating an amended version of its draft resolution on Iraq that would enhance the role of the UN and alter the US-led coalition force into a multinational force. Moving fast, the US

ambassador Mr John Negroponte called a meeting of the four other permanent members within hours of assuming presidency of the Council for the current month yesterday and gave them the revised draft.

"As far as time is concerned, we would like to move expeditiously on it. We would also like to see the resolution in place, if possible, well in advance of

the upcoming donors conference in Madrid on 24 October."

The new draft would alter the US-led coalition force into a multinational force but under overall American command as originally envisaged. Washington promises to report to the Security Council at least once in six months.

That falls short of the demands by French and se-

veral other possible contributors that the force should be led by the UN.

However, the resolution says that the occupation of Iraq by the American coalition is temporary until an internationally recognised representative government is established by the people of Iraq and assumes the responsibilities of the (coalition) authority.

Council diplomats say

that initial reaction of Russia and China was favourable with both considering it a step in the right direction. The resolution is expected to undergo a few more changes.

**Anti-US attacks:** Three US soldiers were killed in separate attacks in a span of hours, raising to 88 the US military death toll in nearly six months of Iraq's

occupation amid fresh attacks today. AFP adds from Baghdad. A soldier was killed late yesterday in a rocket-propelled grenade attack in Samarra, 100 km north of Baghdad, at the same time as another was struck down by small arms fire in the capital. The attacks came just four hours after a bomb claimed the life of a soldier in Tikrit.



The US envoy to the UN, Mr John Negroponte

# UN staff leave Iraq

**United Nations, Sept. 25** (Reuters): Citing security concerns after two attacks on its Baghdad offices, the UN said today it was pulling out 19 of its 105 international staffers from Iraq and more would follow.

The decision to withdraw international staff, even temporarily, was a blow to US claims the security situation in Iraq was under control.

The White House said today the UN still has an important role to play in Iraq despite the withdrawal of staff.

"We certainly understand their concerns and understand their reasons for pursuing a reduction, but they have a vital

role to play and we want them to continue to play that vital role," White House spokesman Scott McClellan said.

UN spokesman Fred Eckhard called the shift of the 19 staffers to nearby Amman, Jordan, "a temporary redeployment of international staff in Iraq."

He said 42 international staff remained for now in Baghdad and 44 in northern Iraq, down from 105, and "these numbers can be expected to shrink further over the next few days".

"This is not an evacuation, just a further downsizing, and the security situation in the country remains under constant review," Eckhard said.

The UN announced the shift after secretary-general Kofi Annan called senior aides to his office to weigh a recommendation by UN security staff that all international employees be pulled out of Iraq.

Annan has agonised over staff security since an August 19 suicide bomb attack on UN Baghdad headquarters — where about 300 people worked — killed 22 people including his close friend Sergio Vieira de Mello, the head of the UN mission.

A second bomb attack on the compound on Monday killed an Iraqi policeman and wounded 19 including local UN workers.

# Bush faces fire at UN

HT Correspondent & Agencies  
United Nations, September 23

LONG SMARTING under George Bush's war on Iraq without UN sanction, Secretary-General Kofi Annan took an unusually blunt swipe at the world's only superpower on Tuesday, saying unilateral, pre-emptive military action without UN authority risked plunging the world into the law of the jungle.

Challenging the White House doctrine of pre-emptive military strike, he said it could lead to the "lawless use of force" and posed a "fundamental challenge" to world peace and stability.

Shortly before Bush's address to the UN General Assembly, Annan declared that the Iraq crisis has brought the UN to a "fork in the road", as decisive as 1945, when the world body was formally established.

He said the UN charter allows military action for the purpose of self-defence. "But it has been understood that

when states go beyond that and decide to use force to deal with broader threats to international peace and security, they need the legitimacy provided by the UN. Now some say this understanding is no longer tenable. This logic represents a fundamental challenge to the principles on which world peace and stability have rested for the last 58 years."

Concerned about the sharp division over Iraq in the Security Council, Annan asked the 15-member body to pay "urgent attention" to regain the confidence of world opinion by "demonstrating its ability to deal effectively with the most difficult issues". But he balanced his diatribe against the US by saying, "It's not enough to denounce unilateralism unless we also face up to the concerns that make some states feel uniquely vulnerable and thus drive them to take unilateral action. We must show that those concerns can be addressed through collective action."

In what would be music to countries like India and Brazil that have been lob-

bying for a permanent seat in the Security Council, Annan stressed the need for expanding the council to make it more representative.

In his speech, a defiant Bush demanded international support in cash for Iraq's reconstruction and troops for the occupation, while rejecting a speedy transfer of authority to Iraqis. He made it clear that the US would follow a timetable "neither hurried nor delayed by the wishes of other parties". To this, French President Jacques Chirac, who took the dais after Bush, indicated that France would not veto military and financial support, but made it clear that Paris would not answer that call unless authority is handed over to Iraqis "promptly".

Criticising American unilateralism, Chirac said: "The war launched without UN authority shook the multilateral system... No one should assign themselves the right to use force unilaterally and pre-emptively."

Related report on Page 15

# US vetoes UN resolution to shield Arafat

United Nations, September 17

UN MF-15 1879 10502

ANGERING THE Arab world, the United States killed a UN Security Council resolution seeking to protect Palestinian President Yasser Arafat from an Israeli threat to "remove" him.

"It's a black day for the United Nations and for international law," chief Palestinian peace negotiator Saeb Erekat said hours after the Bush administration vetoed the measure on Tuesday.

"I hope Israel will not interpret the ruling as a licence to kill President Arafat," he said.

Eleven Security Council members voted in the draft's favour while Britain, Germany and Bulgaria abstained after hours of consultations failed to lead to a compromise acceptable to both the US and Syria, the resolution's sponsor.

The measure, drafted by Palestinian UN envoy Nasser al-Kidwa with the support of Arab governments, demanded that "Israel, the occupying power, desist from any act of deportation and cease any threat to the safety of the elected president of the Palestinian Authority".

It also called for "the complete cessation of all acts of violence, including all acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction" and called for increased efforts to implement the international road map for West Asia peace.

"We will come back to you, perhaps soon in the future," Al-Kidwa told the council following the vote. "We will not be intimidated by what happened."

After back-to-back suicide bombings killed 15 Israelis, Israel touched off an international outcry last week by announc-

ing a decision "to remove" Arafat as "an obstacle to peace".

During nearly eight hours of debate in the Security Council on Monday, over 40 governments condemned the decision in principle to get rid of Arafat.

After the veto, several council members, including US Ambassador John Negroponte, cautioned Israel that the veto did not mean it should harm Arafat or send him into exile.

"The US does not support either the elimination of Arafat or his forced exile. While Arafat is part of the problem, we believe that this problem is best solved through diplomatic isolation, and we have made this view clear," Negroponte said.

He said the text was vetoed because it failed to explicitly condemn Palestinian militant groups, such as Hamas, which have been blamed for suicide bombings in Israel.

"This resolution did not take a clear stand against the actions of these terrorist groups or call for decisive action against them," Negroponte said.

Syrian UN envoy Fayssal Mekdad called the veto regrettable. To kill or exile Arafat would violate both international law and the UN Charter, he said.

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat remained unfazed. "We are not shaken by a resolution from one place or another," Arafat told a delegation of Palestinian intellectuals at his compound in Ramallah. "We are more important than any resolution."

Other Palestinian officials said the US veto showed that Washington was turning its back on a peace "roadmap".

Agencies



# UN action sought to protect Arafat

**United Nations:** The Palestinians are urging the United Nations to demand that Israel ensures Yasser Arafat's safety and key Security Council members are pushing both parties to implement the peace plan known as the "roadmap."

The council scheduled an open meeting on Monday on the situation in West Asia amid mounting criticism of the decision by Israel's security cabinet on Thursday to "remove" Mr Arafat in a manner and time to be decided. The statement on Sunday by Israel's vice prime minister Ehud Olmert that killing Mr Arafat is a possibility was certain to intensify the Palestinian demand for speedy UN action.

The council began consultations on a resolution drafted by the Palestinians late

Friday and then adjourned until Monday, despite Palestinian pressure for a quick vote. Council ambassadors said they wanted to consult their capitals and wait for the outcome of secretary-general Kofi Annan's meeting in Geneva on Saturday with the foreign ministers of the five permanent council nations.

In the interim, the council issued a press statement expressing "the view that the removal of chairman Arafat would be unhelpful and should not be implemented." The statement, read by the council president, British ambassador Emyr Jones Parry, reflected the consensus among the 15 council members.

Deputy US ambassador James Cunningham made clear on Friday that Washington's primary aim is to revive the peace process. AP

THE TIMES OF INDIA

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# Security Council postpones debate on Arafat to Monday

**United Nations:** The Security Council members joined the worldwide outcry against the Israeli decision to expel Palestinian authority president Yasser Arafat from Palestine but rebuffed its citizens' demand that they quickly adopt a resolution asking Israel not to expel their leader and halt any threat to his safety.

The 15-member council, which held consultations on a draft resolution on Friday night, adjourned without taking any decision on it. Instead, it set an open debate for Monday, contending the issue requires more discussion. In an open discussion, non-council members too can take part.

After the closed-door meeting, council president ambassador Emyr Jones Parry of Britain read out a consensus statement that said the council members expressed the view that removal of Mr Arafat would be 'unhelpful' and 'should not be implemented'.

But he said the resolution had not been introduced.

Apparently, members wanted more time to consider the draft as, diplomats said, they felt that a hasty vote could draw a veto from the US, Israel's closest ally, who was not happy with some parts. However, under strong pressure from the Arabs, the members took the interim step of agreeing to issue a statement with a language to which all agreed.

As the diplomats were going in for the meeting, Palestinian UN envoy Nasser Al-Kidwa said they would be pressing for a quick vote



Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat blows kisses to supporters from a window as crowds gather in the grounds of his compound in the West Bank city of Ramallah on Saturday

on the draft. Expressing 'grave concern' at 'tragic and violent' events taking place in the Middle East, the draft demands that Israel halt any deportation proceedings and cease any threat to the safety of the elected president of the Palestinian authority.

Reports from Jerusalem said Israel on Saturday slammed what it called the 'hypocrisy' of the international community and UN Security Council over its threat to expel Mr Arafat. "When it comes to defending a terrorist like Mr Arafat the world mobilises, but when women and children are killed in the streets of Israel, the UN Security Council is silent," a senior Israeli official told AFP on condition of anonymity.

In Washington, deputy spokesman of the state depart-

ment Adam Ereli said, "The US does not want Mr Arafat expelled because it would serve no purpose. It would, however, distract us from the task at hand, which is having a cabinet that is free of association with terror."

At Ramallah in the West Bank, thousands of school children rallied outside Mr Arafat's sandbagged office on Saturday, surging toward the Palestinian leader when he waved and blew kisses from a window in the latest show of support. The children cheered for Mr Arafat in high-pitched voices. "In our souls and our blood we defend Abu Ammar," they said. A spirited Mr Arafat briefly came to front steps of his office and corrected them: "In our souls and our blood we defend Palestine, Palestine, Palestine." Agencies

# Big Five powers divided over Iraq future

**Geneva, Sept. 13 (Reuters):** The world's five most powerful countries emerged divided today after four hours of debate on Iraq's political future, but there was no replay of pre-war acrimony and they agreed to press on to find an agreement.

"Discussions today were not intended... to devise specific solutions," UN secretary-general Kofi Annan said after the meeting of foreign ministers from Britain, China, France, Russia and the US in Geneva.

"They will contribute to building consensus towards the future of Iraq, including the definition of the UN role."

With US-led forces in Iraq taking casualties almost every day and the cost of its occupation mounting, Washington sees a new UN resolution it has drafted as a way to coax other countries to pitch in with cash and

troops. But it does not believe Iraqis can take power as quickly as European governments — especially France — are proposing. France, which has insisted on a timetable for the handover of executive powers to Iraqis, made it clear that it wanted to avoid another transatlantic bust-up.

Asked if Paris would use its veto to block Washington's resolution, foreign minister Dominique de Villepin said: "We are here... to try and find solutions, not to create new problems."

On the ground in Iraq, opposition to the US presence is growing. In Falluja, west of Baghdad, Iraqis chanted: "America is the enemy of God" today as they began burying 10 police and security guards shot mistakenly by US troops.

US President George W.

Bush, pressing his case for help from abroad, urged allies yesterday to join the effort to build a stable post-war Iraq and said free nations could not be neutral in the "fight between civilisation and chaos". A British official in Geneva said that after the wrangling earlier this year over UN approval for the US-led invasion of Iraq in March "we all knew where we were coming from" and so there were no heated exchanges at today's meeting.

Nevertheless, the standoff between the Big Five powers — the permanent members of the UN Security Council with veto powers — had echoes of the pre-war drama, with Britain backing the US stance and Russia and China taking a low-key position.

Villepin said ahead of the meeting that Paris wanted a UN resolution that hands executive powers over to Iraqis, possibly

within a month, and provides for elections by next spring.

Washington says the French proposal is a recipe for chaos in Iraq, where the US-backed governing council has little clout.

Powell — who later left Geneva on the way to Kuwait and Iraq — said the French proposal was "totally unrealistic" and the US would reject it. "Of course, there are differences of opinion on certain aspects of our draft resolution," Powell said.

"The important thing... is we spent our time today looking for points of convergence, and there are many," Powell said. "And we have got a better understanding of our views which we can communicate to our permanent representatives back in New York for them to pursue the work next week."

A British official quoted for-  
eign secretary Jack Straw as say-

ing that all five countries agreed on the need to transfer power to the Iraqi people and the need to ensure both security and good governance in the process.

"The issue is what are the steps and staging posts between where we are now and where we are going," Straw was quoted as saying. Amendments put forward by France and Germany to the draft UN resolution would push US occupation forces under diplomat Paul Bremer to the sidelines.

Europe's fiercest opponents of the war, they are now seeking to dilute the US role, in part to prevent Washington reaping any long-term political and economic benefit from the invasion.

However, Powell said on the way to Geneva that Americans would have to stay in charge until a new Iraqi army and police force take shape.



French foreign minister Dominique de Villepin (left), US secretary of state Colin Powell (centre) and UN secretary-general Kofi Annan in Geneva on Saturday. (AFP)

# Kofi Annan favours expansion of Security Council

By Chidanand Rajghatta  
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

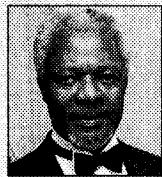
**Washington:** Ahead of a new session of the United Nations General Assembly in two weeks time, secretary general Kofi Annan on Monday pressed for enlarging the Security Council to make it more representative of 21st century geopolitical realities, a call that holds a great deal of promise for India, an aspiring member.

At a press conference accompanying the presentation of the annual security report, Mr Annan told

In the past Mr Annan had said India was a natural choice for permanent membership from the developing world. But at the news conference, he spoke of a possible criteria or understanding not to elect on to the council countries which have issues before the council, a stand that would jeopardise India's quest.

Asked specifically if this would exclude India and Pakistan, both of which have the Kashmir issue before the Security Council, the Secretary General drawled and avoided a di-

## Will India get a UN seat?



Kofi Annan

- Annan's call holds great promise for India
- 'Present dispensation lacks legitimacy in the eyes of developing world'
- Countries having issues before Council may not be elected

UN correspondents that although the issue has been simmering for a decade, the Iraq crisis had brought it to the fore and the matter needed to be revisited with greater purpose. "In tackling it this time, I hope we will be much more creative and much more daring, and look at the issue in a broader context," he said.

Mr Annan is expected to make more specific proposals in his speech to the General Assembly in two weeks, but he said he favoured expanding both the number of permanent council members (now at five, each with veto power) and the elected membership (ten countries serving two-year terms). In his report, he said the present dispensation appeared to "lack legitimacy in the eyes of the developing world, which feels that its views and interests are insufficiently represented among the decision makers."

rect answer before another different question was thrown at him.

Indian officials did not read too much meaning into the Secretary General's remark while arguing that he himself had indicated that the resolutions on Kashmir were infructuous and inapplicable after 50 years, given that they were non-binding in the first place, the ground conditions had changed, and they had been superceded by bilateral agreements.

India's quest to become a permanent member of the UNSC had taken on a greater urgency recently, specially since the 1998 nuclear tests, with the NDA government abandoning the diffidence that marked previous efforts and making a direct pitch. Among the arguments New Delhi is making is that as the most populous and plural democracy in the world in PPP terms, India deserves a seat on the high table.

# US may not press for Security Council draft

AGENCIES

NEW YORK/SAN ANTONIO, AUGUST 26

UNITED States is likely to drop the idea for another UN Security Council resolution asking more countries to send troops to Iraq, in the face of growing demands for a share in decision-making process. Washington is not prepared to cede any authority and would like the troops from other countries to function under its overall command. India, France and Russia are among the states that have said they would send troops only under United Nations mandate.

"We have not yet made a decision on whether to proceed with termination," deputy secretary of



Yet another funeral in Baghdad on Monday. About 20 men are killed each day in the Iraqi capital in gunfire. Reuters

state, Richard Armitage told reporters, hinting at the possibility of new resolution.

Secretary of State Colin Powell

had travelled to the UN last Thursday to lobby for the resolution but failed to convince other members that they drop their de-

## US, Saudi joint unit to fight terror funding

WASHINGTON: The US and Saudi Arabia will launch a joint task force in Riyadh this week to tackle the funding of terrorism, the US Treasury Department's general counsel said on Monday. David Aufhauser, who visited Jeddah two weeks ago, said the Saudi-led Task Force on Terrorist Financing will use asset freezing and trade penalties along with other traditional criminal actions. — Agencies

Monday that the US can afford whatever military level is needed for its security.

Speaking at a Veterans of Foreign Wars meeting in San Antonio, Rumsfeld said that analysis by the US Joint Chiefs of Staff indicated the US had enough troops in Iraq to execute its mission. "If at any time that were not the case, neither Gen (Richard) Myers, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs, nor I would hesitate for a minute to recommend appropriate increases to the President of the US," Rumsfeld said.

Rumsfeld was speaking a day after prominent Republican Sen. John McCain of Arizona called for "at least another division" of US troops — which could total about 20,000 troops — say-

ing the Iraq situation had become "a race against time".

President Bush's National Security Adviser, Condoleezza Rice, speaking at the meeting, urged Americans not to lose patience: "Step by step, normal life in Iraq is being reborn as basic services are restored."

Meanwhile, hundreds of US soldiers raided northern town of Khalis in a bid to smash a crime ring wanted for murder, gun running, and a deadly terrorist attack on a police station that killed an American soldier earlier this month. American troops backed by tanks, helicopters and Bradley fighting vehicles, launched a massive hunt for the gang's notorious leader, Lateef Hamed Al Kubaishat.

mand for a share in decision making. Even as negotiations were going on at the UN, Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said on

# Musharraf-US deal over Osama: report

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

LONDON, Aug. 23. — Pakistan President General Pervez Musharraf has struck a deal with the USA not to capture Osama bin Laden, fearing this could lead to unrest in Pakistan, according to a special investigation by *The Guardian*.

The paper reported today that Bin Laden was being protected by three elaborate security rings manned by tribesmen stretching 192 km in diameter in northern Pakistan.

The paper's information is based on comments made by Mr Mansoor Ijaz, an American of Pakistan origin who, the papers said, knows Al-Qaida better than most people and has had close contacts in Pakistan's intelligence agencies.

Mr Ijaz believed an agreement was reached between Gen. Musharraf and US authorities shortly after Bin Laden's flight from his stronghold Tora Bora in Afghanistan in December 2001.

The Pakistanis feared that to capture or kill Bin Laden so soon after a deeply unpopular war in Afghanistan would incite civil unrest in Pakistan and trigger a spate of re-

made that it would be more destabilising in the longer term. There would still be the ability to get him at a later date when it was more appropriate," Mr

## 6 Al-Qaida support groups in USA

WASHINGTON, Aug. 23. — US law enforcement officers are tracking six groups with suspected links to Al-Qaida within the USA, and see a "widening presence" of Al-Qaida sympathisers on US soil, the *New York Times* reported today. The suspects, spread across 40 states, are thought to be engaged in "low-level support activities" such as raising money, relaying messages and recruiting members. — AFP

Ijaz told *The Guardian*.

The Americans, Mr Ijaz said, accepted the argument, not least because of the shift in focus to the impending war in Iraq. So the months that followed were centred on taking down not Osama but the "retaliation infrastructure" of Al-Qaida. It meant that Gen. Musharraf frequently put

In January last year Gen. Musharraf said he believed Osama was probably dead. A year later he said he was alive and moving either in Afghanistan or perhaps in the Pakistani tribal areas.

"Yet Western diplomats say they believe the Pakistani authorities are committed to the hunt for Bin Laden, although they admit that frequently the official accounts of the timing and location of successful arrests do not square with reality," it said.

"Pakistan must now end the charade and get Bin Laden... With so much of the retaliation infrastructure gone or unsustainable, Osama's martyrdom does not pose nearly the threat it did a year ago," Mr Ijaz told the paper.

He said Bin Laden is hiding in the "northern tribal areas", part of the long belt of seven deeply conservative tribal agencies which stretch down the length of the mountain ranges that mark Pakistan's winding border with Afghanistan.

**Musharraf promise**  
Amid allegations of growing Taliban incursions into Afghanistan from Pakistan, Gen. Musharraf today promised a team of senior US senators

24 AUG 2003

IRAQ / TERMS SET FOR SENDING TROOPS

# **Annan rules out takeover by U.N. 'blue helmets'**

2

28/8

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

HD-13

making and responsibility.

**WASHINGTON, AUG. 22.** The United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, today ruled out the prospect of the U.N. "blue helmets" taking over from the coalition forces and running Iraq.

Mr. Annan, in the course of a press briefing with the visiting British Foreign Secretary, Jack Straw, said "... I have made it quite clear that U.N. blue helmets will not do that; we don't have the capacity, and we would not."

"But it is not excluded. Now, the Council may decide to transform the operation into a U.N. mandated multinational force operating on the ground with other Governments coming in. But, of course... it would also imply not just burden sharing but also sharing decision and responsibility with the others. If that doesn't happen, I think it's going to be very difficult to get a second resolution that will satisfy everybody."

He said that for the Security Council to support a new Resolution on sending troops to Iraq, the coalition on the ground in that country would have to agree to share things such as decision-

For his part Mr. Straw said Britain's approach on a second Resolution was one of seeking consensus in the Security Council. He disagreed with the notion that the Coalition Provincial Authority could "surrender" some of its involvement in the political, economic and social reconstruction of Iraq with a view to bringing other nations on board. "It's not an issue of surrender... I don't see this as a zero sum game. It's a question of strengthening the work of the Coalition Provisional Authority by partly strengthening the work of the Governing Council and at the same time improving and broadening the authority of the United Nations," Mr. Straw said.

If there is one predominant thinking in New York it is that the Bush administration's efforts to rope in other nations in Iraq will fall by the wayside unless Washington is prepared to look at the other political and security issues. For instance, countries such as France have been saying that military burden sharing must come along with sharing authority, something that Washington is too reluctant to give up.

ONE FIND

2 3 AUG 2003

# U.S. for broader U.N. role

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, AUG. 22. The Bush administration has made it clear once again that it is keen on having it both ways when it comes to the United Nations and Iraq: that while Washington would want the world body to broaden its role and functioning, the security aspect of this new role will certainly have to be under American command.

The United States, in its fresh bid to "broaden" the mandate in Iraq, is also finding that many of the other major powers on the Security Council — permanent and non-permanent members — are about to let Washington have it way.

And there are clear indications from the world body headquarters that unless substantial and meaningful changes are made to the mandate of the United Nations, countries such as India, Pakistan and Turkey are unlikely to send their troops for the so-called stabilisation of Iraq.

Iraq was the major issue in New York with the Secretary of State, Colin Powell, having wide-ranging discussions with not only the U.N. Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, but also

top diplomats from other nations in the Council.

The Security Council had an open discussion on Iraq, which was followed by a closed-door session on what the new American proposals are.

According to diplomats, the Bush administration is willing to work on the language of a new resolution that would perhaps make it "more attractive" to nations to pitch in Iraq but is not seeking language that broadens the U.N. mandate in Iraq.

"We have said all along that we want the U.N. to play a vital role. The issue of ceding authority is not an issue we have had to discuss today", Gen Powell argued. The Secretary of State made the point that the 'coalition' had some 30 nations providing some 22,000 troops with five countries more in the process of sending troops and 14 others discussing it.

"But perhaps additional language and a new resolution might encourage others. We'll be looking at, of course, reaffirming our determination to succeed in Iraq. We're looking forward to language that might call on member states to do more", Gen. Powell remarked.

At the U.N. Headquarters, one thinking is that aside from any American initiative, the Iraqi Governing Council too could put out an appeal to the Council.

The problem with this is that this Governing Council is seen in many quarters as nothing more than a body foisted by the occupation forces and, therefore, lacks legitimacy.

## France's doubt

PARIS, AUG. 22. France expressed doubt over whether more foreign troops should be sent to Iraq today, a day after the U.S. Secretary of State, Colin Powell, launched a drive to get more nations to send soldiers to help U.S. forces there.

Speaking on French radio, the Foreign Minister, Dominique de Villepin, urged the coalition powers to switch from "a logic of occupation to a logic of sovereignty" in Iraq.

Mr. De Villepin was asked on French radio RTL for his response to Gen. Powell's requests for more nations to send troops. — Reuters, AP

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2 3 AUG 2001



# Annan rejects UN peacekeepers

## Agencies

UNHQ, Aug. 21. — UN Secretary-General Mr Kofi Annan has ruled out sending UN peacekeepers to Iraq and asserted that it was the coalition's responsibility to provide security to the UN mission there.

In Baghdad, atop UN official said the world body was pulling about a third of its staff out of Iraq.

UN support and administrative staff, numbering about 100 out of a total workforce of 300, were being flown to Amman, Jordan, and Larnaca, Cyprus, according to Mr

Romero Lopes da Silva, Iraq coordinator for UN humanitarian programs.

He said 86 UN staffers were seriously wounded in the Tuesday attack and were being flown out of the country as their condition allowed. He said two UN colleagues still were unaccounted for.

Earlier, Mr Annan, who returned to the UNHQ from Stockholm yesterday, said he was surprised to hear reports that UN had turned down an offer of security from US-led coalition forces. "I don't know if the UN did turn down an offer of protection. If it did, it was not correct..."

determines what action is taken," he told the Security Council.

Mr Annan warned that without improved security, the UN would not be able to do its job in Iraq. He also brushed aside the idea of sending UN peacekeeping force to Iraq in the present situation. "We don't see UN Blue Helmets (peacekeepers) going into Iraq at this stage. It (security) isn't the job of Blue Helmets."

Meanwhile, the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, the key players involved in rebuilding Iraqs devastated economy, have pulled their staff out of Iraq after Tuesday's

bombing of the UN headquarters in Baghdad's Canal Hotel where their offices were also located.

The WB has "suspended operations in Iraq, given the security situation" and was moving 14 staff members to Amman. Jordan, a WB spokesman said, adding that one employee was still missing.

**New UN facility:** UN humanitarian coordinator in Iraq, Mr Romero Lopes da Silva, today said the UN would move to a new facility within three to four days and would resume its regular operations on Saturday.

# for Iraq

## USA wants new resolution



Gen. Colin Powell

UNHQ, Aug. 21. — The USA and UN officials are working on the language of a draft resolution "that might call on member states to do more" in Iraq, US Secretary of State

Gen. Colin Powell said today after meeting with UN Secretary-General Mr Kofi Annan.

Gen. Powell said discussions on the draft in the Security Council might include "issues with respect to the role the UN might play" in Iraq.

The resolution would be designed to encourage more countries to send troops to help secure Iraq, a US official said in Washington. Gen. Powell also was discussing ways to enhance security for aid workers in Iraq. — AP

# US to alter troop semantics, not substance

**United Nations, Aug. 21** (Reuters): US secretary of state Colin Powell said today he was exploring a new UN resolution that would encourage nations "to do more" in Iraq but said Washington would not surrender military control.

"Perhaps additional language in a new resolution might encourage others," Powell said after a meeting with UN secretary-general Kofi Annan, mainly on the devastating attack against UN headquarters in Baghdad.

"We're looking forward to language that might call on member states to do more," Powell said. But France immediately said the US would have to broaden the political role of the UN if it wanted nations to pitch in.

"To share the burden and the responsibilities in a world of

equal and sovereign nations, also means sharing information and authority," French envoy Michel Duclos told a Security Council discussion on Iraq.

A truck bomb blew up UN headquarters in Baghdad on Tuesday, killing at least 23 people including the chief of mission, Sergio Vieira de Mello of Brazil, and his chief of staff, Nadia Younes of Egypt. Dozens are still missing.

But Powell, in answer to questions, said there was no need to share any military control. One purpose of a new resolution would be to get Muslim troops into Iraq, both from Pakistan and West Asian countries, who have refused to send soldiers without a UN mandate.

Powell said some 30 nations outside the US have contributed

22,000 troops, and more were expected.

"I think anybody making a contribution, a military contribution, sending their young men and women into harms way, want them to be under solid, responsible, competent military leadership of the kind that is being provided by the coalition and the military component of the coalition under General (John) Abizaid's command," Powell said.

Annan, for his part, repeated there would not be a UN force of blue helmeted peacekeepers. But he emphasised that despite differences among Security Council members, there was a willingness to see that Iraq was stabilised. "I think the issue of Iraq is of great concern to everybody, regardless of the divisions that

existed before the war," Annan said in reference to the Security Council's refusal to authorise the invasion of Iraq.

Separately, Annan was to meet British foreign secretary Jack Straw, who was scheduled to see Annan but British officials said he was arriving late and would see the secretary-general tomorrow instead.

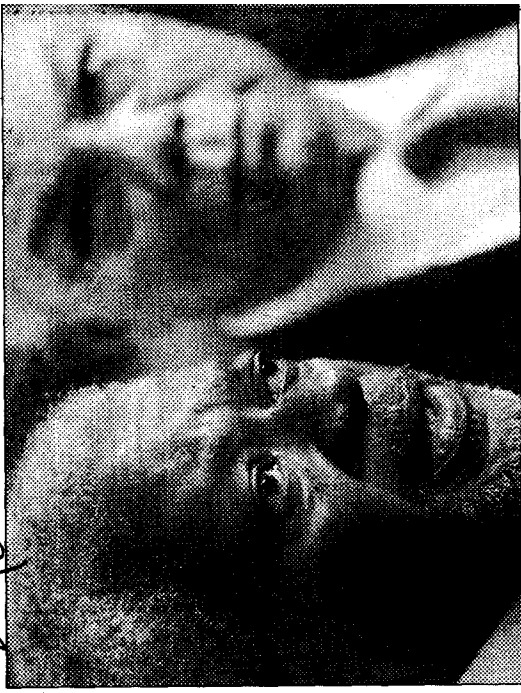
Britain, diplomats said, was more amenable to a wider UN political role as well as giving international troops some control over certain areas of Iraq while keeping a unified overall command. Powell and Annan did not touch on the controversy of security in Baghdad around the UN compound. US defence officials in Baghdad had said the UN rejected offers for US troops and hired their own security firm.

but UN officials said the United Nations took care of security inside the compound, not on the streets. Annan yesterday emphasised that it was the duty of the US to offer protection as the occupying power as they had the intelligence about the dangers of attacks.

## Bombing claim

A previously unknown Iraqi group claimed responsibility for the attack on the UN headquarters in Baghdad this week, an Arabic television channel said today.

Dubai-based Al Arabiya said it received a statement claiming responsibility for the truck bomb attack from an Iraqi Islamist group calling itself the "Armed Vanguards of the Second Mohammed Army".



UN secretary-general Kofi Annan (left) and US secretary of state Colin Powell at the United Nations in New York. (Reuters)

22 AUG 2003

THE TELEGRAPH

# Terror UNleashed

The brutal attack on UN headquarters in Iraq is a challenge not just to the US but the world

**T**ERRORISM most often follows a strategy of indirect impact. And the brutal attack on the UN headquarters which killed at least 20 on Monday, including the UN Special Representative in Iraq, was no doubt meant to pressurise the international community into getting it to persuade the United States to re-structure its Iraq policy. The attack will certainly force the UN to rethink its role in Iraq. Coming as it does after the bombing of Jordanian embassy in Baghdad, it also means that the prospects of developing countries sharing the burden of peace-keeping in Iraq become even more distant and complicated.

Reports have been emerging from Iraq about the rising anger against the US and of jihadis flocking to Iraq from other countries to fight the sole superpower in a replay of the jihad two decades ago in Afghanistan. America's unwillingness to accept a greater, leave alone dominant, role for the UN — which would have provided it the legitimacy needed to rebuild the country's institutions — seems to have been a major mistake. The US and its forces have been facing daily attacks; but this is the first

major attack on the UN in Iraq. It's possible that the UN mission was targeted because the UN had legitimised the war by authorising the US as the occupying force and had shown approval for the interim council handpicked by the US to rule Iraq.

It is apparent that the magnitude of Tuesday's attack requires serious introspection. The security of UN humanitarian assistance programmes in turbulent countries racked by internal armed conflict and the virtual dissolution of governance has almost always led to the deeper involvement of the international community in the internal peace enforcing role, often with uncertain results. To that extent, greater security for UN and aid agencies in Iraq would become necessary. But that by itself is unlikely to produce a more conducive environment to pursue stabilisation and reconstruction. Calling it a day and going home, as happened in Somalia, would make things worse. What may be necessary is a more fundamental paradigm shift on the part of the world community in its response to Iraq, the crafting of which may be its biggest challenge yet.

INDIAN EXPRESS

31 AUG 2003

# A troubleshooter's career cut short

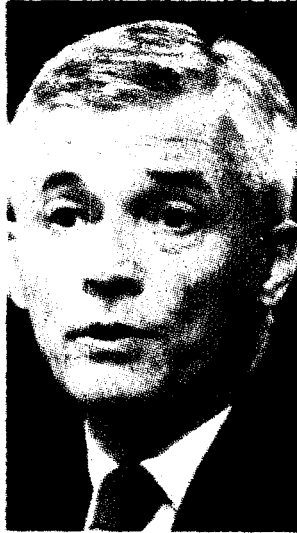
The Times, London *UN*

NEW YORK, Aug. 20. — Sergio Vieira de Mello, the UN representative killed in the bomb attack in Baghdad, was tipped as a possible future secretary-general of the organisation.

The dashing Brazilian diplomat, who was nearing the end of a four-month spell in Iraq, had won plaudits for running East Timor and Kosovo for the UN and had been rewarded with the post of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. But within months of taking up that position, he was seconded to Iraq to tackle the highly sensitive task of establishing a UN presence alongside the US-led coalition.

Long perceived as an American favourite within the UN system, De Mello was given the top UN job in Baghdad because he impressed President George W Bush and Ms Condoleezza Rice, Mr Bush's National Security Adviser, on his first meeting with them as Human Rights Commissioner in March.

Insiders say that Mr Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, considered him one of only a handful of troubleshooters capable of handling the toughest diplomatic assignments.



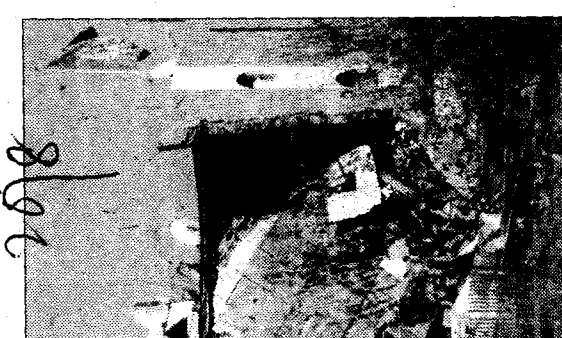
Sergio Vieira de Mello. He was considered a troubleshooter capable of handling the toughest of diplomatic assignments.

An energetic polyglot, De Mello had served in Bangladesh, Bosnia, Cambodia, Cyprus, East Timor, Kosovo, Lebanon, Mozambique and Rwanda since joining the UNHCR in 1969.

On a recent trip back to New York to brief the Security Council, De Mello argued that he had managed to expand the UN's political role in Iraq and appealed for international support for the 25-member Iraqi governing council that he had helped to form.

# Bomb shatters UN HQ in Iraq

MICHAEL GEORGY &  
LUKE BAKER  
BAGHDAD, AUGUST 19



A MASSIVE truck bomb ripped through the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad, killing at least three people and wounding scores, witnesses said. It may have been a suicide attack, a top US official said. Among those badly hurt was Secretary-General Kofi Annan's Special Representative to Iraq Sergio Vieira de Mello.

UN official Selim Lone told the BBC by telephone from the scene that rescue workers were struggling to free Vieira de Mello, a

55-year-old Brazilian career diplomat, from the ruins.

"All this happened right below the window of Sergio Vieira de Mello. I guess it was targeted for that," Lone said.

There was no claim of responsibility. "The explosion was caused by a massive truck bomb," Bernard Kerik, the senior US police official in Baghdad, said. "We have evidence to suggest it could have been a suicide attack."

Television pictures from inside the building showed a person talking at a news conference when it went dark at the sound of a huge explosion. **Rescue teams look through the rubble of the UN headquarters in Baghdad.** Reuters

explosion. Pictures returned showing a murky scene of dust and frightened people with bloodied faces seeking to flee.

US helicopters circled overhead as bleeding workers were led away by soldiers. One British man, covered in blood, walked out of the compound with a briefcase, head swathed in bandages.

Just hours before, US and Kurdish officials in Iraq announced the detention overnight of Saddam's Vice-President Iyad Allawi in Mosul.

In ambushes on US troops, a grenade and gun attack on a US convoy near Baghdad wounded two American soldiers on Tuesday, the military said. —Reuters

# UN welcomes new Iraqi council, unrest continues

**United Nations:** The UN Security Council voted 14-0 on Thursday to adopt a resolution welcoming the creation of Baghdad's new Governing Council, with Syria, the UN council's sole Arab nation, choosing to abstain.

The US-drafted measure would also give an initial 12-month mandate to the new UN Assistance Mission for Iraq, which has been operating on emergency funding until now. The formal mandate will allow it to be funded via the regular UN budget. "In its expression of support for the Governing Council of Iraq, this hastens the day when the people of Iraq are in full command of their own affairs, a condition they have not

known for some three decades," US ambassador John Negroponte said following the vote.

Syrian UN ambassador Mikhail Wehbe had argued unsuccessfully for changes in the measure, stating that only the Iraqi people could judge their government and it was not the Security Council's role to welcome the US-appointed Governing Council. Mr Wehbe also called for the resolution to include a reference to Iraqi sovereignty and a timetable for a return to Iraqi self-government. But in the end, Mr Negroponte carried the day by arguing no changes were needed.

Meanwhile, in continuing

attacks on US soldiers, guerrillas firing grenades wounded two US soldiers and three Iraqi civilians in central Iraq on Friday, while thousands of Shi'ite Muslims gathered for prayers at a flashpoint in a Baghdad suburb. Chanting "Yes for Islam," more than 3,000 worshippers flocked to a street in Sadr City, where US forces shot dead one Iraqi dead and wounded four during a protest earlier in the week.

In the latest guerrilla attack in Sunni Muslim central Iraq, US officers said two rocket-propelled grenades were fired at a small military convoy near the restive town of Balad, north of Baghdad on Friday morning. Agencies

# UN's Iraq mandate may favour USA

Nilova Roy Chaudhury  
in New Delhi

Aug. 4. — As international pressure on the USA mounts for it to raise the level of the United Nation's involvement in Iraq, there are indications that the new Security Council resolution being considered to replace UNSCR 1483 will not be enough for India to send troops.

The USA, Western diplomatic sources say, wants a UN resolution that will make America the pre-eminent party. This may well fall short of the "explicit UN mandate" the Cabinet Committee on Security had sought when it had rejected the US request for Indian troops on 14 July.

With American troops being killed daily in Iraq and a prolonged period of "occupation" likely, (because, as senior US officials put it, they "cannot afford to lose" in Iraq) US Secretary of State Gen. Colin Powell indicated that a new UNSC resolution authorising greater international participation in Iraq would soon be finalised.

However, officials said, a new resolution was "not imminent" as a debate was raging within the US Administration on the efficacy of such a move.

According to Western diplomats, far from an "explicit UN mandate" the kind of UNSC cover the USA is seeking would "perpetuate" its pre-eminent status among countries in Iraq.

Though the USA is "considering" a French draft for a new UNSC resolution that would allow, among others, France, Russia and Germany to send troops to Iraq, US diplomats were clear that several of the key proposals were "unacceptable" to the USA.

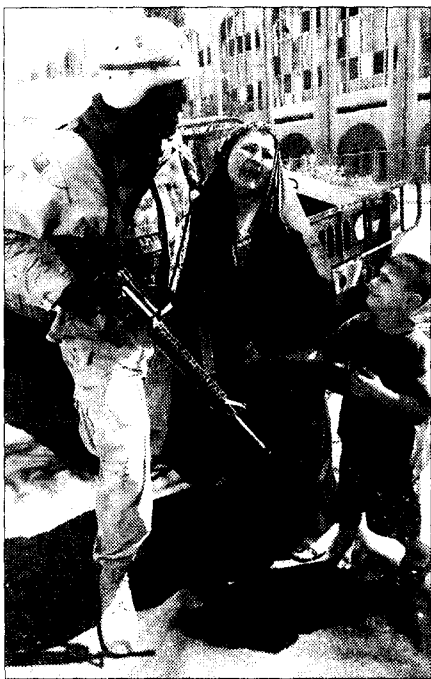
These included a peacekeeping mandate for a traditional Blue Berets force and a UN-appointed commander replacing Mr Paul Bremer. The first would pave the way for many countries to send their troops (as it would resolve the command, control & funding problem of the troops. For India the expenses have been estimated at around Rs 13 crore a month).

The only proposal the USA would consider is a broad timeframe within which the coalition would leave Iraq. The appointment of the Iraqi governing council with a rotating presidency addresses the third proposal.

The USA was also clear that other countries that send troops would do so at their own cost, as "they were not doing the USA a favour", a senior Western diplomat said.

The external affairs minister, Mr Yashwant Sinha, will be in Damascus and Ankara (between 1 and 5 August) for talks with Syria and Turkey on the ground situation there; and to explain why India cannot commit troops to Iraq at the moment.

# Annan wants UN umbrella in Iraq



A woman pleads with a US soldier to release her son after he was detained in Baghdad on Thursday. — AFP

Press Trust of India

UNHQ, July 31. — Chiding those who had declared the UN irrelevant before the Iraq war, Secretary General Mr Kofi Annan has said the demand by members states for a UN mandate before they commit troops to Baghdad has vindicated his stand that the world body would be needed soon.

The message from member states is clear — that they want a UN umbrella over US-led operations in Iraq before they commit troops, Mr Annan told reporters yesterday noting that India, Germany and France want a UN mandate.

He also said he would back a second resolution giving UN a broader mandate in Iraq, something

several member states want but it not imminent at present.

Now the calls for internationalising the Iraq operations have a clear message particularly for those who “thought the UN was dead and had no influence”, he said.

## Attacks unabated

A US soldier was killed and another two wounded late yesterday in an ambush on a US base in northeast Iraq, adds AFP from Baghdad. The soldiers were hit by small arms fire and they returned fire, wounding four Iraqis.

**Saddam's daughters:** Jordan's King Abdullah II has granted a haven to Saddam Hussein's two eldest daughters and their nine children.

THE STATESMAN

1990 0000



# US welcomes UN role in tackling N. Korean N-issue

Seoul: A US envoy said on Tuesday that Washington's plan to discuss the North Korean nuclear threat in the United Nations Security Council did not conflict with Washington's efforts to bring Pyongyang to the negotiating table.

"I think it will be complementary," US under-secretary of state John Bolton said, adding that the United States favoured discussing the North Korean nuclear issue at the Security Council, "because that's appropriate." Mr Bolton arrived in South Korea on Tuesday for talks with foreign minister Yoon Young-kwan and other officials about how to end North Korea's suspected development of nuclear weapons.

After meeting Chinese officials on Monday, Mr Bolton said that he could give no indication of when a new round of talks with North Korea might take place. China has been trying to get talks restarted following a first meeting between US and North Korean officials in April.

Pyongyang wants the next round to be one-on-one with Washington - but Washington says the problem is regional and talks should include Japan, South Korea and Russia. Mr Bolton said China had done all it could to get North Korea to resume talks, and suggested that the Security Council might have a role to play in the dispute - an approach China has opposed.

Washington wants the

Security Council to adopt a statement calling on North Korea to abandon its nuclear programs and rejoin the international Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. South Korea's national Yonhap news agency reported on Tuesday that China had "very recently" delivered the US proposal for talks to North Korea through Pyongyang's embassy in Beijing. "We believe North Korea is in the phase of contemplating the US proposal," Mr Yonhap quoted an unnamed South Korean government official as saying. But on Monday, South Korean foreign Min-

**Pyongyang wants the next round to be a one-on-one with Washington, but the US says the problem is regional**

ister Yoon had said negotiations between China and North Korea to arrange a new round of nuclear talks "were slowing down a little." US and North Korean officials have met only once since the crisis began last October, when Washington said Pyongyang admitted having a secret nuclear programme in violation of international agreements.

Also on Tuesday, a South Korean delegation travelled to the North Korean city of Kaesong near the border to discuss jointly building an industrial complex near the city. AP

30 JUL 2003

THE TIMES OF INDIA

JIM HOAGLAND

**C**OULD the path that will eventually lead the US out of Iraq pass through the West African jungles of Liberia? This unlikely question is worth exploring in the wake of a surprisingly productive White House meeting last week between President Bush and UN Secretary General Kofi Annan.

Four months after Bush's decision to invade Iraq seemed to signal a new ice age in US relations with the UN, there are now glimmers of hope for cooperation — both on ending Liberia's vicious civil war and on devising a political process in Iraq that could end the US occupation there.

There are still large obstacles in both cases to such happy endings. Continuing violence in Iraq and lingering distrust within the Bush administration of a strong political role for the UN in that country make finding common ground on Iraq particularly tricky.

But Messrs Bush and Annan made a start in that direction, according to two authoritative accounts of the meeting. The president gave Annan head-of-state treatment in the Oval Office and leaned forward on Liberia, while the Secretary General tried to send the message that an increased UN role in Iraq would not be turned into a loss of face for Washington, and should not be seen that way.

By the standard of what remains to be done, these are only small beginning steps: Bush remains convinced that the UN must be drastically overhauled to deal with the new threats of global terrorism and weapons of mass destruc-

# Bush, Annan narrow gap

tion. Annan remains committed to evolutionary change in an organisation that he personifies.

But those stark contrasts in vision make the areas of understanding the two leaders reached at the meeting all the more remarkable. I wouldn't bet

the farm on how far they will get — there is a limit even to my optimism on this — but the goodwill both showed should be pursued and made as operational as possible.

On Liberia, that means marrying Annan's desire to have US troops lend

credibility and power to peacekeeping operations to Bush's need for a clear exit strategy. The stumbling block has been President Charles Taylor's refusal to step down. Bush says Taylor must go before US troops will go into Liberia.

The outline of action discussed in the Oval Office calls for a vanguard force of 1,000 to 2,000 West African troops assembled by the Economic Community of West African States, or ECOWAS, to go to Monrovia and bring Taylor out. A small US contingent would then accompany a larger ECOWAS force to secure the capital, and would be relieved in short order by UN peacekeepers. "You won't get bogged down," Annan promised.

A successful mission in Liberia could never serve as an exact model for Iraq. But it could serve as a confidence-building measure between Washington and the world body, which ultimately will play a major role in extending recognition and support to the new Iraqi government that will emerge from US occupation.

Annan's representative, Sergio Vieira de Mello, has shrewdly supported the decision by US administrator Paul Bremer to appoint an Iraqi Governing Council as the forerunner of a new government in Baghdad. A three-member delegation will seek in New York on July 22 to occupy Iraq's UN seat in an important initial test of international acceptance.

Iraq's Arab neighbours have been lukewarm to a formal UN blessing for a delegation that is committed to democracy, but they are not expected to cross Washington on this. And critics of the war such as France are set to welcome the delegation being seated as a step that moves political power away from the US and toward Iraqis. Annan told me after seeing Bush that the UN can help provide what is most needed in Iraq now: "A clear political vision of how the political process can be handled."

He would like to see UN involvement in holding an Iraqi census and then in registering voters for a national election that might be as little as a year away. These practical steps "could help take some of the heat off" US forces and administrators, Annan added. Others say that Messrs Bush and Annan steered clear of the contentious issue of whether a new UN resolution should set out an expanded UN role in Iraq and clear the way for other nations to contribute peacekeeping force to the US-led coalition.

That is an unnecessary argument at this point. Power is beginning to flow to Iraqis, as Bush promised it would, and they will eventually define the UN role in their country. That is the goal Messrs Bush and Annan should pursue in the pragmatic mode they established on the meeting.

(By arrangement with  
The Wall Street Journal)



# UN finds enriched uranium in Iran

Vienna, July 18

UN INSPECTORS have found enriched uranium in environmental samples taken in Iran, which could mean Tehran has been purifying uranium without informing the UN nuclear watchdog, diplomats say.

The diplomats, who asked not to be named, said initial analysis showed enrichment levels possibly consistent with an attempt to make weapons-grade material and high enough to cause concern at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

If Iran, dubbed part of an "axis of evil" by Washington, has been enriching uranium without telling the IAEA, this would deepen US suspicions that its nuclear ambitions go beyond its stated aim of using nuclear energy only to generate electricity.

However, the diplomats said the mere presence of enriched uranium in the samples was not solid proof that Iran had done the enrichment itself. Contamination was another possibility, though how it had arisen would have to be explained to the IAEA.

The IAEA declined to confirm or deny the diplomats' statements, though an agency spokeswoman said IAEA inspectors have been taking samples in Iran.

"The results of environmental sample analyses are being reviewed," Melissa Fleming said. "We are still in the middle of a complex inspection process in Iran, in which we are investigating a number of unresolved issues."

Iran insists it has no interest in building nuclear weapons, as Washington charges, but has resisted international calls for it to ac-

cept tougher inspections of its nuclear programme. At least one Western diplomat predicted in June that environmental samples taken by the IAEA would confirm suspicions that Iran continues to hide aspects of its nuclear programme — including live tests of enrichment centrifuges.

Iran has repeatedly denied that it has tested its centrifuges with nuclear material without informing the IAEA. But diplomats say it makes no sense for Iran to spend millions of dollars to build big uranium enrichment facilities in Natanz without having tested their centrifuges. Enrichment is a process, which purifies uranium to make it useable in nuclear fuel, or nuclear weapons.

The IAEA is expected to report on the results on September 8.

Reuters

## APPARENT DROP

The United Nations development programme's human development reports have been around since 1990. Since HDRs document human deprivation as well as development, India's case is always reminiscent of a half-empty-cum-half-full glass. But this year, the leaning is more towards the half-full side. HDRs also compute indices like the human development index, gender-related development index and gender empowerment measure. The HDI is based on three sets of indicators — per capita income in purchasing power parity terms, education and health, and based on HDI values, countries are ranked. India's rank is 127th out of 175 countries, slipping from the 124th of last year. This drop is apparent rather than real, since two more countries have now been included in the rankings. Specifically, India's PPP per capita income is \$ 2,840, life expectancy is 63.3 years, adult literacy rate is 58 per cent and gross enrolment ratio is also 58 per cent. This year's HDR theme is the millennium development goals, targetted for 2015 by the UN.

There are eight separate MDGs, and most developing countries are way behind target. On income poverty, HDR makes the point that thanks to growth and resultant poverty drops in China and India, the MDG of halving income poverty may well be attained. However, inter-regional variations within India are highlighted (Bihar is picked as an example of marginal growth), as is the phenomenon of hunger (23.3 million hungry Indians). India's progress is also acknowledged in improved educational indicators, and this includes reduction in gender disparities in relatively backward states. However, the missing women phenomenon remains, although there have been improvements in Bangladesh, Pakistan and most Arab states. Public spending on education and health remain low. HDR is more concerned about the state of India's health and this is not just about the projected 70 million HIV/AIDS cases by 2025. Infant mortality rates have shown little decline in states like Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan and health outcomes are particularly bad among the poor, scheduled castes, rural areas, mothers and children. Understandably, HDR also throws in governance, decentralization, transparency, and right to information laws. Other than specific figures, there isn't much that was not already known. Nor should one be obsessed with India's HDI rank. HDRs started in 1990 and the subsequent decade witnessed reforms in India. India is not sub-Saharan Africa and understandably, liberalization reduced poverty and improved educational indicators. Success is less palpable for eliminating hunger or improving health indicators. That is where the challenge lies.

# Health ails, says UNDP

**M**illennium Development Goals (MDGs) were decided upon by 189 countries at the Millennium Summit in 2000 as feasible benchmarks for covering essential conditions of human development. This year's Human Development Report examines the success and failure in the last decade and also presents an action plan. India has dropped down three notches in the ranking, but has made steady progress on reducing poverty. It is the health indicators that need some attention.

## POVERTY

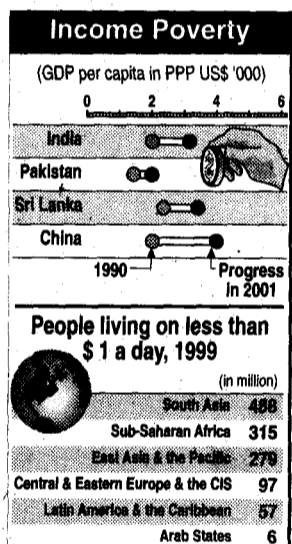
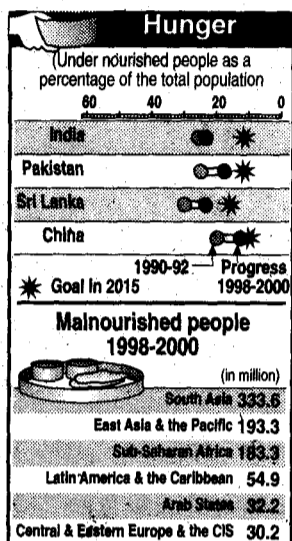
**GOAL 1:** Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.

**TARGET:** Halve between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1 a day.

Since early 1990s, food production in developing countries has tripled. The real price of the main cereal crop has gone down by 76 per cent. Between 1980 and 1995, per capita food production increased 27 per cent in Asia and 12 per cent in Latin America. Although hunger is most prevalent in South Asia, it is going up in Africa. If all food produced worldwide were distributed equally, every person would be able to consume 2,760 calories a day (hunger defined as consuming less than 1,960 calories).

India is home to the largest number of hungry people, 233 million, whereas Sub Saharan Africa has 183 million, China 119 million. The largest reductions have been in China.

Indian states that implemented land reforms saw



poverty fall faster between 1958 and 1992.

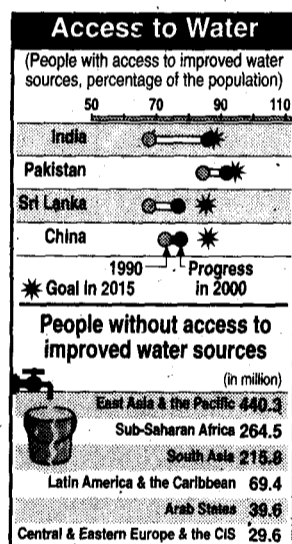
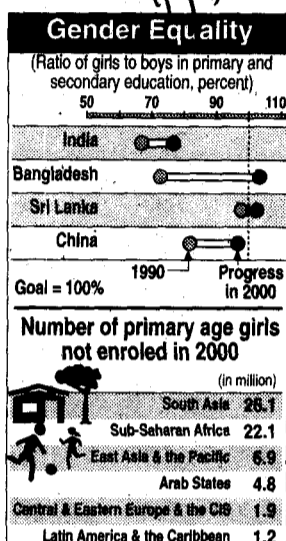
## EDUCATION

**GOAL 2:** Achieve universal primary education.

**TARGET:** Ensure that by 2015, children cover full course in primary schooling.

In India, 40 million children are not in school, which is more than a third of the world's total.

**GOAL 3:** Promote gender



equality and empower women.

**TARGET:** Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education by 2005 and in all levels of education no later than 2015. The ratio of illiterate females to males is 0.82, a marginal improvement from 0.74 in the last decade.

## HEALTH

**GOAL 4:** Reduce child mortality

**TARGET:** Reduce maternal

mortality rate by two third between 1990 and 2015.

In India, the infant mortality rate has come down from 80 in 1990 to 67 (per 1,000 live births) in 2001.

**GOAL 5:** Improve maternal health.

**TARGET:** Reduce maternal mortality rate by three quarter between 1990 and 2015.

The maternal mortality rate is 440/100,000 live births. Only 43 per cent births are attended by skilled health personnel.

**GOAL 6:** Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

**TARGET:** Halt by 2015 and reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Halt by 2015 and reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.

Every high income OECD country spends at least 5 per cent of its GDP on public healthcare. India has barely crossed 3 per cent. The report warns of large number of cases of HIV/AIDS in the coming decade if nothing is done.

**GOAL 7:** Ensure environmental sustainability.

While Bangladesh has 97 per cent people with sustainable access to an improved water source in rural areas, it is 79 per cent in India.

In sanitation, India is worse off than its South Asian cousins as people with access to sanitation is 61 per cent as compared to 95 per cent in Pakistan.

**GOAL 8:** Develop a global partnership for development: debt sustainability.

Some good news on this front: India's total debt service has come down from 29.2 in 1990 to 12.6 in 2001 as percentage of exports of goods and services).

# India slips down the Human Development Index

By Our Special Correspondent

**NEW DELHI, JULY 8.** Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and West Bengal have received considerable appreciation in the 2003 Human Development Report (HDR) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) even as India was pushed down three rungs on the Human Development Index (HDI) to the 127th position in the comity of 175 nations.

Releasing the HDR here today as part of the global launch of this annual report, the UNDP Resident Representative, Brenda Gael McSweeney, said India's 127th position on the HDI as against its 124th rank in the last report did not necessarily mean that the country made no progress. "The country has sustained its progress in HDI and Gender Development Index values with the former going up from 0.577 in last year's report to 0.590 this time round."

As for India slipping down the list, the explanation was that it was a consequence of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Occupied Palestinian Territories joining the list, and Botswana moving up the order. India, in fact,

1001 917  
brought up the rear of the group of nations with medium human development in the list wherein nations have been categorised as having high/medium/low human development.

The Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, K.C. Pant, noted with satisfaction that the HDR had placed on record the significant contribution of India towards achieving the first Millennium Development Goal of reducing by half the proportion of poor people in the world by 2015.

The HDR was particularly appreciative of the strides made by Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and West Bengal in decentralisation. "Wherever decentralisation has worked — as in parts of Brazil, Jordan, Mozambique, and the Indian States of Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal — it has brought significant improvements." While India and China have been credited in the HDR with pushing the world towards the goal of halving income poverty and the proportion of people without access to safe water, the study recorded growing regional disparity in the two most populous countries of the world.

According to the report, "Even large and growing economies — Brazil, China, India, Mexico — contain regions of intense poverty relieved little by overall national growth. Economic and social progress often also bypasses ethnic and racial minorities, even majorities — especially girls and women, who suffer gender bias in access to schooling, public services, employment opportunities and private property." Still, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have been commended for reducing gender literacy gaps; the first showing "tremendous improvement" while the others bridged the divide to some extent.

While the sub-continent has shown marginal improvement in the "missing women" phenomenon — women estimated to have died due to discrimination in access to health and nutrition — India has been found lagging in this respect.

Even as India is among the countries to register an "impressive reduction" in poverty, the country is viewed as being at risk of "seeing HIV infection rates soar" because of its large population.

# Annan rules out UN force in Iraq

London: The United Nations does not currently have the capacity to send a security force into Iraq, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said after talks in London with British Prime Minister Tony Blair.



Kofi Annan

"Until the (UN Security) Council gives us a new mandate, we are not really talking of a UN force and, quite frankly, I doubt that we will have the capacity to take over that responsibility at this stage," Mr Annan said on Wednesday. "If we don't have the capacity, I wouldn't want to take on the additional role and more responsibility."

Speaking in the wake of the killing of six British troops in southern Iraq on Tuesday, Mr Annan said the "occupying powers" had the responsibility to provide security and effective administration to the people of Iraq. This should continue to be delivered by the multinational coalition led by the United States and Britain, he added.

Asked by reporters whether he wanted a greater security role for the UN, Mr Annan said: "We are guided by UN Security Council resolution 1483", passed unanimously in May, "which leaves the

## Post-war policing

•Multinational force in coalition must keep security, says UN chief

•Four of six British soldiers killed in Iraqi town were executed, reports UK dailies

•Explosion hits US vehicle carrying Iraqi electrical workers, one killed

responsibility for security and for creating a secure environment to the coalition forces or the occupying power."

Mr Annan added, "The occupying power does have a responsibility to promote the welfare of the Iraqi people through effective administration of Iraq. I think the security should be left to a multinational force of the coalition."

British newspapers reported on Thursday that four of the six British soldiers killed were executed after they surrendered following a fierce gun battle. The British military policemen mounted a last stand on Tuesday at a police station in Al-Majar Al-Kabir, around 200 km north of Iraq's second city of Basra, and were killed, possibly with their own weapons, after they refused to

flee, the papers said.

Most British newspapers, which carried the story of the deaths on their front pages, said the sequence of events was still unclear.

*The Times* reported the British troops were said to have ordered a group of Iraqi civilians with them whom they had been training as police officers to flee.

"They told us to save ourselves though they refused to run away. They were murdered in cold blood. There was no way they could escape. I'm so ashamed I left them," *The Times* quoted Salam Mohammed, one of the trainees, as saying.

Meanwhile, an explosion hit a US vehicle carrying Iraqi electrical workers in a Baghdad suburb on Thursday, killing the driver and wounding one other person, a US military spokesman said.

The official version contradicted earlier reports from witnesses who said a military vehicle had come under fire and that there were American and Iraqi casualties.

It was the latest of increasingly frequent hit-and-run attacks against US and British targets that are threatening to undermine efforts to rebuild Iraq. Agencies

# Iran refuses to let in UN inspectors

PAUL HUGHES  
TEHRAN | JUNE 21

IRAN said on Saturday it would not allow UN inspectors to take samples at an alleged nuclear plant, as Washington warned it reserved the right to use military action to stop Tehran making atomic weapons.

As international pressure intensified over Iran's nuclear aims, domestic tensions in Iran appeared to be abating slightly, with a lull in demonstrations overnight after 10 consecutive nights of pro-democracy protests by students.

Iranian security forces have rounded up dozens of students in recent days, which reformist MPs fear will only exacerbate simmering political conflict in the Islamic republic.

Reformist newspapers said on Saturday the arrests were carried out by plainclothes officials and the whereabouts of many students was un-



**Two Iranian men set themselves ablaze in London on Friday to protest against the arrest of Iranian Opposition leaders by France** known.

Illustrating the heightened tensions, a senior Iranian cleric warned

Washington on Friday not to treat Iran like Afghanistan or Iraq and urged courts to impose death sentences on "hooligans" who had protested against Islamic clerical rule.

The protests have been lauded as a cry for freedom by the US, which believes Iran is secretly seeking to develop nuclear weapons.

Iran denies any ambition to build atomic arms and has accused United States officials of blatant interference in its internal affairs.

Gholamreza Aghazadeh, head of Iran's Atomic Energy organisation, said on Saturday allowing inspectors from the United Nations nuclear watchdog to take samples at the Kalaye Electric Company in Tehran would expose Iran to a rash of similar requests.

"We've had no problem concerning environmental samples, but we've been telling the IAEA that this location is a non-nuclear location," Aghazadeh told state television.



# UN envoy calls on Suu Kyi, says she's not hurt

AUNG HLA TUN  
YANGON, JUNE 10

A UN envoy to Myanmar met detained Opposition Leader Aung San Suu Kyi on Tuesday and said she was "in good spirits" and had not been injured but he had no word on whether she would be released.

International concern had intensified over the health and whereabouts of the Suu Kyi since violence erupted on May 30 as she was touring a provincial town in the North. She has been in detention since then.

Envoy Razali Ismail had an hour-long meeting with Suu Kyi at the Junta's headquarters in Yangon. Asked by reporters at Yangon airport about Suu Kyi's condition as he was about to leave for Kuala Lumpur he said: "No injuries... I can as-

sure you she's well and in good spirits."

Before the meeting, Razali hinted that the Junta had yet to be persuaded to release Suu Kyi, saying he hoped to return "as soon as possible" to push for her freedom. Diplomats told Reuters earlier they expected Suu Kyi to be returned to her lakeside residence in Yangon, where she has spent much of the last 14 years under house arrest.

Diplomatic pressure has mounted on the Myanmar government in recent days, with the US, Britain and the European Union saying they were considering more trade and investment sanctions because of Suu Kyi's treatment.

Since May 30, the Junta has kept Suu Kyi at undisclosed locations and confined leaders of her National League for Democracy (NLD) to their houses.

—Reuters

# UN envoy hopeful of seeing Suu Kyi

Agence France Presse

YANGON, June 9. — UN envoy Mr Razali Ismail today said he was hopeful of being allowed to see detained Opposition leader Ms Aung San Suu Kyi after an "encouraging" meeting with two of Myanmar's most powerful generals.

Mr Razali had been poised to cut short his mission to Myanmar if he was refused permission to see Ms Suu Kyi who was taken into custody more than week ago after violent clashes between her suppor-

ters and a pro-junta mob.

But after talks with army chief Deputy Senior General Maung Aye and military intelligence boss General Khin Nyunt, the UN envoy said he was making progress in his twin goals of securing a meeting and pushing for her release. "I am encouraged by my meeting today. I am hoping I will be able to fulfil one or two of the objectives of my visit."

"I am not leaving today," he said, settling speculation that the visit which began on Friday and was due to end tomorrow may be cut short in protest.



CRY FOR FREEDOM: A Myanmar protester carries his son during a demonstration in Bangkok on Monday. — AFP

# UN nuclear experts back on Iraq mission

Baghdad, June 6 (Reuters): UN nuclear experts returned to Iraq today for the first time since the US-led invasion to check on looting at a research facility.

Brian Rens, leader of the seven-member International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) team that flew in from Kuwait, said their mission was to verify nuclear material at the Tuwaitaha site — not to look for any weapons of mass destruction.

"That is not our objective. It is to establish what materials have been removed from the site and what remains and to secure that material and to place it under seal, an agency seal," he told reporters at the Rasheed hotel in Baghdad.

Rens said the team would visit the site at the sprawling Tuwaitaha compound, Iraq's main nuclear facility, 20 km southeast of Baghdad, tomorrow or on Sunday.

US forces say they have recovered about 100 barrels and five radiological devices possibly looted from the site. Some locals who unwittingly washed clothes or stored food in the barrels say children are falling ill.

Rens said he doubted there was a serious radiological problem at the site, a three-building



Brian Rens, head of the IAEA team visiting Iraq, in Baghdad on Friday. (AFP)

storage facility. "The type of materials that are there are more of a contamination risk than a radiation risk," he said.

"Obviously this material is not to be ingested or inhaled. It is toxic by nature, so there is a health risk."

US army colonel Mickey Freeland, heading a military liaison team that will escort the IAEA mission, said the US-led civil administration had launched a separate effort to check for environmental and health damage in the area.

The IAEA team, operating under tight US restrictions, is barred from the rest of the Tuwaitaha complex and will have

no access to six other nuclear sites that may have been looted.

More than 500 tonnes of natural uranium and 1.8 tonnes of low-enriched uranium were stored at Tuwaitaha, plus smaller amounts of highly radioactive caesium, cobalt and strontium.

The US wants to draw a clear line between the team's mission and pre-war inspections carried out under UN Security Council resolutions on disarmament.

Council members, including Britain, have urged Washington to allow the return of UN nuclear and other arms inspectors withdrawn just before the war, but have made no headway.

## US report

As the Bush administration was pushing last fall for a war against Iraq because of alleged weapons of mass destruction, a defence department report said it did not have enough "reliable information" Iraq was amassing chemical weapons, an official said today.

News of the classified September 2002 report by the defence intelligence agency has added to claims the White House and Pentagon slanted US intelligence on Baghdad's weapons program to justify the war.

# UN envoy bent on meeting Suu Kyi

6/6  
Kuala Lumpur, June 5 (Reuters): UN special envoy Razali Ismail said he would insist on seeing detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi when he visits Myanmar tomorrow and called on Asian powers and Washington to put pressure on the ruling junta.

Razali seemed steeled for a showdown with Myanmar's generals and asked for China, India, Japan and the US to throw their weight behind him.

"I am going and I am going to state my insistence that I will see Aung San Suu Kyi. If they are not cooperative, they will see what I can do," he said.

Diplomats and Myanmar dissidents fear Suu Kyi, in custody now for six days, may have been injured in a clash between supporters and a pro-government group last week.

In Yangon, the International Committee of the Red Cross was trying to persuade the government to relent and let its officials meet Suu Kyi and other people detained.

"We informed the government of our desire to visit them. We are still following up on this," an ICRC official said.

Razali has been envoy for more than three years but can count only minor victories in his mission to kickstart national reconciliation that could eventu-



UN special envoy to Myanmar Razali Ismail in Kuala Lumpur on Thursday. (Reuters)

ally bring democracy to a country whose government is shunned by all but its closest neighbours.

"I cannot do the job on my own, I have to have support. Regional players must come into action," said Razali.

"I think the Americans have a big role to play," he added.

Suu Kyi, a Nobel peace laureate and pro-democracy icon, has been held at undisclosed locations since her arrest despite in-

ternational agencies' efforts to see her and mounting calls for her release.

Yangon generals have denied reports Suu Kyi was hurt but said that four people were killed and 50 injured in the clash, and that Suu Kyi had been taken into "protective custody".

The junta launched a sweeping crackdown on dissent following last Friday's violence in the north of the country, where Suu Kyi was visiting supporters. Universities closed earlier this week will not be allowed to reopen until June 16.

Exiled dissidents say they believe Suu Kyi sustained head and shoulder injuries after her convoy was stopped on a road and set upon by truck-loads of government supporters wielding clubs. They also say many more were killed than the four the government has reported — perhaps as many as 75.

Razali despaired of the developments in Myanmar, known formerly as Burma.

"This is distressing, I am quite dejected," he said. "This is a country with a long history of kings, princes and civilisation. Saner heads must begin to prevail. "The people of Myanmar are supposed to be religious, loving and devoted to pacificism. Surely the military people are also part of that tradition?"

# Time to strengthen the U.N. — II

By Muchkund Dubey

40-10  
25/6

**W**E NEED today to revisit the recommendations made in the 1990s and select those clamouring for urgent action and priority attention.

What is the minimum that needs to be done? First, the decision-making process in the Security Council on issues of war and peace, i.e. on matters coming under Chapter VII of the Charter, must reflect the vastly enhanced membership of the United Nations. This means expediting the process of expansion of both the permanent and non-permanent membership of the Security Council. A crucial aspect of the reform of the Council should be to reach an agreement on phasing out within a specified time-frame, say, 10 to 15 years, the veto power of the permanent members of the Council, and, in the interim, limiting this power strictly to issues relating to preventive action under Chapter VII.

Second, the U.N.'s capacity to mount speedily and effectively peacekeeping operations mainly under Chapter VI must be enhanced. This calls for the acceptance of the proposal made by the former Secretary-General, Boutros Ghali, in his report "Agenda for Peace", to create a revolving fund so that peacekeeping operations can be mounted before assessed contributions start coming in. An alternative suggestion made in the report is the creation of a U.N. Peace Endowment Fund of \$1 billion, the returns from which could be used for initiating peacekeeping operations before contributions are received.

There is also a strong case for accepting the proposal, originally made by Sir Brian Urquhart, pioneer of peacekeeping operations in the U.N., and subsequently by a number of Commissions and Groups on U.N. reforms, for the creation of a 10,000 or so strong Rapid Deployment or U.N. Volunteer Force. The modest amount, roughly calculated at about \$500 million, spent on the creation and maintenance of this force will be worthwhile because of its potentiality of pre-empting situations in which the U.N. may be called upon

to take preventive action involving the deployment of forces on a much larger scale.

Third, there can be no peace without disarmament. The international community, therefore, must not allow the U.N. agenda of disarmament to remain suspended any longer. There are compelling reasons for reviving the agenda in which the highest priority must be attached to the

within the U.N. have been suggested to enable it to resume these Charter functions. One of the suggestions is to convert the Economic and Social Council into an Economic Security Council with a much more limited membership. The other suggestion is to create two separate but smaller bodies namely, the Economic Council and the Social Council, to do full justice to the entire gamut of issues

to impose levies on the exploitation and development of global commons and charges on the use of global resources such as ocean routes, airspace etc. It is also high time serious consideration was given to the proposal advanced by the Nobel laureate, James Tobin, for imposing a tax on the flow of capital for speculative purposes both for limiting such speculation and raising resources for financing agreed activities of the organisations of the U.N. system.

Finally, the U.N. must accommodate within its decision-making structure what has come to be known as the other superpower i.e. the peoples' power. It must find the means of ensuring that the voice of this superpower is heard in the U.N. and that its opinion is brought to bear on the organisation's decision-making process. Among the suggestions made in this regard are the creation of a separate organ called the U.N. parliamentary assembly or an annual forum of civil society organisations to be convened at the U.N. headquarters just before the annual session of the General Assembly.

These suggestions cannot be pushed through the U.N. without the assent of the U.S. which can be presumed to be in no mood today to consider any proposal for strengthening the U.N. However, if the support of the other major world powers, which hopefully have come to view the international system in a different way than the U.S., can be mobilised, it will influence the American public opinion and, through it, Washington's position.

What is important is to build a worldwide movement for U.N. reforms with the support of almost all the countries of the developing world, as many major powers as possible and the almost unanimous support of civil society organisations from all over the world. The process itself will be of great importance for enhancing the stature of the U.N. and, in the long run, it may very well culminate in a consensus on placing the U.N. on the highest pedestal of the international system.

(Concluded)

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*It is important to build a worldwide movement for United Nations reforms with the support of almost all the countries of the developing world.*

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elimination of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction. There is no inconsistency between India pursuing the goal of nuclear disarmament and, at the same time, trying to build a nuclear deterrent. For, India is committed to put its entire nuclear arsenal on the negotiating table for arriving at a universal agreement for eliminating nuclear weapons. One of the suggestions intended to enable the U.N. to address the disarmament issue in an effective manner is to create a joint committee of the General Assembly and the Security Council, tasked to promote progress towards global disarmament.

Fourth, it is essential to bring global economic issues back on the U.N. agenda. The world body should be able to assess on a continuing basis the over-all state of the world economy, to provide a long-term strategy and policy framework in order to promote stable, balanced and sustainable development; and to give political leadership and promote consensus on international economic issues. More specifically, it should once again be the venue for discussing harmonisation of financial, monetary and trade policies pursued by major governments, transfer of resources and technology for development, functioning of the commodity markets, external indebtedness, stable international financial markets, etc.

Appropriate institutional changes

under these categories. Yet another suggestion is to streamline the functioning of the ECOSOC and devote one of its sessions specifically to discuss global economic issues and macro-economic policies of developed countries, insofar as they affect the development prospects of the world as a whole, particularly those of the developing countries.

Fifth, the U.N. must have a close look at the emerging international financial architecture which is going to be more and more discretionary and less rule-based. The IMF and the World Bank will be left with no effective powers to intervene or play any intermediary role in the international financial and monetary systems. They will not be endowed with additional resources or liquidity to be able to play even a modest regulatory role. Bailing-out operations will now be left to the discretion of the creditor countries which are likely to go mainly by political considerations in deciding to intervene.

Sixth, it is time to call off the prolonged financial blackmail against the U.N. The organisation must be allowed to breathe freely by lifting the embargo on increase in the budgets of the U.N. organisations, and considering their programmes on merit rather than within the straight-jacket of the budgetary embargo. The U.N. must also be given access to new and predictably recurring sources of financing. It should be allowed

3 JUN 2003

# Time to strengthen the U.N. — I

UN  
10-16  
2/16  
By Muchkund Dubey

**M**ANY IN this country and the world over have questioned the relevance and significance of the United Nations in the context of the Iraq war. The United States condemned the U.N. as irrelevant simply because it did not authorise it to wage a war against Iraq. A vast majority of nations, individuals and movements lamented the U.N.'s inability to prevent the war. The epithet of irrelevance and impotence were attributed to the U.N. despite the fact that, with the exception of a brief interregnum of 3-4 years, throughout its existence it has not been able to live up to its mandate in Chapter VII of the Charter — to prevent breach of peace, threat to peace and acts of aggression.

In areas other than security, with the onset in the early 1980s of the Reagan-Thatcher era of minimising the role of the state both at the national and international level, a deliberate, concerted and well-planned campaign was spearheaded mainly by the 'haves' of the world, to emasculate and enfeeble the inter-state system represented by the U.N. Their mission was nearly completed by the beginning of the 1990s, though the process of the erosion of the role and functions of the U.N. is continuing.

The U.N. has ceased to be "a centre for harmonising the actions of nations". The economically advanced countries have long succeeded in putting themselves outside the pale of U.N.'s scrutiny and surveillance. They no longer allow it to direct its searchlight on their macro-economic policies. Hardcore economic issues relating even to the developing countries, such as financial flows, interest rate and exchange rate fluctuations, inflation, external indebtedness etc., are no longer allowed to be discussed within the forums of the U.N. This is in contrast to the position till the beginning of the 1970s when ideas such as trade preferences for developing countries, commodity price stabilisation, various compensatory financing facilities under the IMF, issue of Special Drawing Rights by the IMF, target for the flow of financial resources, debt amelioration or forgiveness were all advanced and agreed upon within the U.N.

Today, discussions in the U.N. are confined to the domestic economic and social issues of developing countries. Among these, there is almost an exclusive concentration of how these countries can give greater play to free market forces and liberalise the external sectors of their economies. A great deal of emphasis is placed on technical assistance, almost as a diversion from real issues.

The major economic powers have

concept of the sovereign equality of states.

What is needed is to resurrect and update the U.N. This will call for restoring to it the Charter functions it has lost and introducing in it changes which reflect the transformations that have taken place in the world and which are in keeping with the core human values of liberty, justice, equity and respect for life.

Chastened by the experience of

lenged to accept the reality that strengthening the U.N. is the only way of having an effective working multilateralism based on international law, democracy and equity.

This package can be derived from the vast array of proposals on U.N. reforms contained in the reports of various commissions, working groups and individuals, submitted in the first half of the 1990s. These included the report of the "Commission on Global Governance", "Our Global Neighbourhood", that of the Independent Working Group on the future of the U.N. and that prepared on behalf of the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation by Erskine Childers and Brian Urquhardt entitled, "Renewing the United Nations System". The last mentioned report made extensive suggestions on restructuring the Secretariat and the administrative and financial management of the U.N. It also cited elaborate facts and figures to convincingly explore the myths regarding the U.N.'s "vast sprawling bureaucracy", its "large extravagant budgets" and its "inefficiency and corruption", deliberately perpetrated by the extra-conservative think-tanks in the West and exploited by their Governments for whittling down the role and functions of the world body.

The major powers showed no inclination even to give serious consideration, let alone accept, to any of the substantive recommendations of these commissions and groups. Instead, under the pretext of reforms they have been systematically imposing on the U.N. measures to downsize and weaken it.

Successive Secretary-Generals have been complicit in bringing about and providing the rationale for the so-called reforms. In fact, advanced commitment to do so has been regarded as the principal qualification for their being installed in their exalted position. It is really ironical, though not surprising, that the award of the Nobel Peace Prize came to the U.N. precisely at a time when it was reduced to a shadow of what it was intended to be under the Charter. The award was, in fact, a seal of approval on the vastly emaciated and drastically reoriented role of the U.N.

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*What is needed is to resurrect and update the United Nations. This will call for restoring to it the Charter functions it has lost.*

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succeeded in eroding the role and functions of the U.N. mainly by keeping it on the brink of financial bankruptcy by illegally withholding the payment of their contributions. For the same reason, they have spurned all suggestions for providing to the U.N., access to automatic and predictable sources of financing, such as through a taxation on global commons. They have also forced upon all the organisations of the U.N. system for the last 20 years or so, a zero nominal growth in their budgets. This means a decline in real terms of 3 to 5 per cent per annum in their budgets.

In the context of the Iraq war, major powers such as Germany, France, Russia and China have laid great emphasis on the prevalence of the rule of international law in the conduct of inter-state relations. They would also like to see an end to the kind of unilateralism that was so blatantly on display in the attack on Iraq. They are seeking multi-polarity in the international power structure. There is no forum except the U.N. through which these objectives can be realised. It symbolises the highest level of excellence in the evolution of the international order. It constitutes the most up-to-date regime of international laws. And it goes beyond multi-polarity in that it is the only multilateral organisation which has nearly universal membership and which, at least in form if not in actual practice, is democratic, as it is based on the

the Iraq war, countries like China, Russia, France and Germany should be able to make a common cause with the vast majority of the member states of the U.N., in restructuring and revitalising the world body. These countries should know that it is unrealistic to expect the U.N. to assert its role and work for multi-polarity in the security field, when it has been rendered hollow from all sides. In fact, these countries must own up, at least privately, their responsibility in driving the U.N. to its present predicament and join others in an endeavour to reverse the trend evidenced since the early 1980s and to introduce the changes essential for the U.N. to become truly democratic and an effective purveyor of modern values and norms. If the U.N. succeeds in making its decision-making truly democratic, if it is no longer held hostage to the non-payment of dues by a few major contributors, and if it subjects all states — developed and developing, poor and rich, weak and powerful — to its scrutiny, policy-making and norms-setting, it will not be possible to sidestep it in the security field any longer.

It is most timely for a country such as India to put together, in consultation with the leading members of the Non-Aligned Movement, a minimum reform package to strengthen the U.N., and invite France, Germany, Russia and China to join in an endeavour to develop a consensus on it. These powers should be chal-

The lessons of the Iraq war and its aftermath deserve study in India

# The UN and occupied Iraq

CHANDRASHEKHAR DASGUPTA

**T**he resolution on Iraq adopted without opposition by the security council on May 22 opens a new chapter in the history of the United Nations. For the first time since its inception, the security council has conferred a mandate on an occupying power to administer the territory of one of its member states. In an earlier period, the UN, through its trusteeship council, had played a notable role in promoting the transition of non-self governing territories to independent statehood. The security council has now conferred legitimacy on the reversion of a UN member from independent statehood to the status of a non-self governing territory, albeit for a temporary period. History has shifted to reverse gear, as it were.

*The New York Times* quotes an Arab ambassador as commenting: "It is a trusteeship, a full, complete trusteeship. In the 21st century that is a sensitive issue for everybody." This description is at once correct and incorrect. It correctly draws a parallel between occupied Iraq and the Trust Territories or League of Nations mandates of an earlier era. It errs in failing to note that the United Nations charter specifically forbids the imposition of "trusteeship" on any of its members. Article 78 states: "The Trusteeship system shall not apply to territories which have become members of the United Nations, relations among which shall be based on respect for the principle of sovereign equality."

Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the former secretary-general of the UN, laments in his memoirs that the "United States sees little need for diplomacy; power is enough. Only the weak rely on diplomacy... The Roman Empire had no need for diplomacy. Nor does the United States. Diplomacy is perceived by an imperial power as a waste of time and prestige and a sign of weakness". The comment fails to do full justice to the United States of America — and to the role of diplomacy. Powerful states are, indeed, prone to take recourse to arms in pursuing their national interests but they must turn to diplomacy in order to obtain legal and moral cover. That is precisely what the US has done in the case of Iraq.

**W**ashington decided to launch military operations against the Iraqi regime without a mandate from the security council because it was not prepared to accept the conditions demanded by France, with support from Russia and Germany. This situation resulted from major miscalcu-

lations on the part of France as well as the US. Paris failed to anticipate the price it might have to pay for opposing the American initiative. Washington failed to anticipate the extent of French demands and the support these would attract from other countries.

Washington later made it clear that its opponents, in particular France, would have to face the "consequences" of

*post facto* legitimization of its position in Iraq as an occupying power. Second, it wanted the security council to terminate the economic embargo against Iraq so as to clear the way for exporting Iraqi oil and repairing the country's economy at minimum cost to the US treasury. Anxious to mend fences with the US, France and its associates were now prepared to adopt a cooperative position in the secu-

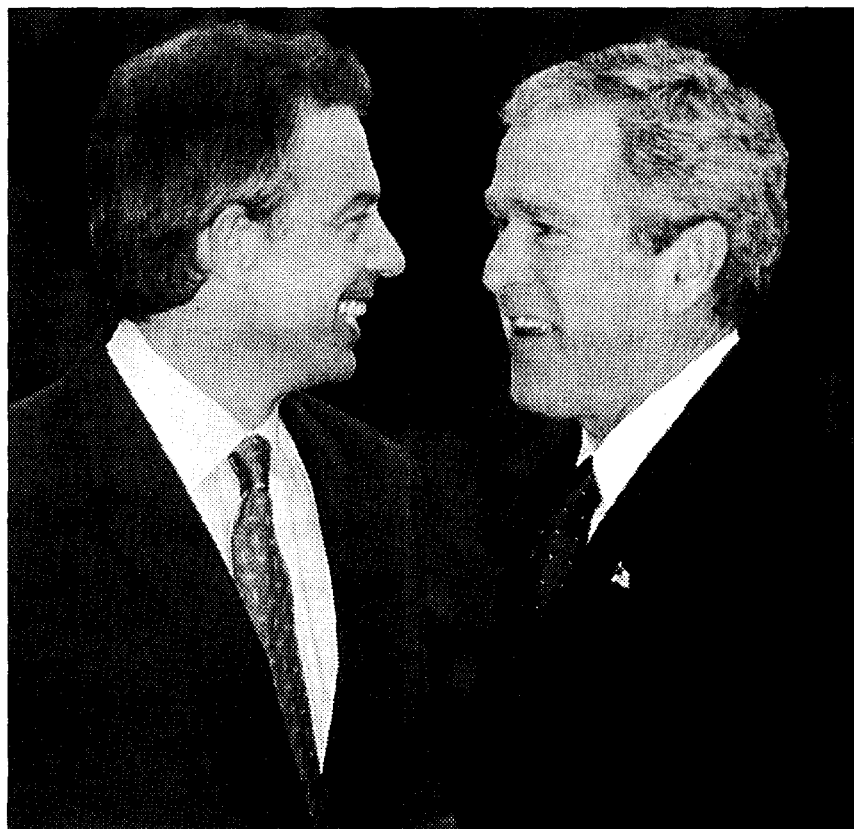
the Authority." In other words, it encourages other countries to extend material support and cooperation to the Anglo-US occupying Authority in Iraq.

**T**he UN is given a modest and vaguely defined role in occupied Iraq. A special representative appointed by the UN secretary general is to work "in coordination with the Authority" to assist the people of Iraq. This would include "working intensively with the Authority, the people of Iraq, and others concerned" to facilitate the process leading to the formation of a representative government. It is clear that the UN special representative will play at most a supporting role in the process. It is no secret that it was at Washington's suggestion that the secretary general appointed the Brazilian, Vieira de Mello, as his special representative.

The resolution lifts the economic embargo imposed on Iraq after the 1990 Kuwait war. Under previous resolutions, the embargo was to be lifted only after UN arms inspectors had certified that Iraq was free of weapons of mass destruction, but France and its associates prudently refrained from pressing this point, in view of American reluctance to prolong the mandates of the UN inspectors. The latest resolution merely refers to the intention of the security council to "revisit" — that is, to re-examine — these mandates. The fact is that the US has taken over the role of the UN inspectors in the embarrassing absence of any convincing evidence of the existence of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons in Iraq.

Iraqi oil revenues will go into a development fund established and operated by the occupying Authority. These will be used to meet humanitarian and reconstruction needs as well as the costs of running an Iraqi civilian administration. The UN secretary-general will continue to operate the "Oil-for Food" programme for another six months, after which his responsibilities will be taken over by the occupying Authority. The six-month provision will enable the UN to pay for goods already imported under the programme from other countries such as Russia, Syria and India.

**T**he debates in the Indian parliament before and during the Iraq war reflected a singular concern with international law and morality. Not a single speaker referred to the primacy of power in international relations or to the ability of powerful states to redefine international law to suit their interests. The lessons of the Iraq war and the recent security council resolution deserve careful study in our country.



Faces of authority

the stand taken by them in the security council. Realizing that they had exceeded their limits, the target countries rushed to make amends. The president of France, Jacques Chirac, wished "swift success" to the American operations in Iraq. The president of Russia, Vladimir Putin, said that "for economic and political reasons" he wanted a decisive American victory. The German foreign minister, Joschke Fischer, announced that his government hoped for the "rapid collapse" of the Iraqi army.

These pious hopes were soon fulfilled by the US-led forces in Iraq. Having achieved its military objectives, Washington saw advantage in returning the Iraq question to the security council. It had two major objectives. First, it sought

the stand taken by them in the security council. The US had only to make modest concessions to secure the passage of the recent security council resolution.

The resolution adopted on May 22 recognizes the role of the US and Britain as occupying powers constituting the "Authority" in Iraq. This Authority is to administer Iraq and implement a "process leading to an internationally recognized, representative government of Iraq". No time-frame is laid down for the transfer of power from the "Authority" to the "internationally recognized" Iraqi government. The resolution welcomes the "willingness of member states to contribute to stability and security in Iraq by contributing personnel, equipment, and other resources under

The author is former ambassador to the European Union and China

# G-8 told to help poor nations

*2/15*  
**United Nations:** Urging industrial nations to put their differences on Iraq behind and make issues of poverty and development their priority, UN secretary general Kofi Annan has said the countries should drop trade barriers and double their assistance to help more than one billion people now living on less than a dollar a day come out poverty.

In an open letter to the group of eight (G-8) comprising the world's richest industrial nations which are meeting in Evian, France, Mr Annan warned that some of their pledges to the developing world ranging from trade and aid to medicines and clean water are in "grave danger of not being met". "The developing countries look to you, the leaders of the world's most prosperous and powerful countries, for active support," Mr Annan said.

*11-10*  
Their pledges include eliminating agricultural subsidies which put the farmers of the developing countries at disadvantage and to make life-saving drugs, including for treatment of AIDS, affordable to the poor nations. The G-8 comprise the US, Britain, Russia, Japan, France, Germany, Canada and Italy.

The secretary-general himself will be travelling over the weekend to attend, at the group's invitation, an informal summit on June 1 with the leaders of a number of developing countries.

Recalling the agreement reached in 2001 at WTO ministerial conference in Doha, Qatar, Mr Annan expressed the fear that with the key negotiations bogged down, there is "grave fear" that the next ministerial level meeting in Cancun, Mexico, in September would pass with vital promises being met. PTI



23 MAY 2003

# UN lifts Iraq sanctions, US on a high

In Paris, US Secretary of State Colin Powell said, "This is a wonderful day for the people of Iraq." He was attending a meeting of the Group of Eight industrial nations. Also in Paris, British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said: "We now face the task of rebuilding Iraq, building it up to a state far better than what went before, under Saddam. And with a bit of luck the international community can now move forward under the United Nations."

France, Russia, Germany and France, who voted in fa-

vor of the resolution, all said the document was far from perfect.

French Ambassador Jean-Marc de la Sabliere said the resolution provided "a credible framework within which the international community will be able to lend support for the Iraqi people."

Russia's UN Ambassador, Sergei Lavrov, told the council, "Definitely, it was a compromise," adding:

"The significance is primarily that it creates an international legal basis for joint efforts to be made by the entire

international community to deal with the crisis."

And Germany's UN Ambassador, Gunter Pleuger, said bluntly: "This resolution is a compromise. It does not fulfill every wish of all parties, but as compared to the initial draft of the co-sponsors, we have achieved substantial improvements."

The UN sanctions were imposed a few days after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait. But after Saddam's fall, the United States argued there was no reason for the trade and financial embargo to continue.

The resolution would give the United States and Britain broad powers to run Iraq and sell its oil to fund reconstruction. It would also protect Iraq against lawsuits or attachments of its oil revenues until a permanent Iraqi government is established.

The United States signaled its willingness this week to have inspectors from the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency, responsible for nuclear materials, return to Iraq. But the Bush administration is not eager for the re-

turn of chemical, biological and missile inspectors, commanded by Hans Blix, who has openly challenged some US assertions.

Britain, however, appeared to disagree. Its UN Ambassador, Sir Jeremy Greenstock, said among the issues the Security Council would need to take up in "due time" was the future of the inspection commissions "as they relate to the complete disarmament of Iraq under previous resolutions".

(Irwin Arieff and Bill Rigby contributed to this report) — (Reuters)

# UN votes to lift Iraq curbs on Thursday

United Nations, May 21

THE SECURITY Council is expected to approve on Thursday a US draft resolution lifting UN sanctions on Iraq after Washington offered fresh concessions overnight aimed at winning the votes of at least 11 of the council's 15 members, diplomats said on Wednesday.

The latest draft, to be unveiled later on Wednesday, marked the third set of revisions since the United States and co-sponsors Britain and Spain first released a text last week. Diplomats familiar with the changes said Washington believed it could win the support of as many as 14 and perhaps all 15 of the council's members.

Among earlier doubters France, Germany, Russia, China and Syria, Germany was "definitely on board" with the rest still undecided, the diplomats said.

"The pressure on them is to vote for this now," said one coun-

## US opens doors for arms inspectors

THE UNITED States has offered the UN nuclear watchdog agency a limited return of its inspectors to Iraq two months after they left on the eve of war, to check on looting at a nuclear site, the agency said on Wednesday.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said it was in talks with the United States on details of a limited mission to one site after Washington on Tuesday for the first time since the war signalled IAEA experts could return.

"We are currently discussing with the United States government the modalities of the return of IAEA missions to the nuclear research centre at Tuwaitha," IAEA spokesman Mark Gwozdecky said.

after council members suggested dozens of changes in the 12-page draft during a four-hour closed-door debate late on Tuesday.

The resolution would end nearly 13 years of UN sanctions, imposed on Iraq after its 1990 invasion of oil-rich Kuwait, and also phase out strict UN controls on the Iraqi economy.

It would give occupying powers the US and Britain broad authority to run the shattered nation and use its oil revenues for reconstruction until a new Iraqi government was in place.

Despite the unprecedented powers granted to Washington and London, the other Security Council powers — eager to mend the rifts created by Washington's failed campaign for UN approval for its invasion of Iraq — have refrained from veto threats.

A key question was whether France, which infuriated Washington by leading the charge against UN authorisation for the war, would vote "Yes" or abstain. Overnight the sponsors agreed to a new compromise to try to win its support. Paris, concerned at the lack of a deadline for installing a new Iraqi government, wanted the resolution to lapse after a year, at which time the council could renew it.

Reuters

2 MAY 2003

LE HINDUSTAN TRIBUNE

# Lift curbs on movement in Gaza Strip, UN tells Israel

By Dharam Shourie

**United Nations:** The UN has asked Israel to lift the 'draconian' restrictions on movement in Palestinian areas as they hindered the ability of the world body to deliver humanitarian assistance to 1.2 million refugees in Gaza even as it condemned the latest suicide attacks against the Jewish state as 'senseless acts'.

Israeli roadblocks and checkpoints are "the single largest impediment to the Palestinian economy," contributing to a huge increase in poverty and unemployment, Terje Roed-Larsen, UN special coordinator for the West Asia east peace process, said in the security council on Monday.

However, Israel's deputy UN ambassador Arye Mekel rejected Mr Roed-Larsen's contention, saying the humanitarian situation in Gaza is the direct result of terrorism and the security measures that his country had to take because of that.

Mr Roed-Larsen also said the "roadmap peace plan" pre-

sented by the international quartet may be the last chance to achieve a two-state solution since ongoing Palestinian terror radicalises both communities while Israelis settlements makes creation of Palestinian state even more difficult.

Besides, he called the latest suicide bombings against Israel 'senseless acts that are unjustified on any moral or political grounds'. "The Palestinian authority must bring those involved in planning and carrying out suicide attacks to justice," he said.

The roadmap devised by the diplomatic quartet—UN, US, Russia and EU—calls for a series of parallel steps by both sides over the next three years towards realising the vision of two states, Israel and Palestine, living side-by-side in peace and security.

"Under the first phase of the roadmap, the Palestinian authority is obligated to 'undertake visible efforts on the ground to arrest, disrupt and restrain individuals and groups conducting and planning violent attacks on Is-

raelis anywhere'," Mr Roed-Larsen said, adding the question of security reform was an area "in which the Palestinian authority has tragically failed over the past two years."

For its part, under the first phase of the roadmap "Israel is required to take no actions undermining trust, including attacks on civilians and confiscation and/or demolition of Palestinian homes and property as a punitive measure," he declared. "Yet the killings of Palestinian civilians and destruction of their property continues."

Meanwhile, US President George W. Bush has reiterated that the roadmap for West Asia still stands despite the latest suicide bombings that caused Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to cancel his visit to Washington. P71

2 MAY 2003

THE TIMES OF INDIA

# New US draft on Iraq gives UN more say

By Dharam Shourie



C. Powell

**United Nations:** Deviating from an earlier statement that it would consider suspending sanctions on Iraq rather than ending them, the United States presented a revised resolution to the UN security council calling for an immediate lifting of the curbs.

The draft, which was considered by experts on Thursday and would be discussed again by them, gives a major role to the US and Britain to run Iraq for at least one year with automatic renewal of their rule if they deem it necessary.

The basic structure of the original draft remained unchanged but the revised version slightly enhances the UN role in dealing with the post-war Iraq issues. It also gives full control to the occupying powers over Iraq's oil resources and on the manner in which revenues earned from oil are spent.

American diplomats said they want to put the resolution to vote next week.

The new US draft makes more than 25 changes to address the council members' concerns about the post-war Iraq, Richard Grenell, spokesman for the US ambassador to the UN John Negroponte, said. "We think we have moved significantly."

US secretary of state Colin Powell spoke of the possibility of suspension of sanctions during a visit to Bulgaria but his statement retracted almost immediately with the US officials insisting that the US favours immediate lifting of the 13-year old sanctions imposed in the wake of the 1990 Iraq attack on Kuwait.

Mr Powell, now in Berlin for talks with the German leadership, also clarified that the US wants the sanctions lifted.

Some diplomats, including from Russia, described the new draft as a step in the right

- The revised draft gives power to the US and Britain to run Iraq for one year
- It slightly enhances the UN role in dealing with the post-war Iraq issues
- It also gives full control to the occupying powers over Iraq's oil resources
- One of the contentious points is how to phase out the UN-run 'Oil For Food' programme

direction and kept their criticism at low key.

Some other diplomats described the statement as a "trial balloon" and pointed out if they are suspended indefinitely without any condition, then they could not be re-imposed without the US consent as it has a veto in the council.

One of the contentious points is how to phase out the UN-run 'Oil For Food' programme which was established by the security council to enable Iraq to use oil revenues to buy food, medicines and other essential commodities.

Under the programme, Russia still has unfulfilled contracts for about \$4 billion and diplomats say it would be necessary to resolve the issue to win support of Moscow. The resolution suggests that the issue of Iraq's foreign debt estimated at \$400 billion be resolved through an "appropriate mechanism".

So far as the UN role is concerned, the resolution does not meet the position taken by several members that it play a central role in the formation of the government in the country as also in its development.

However, it proposes that the special coordinator to be appointed by the secretary general report to the international advisory board comprising secretary-general Kofi Annan, representatives of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund and oil experts. PTI

# UN security council meets for discussion on Iraq resolution

**United Nations:** The UN security council met for initial discussions on the US-drafted resolution seeking to lift sanctions against Iraq and give Washington and London sweeping powers to run the country for at least one year with provision for automatic renewal.

In an apparent bid to dilute the voices of dissent, the United States and Britain, who have been saying they were

"liberating" Iraq, now agree they are the "occupying power" and would send letters to the members of the council affirming they would abide by obligations under the Geneva and The Hague conventions.

The two countries would constitute the "authority" to run the country for a prolonged period of time—more than year, according to US officials and diplomats—and might associate other mem-

bers in the future. Diplomats who attended the first discussion on the resolution said most members appeared to be favourably inclined to use it as the base for negotiations, accepting the reality that the United States and British forces occupy the country and would have to run it at least for sometime.

Russian and French diplomats said they have "lots of questions" but did not ex-

press opposition to the resolution that also relegates the United Nations and other international agencies to advisory role, something on which Moscow and Paris have reservations.

They are also seeking clarification on how the interim Iraqi authority would be constituted and are concerned

whether the 'oil-for-food' programme could be phased out in four months, as envisaged in the resolution.

Talking to reporters shortly after US ambassador John Negroponte introduced the resolution, which Britain and Spain also signed, ambassadors were very cautious in their replies as they

were yet to get instructions from their capitals. Diplomats expected the resolution to be adopted by May end with some modifications but basic structure intact.

"The type of opposition that was witnessed when Americans wanted the council to authorise war is lacking," one diplomat said.

# The U.N. and post-war Iraq

By V. S. Mani

FD-10

**T**HE SECOND Bush war that began on March 20 took about a month for the invading U.S.-U.K. juggernaut to grind to a halt. It did not prove to be a cakewalk for the occupying forces, despite their awesome military power, "the sledge hammer" they used to "swat a fly". As the aftermath of Operation Iraqi Freedom is slowly unfolding, one thing is very clear — that this war was not about weapons of mass destruction, or about combating terrorism, or about self-defence against possible armed attack. Nor indeed was it about Saddam Hussein and his sons. It was about reconstruction of a new Middle East in which central elements would be American control over oil and Israel's "security".

The impact of the war is likely to be far-reaching. The humanitarian catastrophe apart, questions are raised about the usefulness of the United Nations. It began with the Bush ultimatum of March 17: "The Security Council has failed in its responsibilities, but we will rise to ours." Richard Perle, chairman of the Defence Advisory Board, Pentagon, wrote in *The Guardian* of March 21 "Thank God for the death of the United Nations." The American reports of the U.N.'s "death" are no doubt greatly exaggerated. However, underlying them is the U.S.-U.K. endeavour to go back in time to the 19th century and argue that a big power intervention is above and beyond the pale of law or even morality. But then, except perhaps for some concern for securing a seal of legitimacy, neither the U.N. nor international law can ever be of critical importance to the big powers. Yet, history will record that this was an illegal and imperialist war fought by the U.S.-U.K. combine after a gutsy U.N. refusal to put its seal of approval despite tremendous pressure.

Whatever the varying perceptions about the U.N., it is important to the international community for two reasons: one, it represents multilateralism for issues of international concern, and two, it still wields the great seal of international legitimacy, if not international legality. At the moment, the latter is essential to enable international and American banks to shell out money into the huge rehabilitation effort in Iraq. And

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***The U.N. should lift sanctions only after a genuine Iraqi Government is put in place with full control over the country's resources.***

even while its funeral orations were being blared in the U.S., the U.N. was already busy attending to the humanitarian needs of the hapless Iraqi people.

The U.N. is surely needed for the necessary legitimisation of the post-war situation in Iraq as life must go on in that part of the world. But it must ensure that it does not, by its involvement in Iraq, automatically legitimise the war itself. There are a number of issues of post-war "legitimisation" in Iraq confronting the U.N. First is to bring the war to a "formal" end. This may be required even for the American and European banks to support reconstruction programmes. Second, the U.S.-U.K. military occupation of Iraq must be quickly brought to an end. Article 47 of the Geneva Convention VI (for the protection of the rights of the civilian population of Iraq) says: "Protected persons (i.e. civilian population) who are in occupied territory shall not be deprived, in any case or in any manner whatsoever, of the benefits of the present Convention by any change introduced, as the result of the occupation of a territory, into the institutions or government of the said territory, nor by any agreement concluded between the authorities of the occupied territories and the Occupying Power, nor by any annexation by the latter of the whole or part of the occupied territory." Evidently, no attempt to put in place a new regime in Iraq will be legal, unless backed by international legitimacy through the U.N.

A third legal issue would relate to the treatment of the thousands of Prisoners of War in the custody of the occupation forces. Would they be given the 5th Amendment rights or short shrift under the ever-convenient courts-martial in the U.S., or would they also join the fate of the Afghan detenus in Guantanamo Bay? However, Article 118 of the 1949 Geneva Convention III on PoWs requires a belligerent party to release them "without delay". A fourth issue relates

to the U.S. demand for war crimes trial of the 55 top-rung Saddamites. Was there a 'war' during which the Saddam Hussein regime had committed atrocities? Could the Yugoslavia precedent be relevant here (even if one could argue on the legality of the establishment of the Yugoslavia tribunal)? If so, why not add tribunals for the trial of Pinochet, or U.S. itself over Vietnam (remember, My Lai trials)? Of course, the U.S. would not like to use the International Criminal Court for the purpose. And what about the war crimes committed by the invading forces on the civilians and civilian objects in Iraq? Would the persons responsible be put on trial too? Interestingly, countries such as the U.K. and Australia are parties to the Statute of the International Criminal Court.

There are also issues arising from criminal negligence of the occupying forces whose entire focus was the security of oil wells against the lives and property of the common Iraqis. This includes looting throughout Iraq in the immediate aftermath of the fall of the Saddam Hussein regime. While in the north, the 'friendly' Kurdish forces indulged in such looting, in Baghdad and other places, the looters were perhaps professionals, particularly those who looted the priceless artefacts of 7,000 years of human civilisation. (Similar looting of some 4,000 artefacts took place during the 1991 war too, and many reached the collectors' and auctioneers' tables in London and New York a year later.) Yet, this looting was allowed to take place. It was allowed even in hospitals and schools. Article 27 of the 1907 Hague Regulations requires the occupation forces to take "all necessary steps... to spare, as far as possible, buildings dedicated to religion, art, science, or charitable purposes, historic monuments, hospitals... provided they are not being used at the time for military purposes". Even if the U.S. is not a party to the 1954 Convention on Protection of Cultural Property during Armed Conflict or

the 1972 Convention on Protection of Cultural or Natural Heritage, the principles of these treaties, being part of general international law, apply to the U.S.-U.K. coalition with equal vigour. The combine also has the obligation to prevent illicit trafficking and sale of stolen artefacts under the 1970 UNESCO Convention and the recent UNIDROIT Convention. There is already a 1995 ruling of the U.S. Court for the Southern District of New York ordering the return of two stolen artworks to Bremen Museum.

Immediate critical issues that await the U.N.'s attention include the establishment of a civilian government acceptable to the Iraqi people and the international community, and the immediate withdrawal of the occupation forces, reconstruction and rehabilitation of the victims of war, restoration of civic amenities and essential services dislocated and destroyed by indiscriminate bombing, humanitarian relief, restoration of civic administration and so on. The U.S. wants the U.N. sanctions to be lifted immediately, so that it will have a free hand to deal with Iraqi oil, before Iraqi people gain control. No U.N. controls on oil, and of course, no arms inspection either, says the U.S. The U.N. should lift sanctions only after a genuine Iraqi Government is put in place with full control over the country's resources. And that too only after the U.N. inspectors' certification. This was precisely what the umpteenth Security Council resolutions since 1991 specifically demanded, largely at the instance of the U.S. and the U.K.

The final issue is that of funding the reconstruction. Under the 1949 Geneva Convention VI, the "Occupying Power" is responsible for protection of all property, all relief and rehabilitation, distribution of food, medicines, hygiene and public health of Iraqis (Articles 53, 55, 56, 58-60). Also, under international law of state responsibility, reparation is the duty of the coalition partners whose wrongful conduct resulted in the devastation and damage to Iraq, its people and environment. Would the U.S. commitment to the Geneva Conventions extend to all this?

(The writer teaches International Law at JNU.)

30 APR 2003

THE HINDU

# US tried to discredit my team, says Blix

**London:** Chief United Nations weapons inspector Hans Blix on Tuesday questioned the intelligence used by the United States and Britain to justify attack on Iraq for concealing weapons of mass destruction.



**Hans Blix**

Mr Blix, faulted by Washington for not coming up with evidence of illegal weapons, also accused US officials of deliberately seeking to discredit his team in the run-up to the Iraq war in a bid to win political support for military action.

"I think it's been one of the disturbing elements that so much of the intelligence on which the capitals built their case seemed to have been shaky," Mr Blix told BBC radio in an interview, excerpts of which were broadcast on Tuesday.

Mr Blix said he would not dream of accusing US and British intelligence agencies of fabricating reports on illegal arms. But he questioned their ability to spot "fakes" such as a report Iraq had imported tonnes of raw uranium.

"Is it not disturbing that the intelligence agencies that should have all the technical means at their disposal did not discover that this was falsified?" he said.

"I think that's very very disturbing. Who falsifies this?" he said in the excerpts, aired ahead of the planned full broadcast on Saturday.

US and British invasion troops have failed to find nuclear, chemical or bio-

logical arms since they launched war on Iraq on March 20 and ousted its leader Saddam Hussein.

On Monday, *The New York Times* said an Iraqi scientist had told a US military team Iraq destroyed chemical arms and biological warfare equipment only days before the war began.

The scientist, who was not identified but said he had worked in Iraq's chemical weapons programme for more than a decade, was reported to have led the US team to a supply of materials used in the production of illegal arms, which he said had been buried.

Most members of the UN Security Council, including staunch US ally Britain, believe any weapons of mass destruction found now by the US military must be verified by the UN inspectors under UN resolutions before sanctions can be lifted.

US officials argue that sanctions should be lifted immediately and instead of Mr Blix, they want to send former UN inspectors from the US, Britain and Australia to verify any discovery of banned weapons.

Mr Blix also said that allegations by US officials that his team had deliberately suppressed information on an Iraqi unmanned drone plane and a cluster bomb in its report on Iraq's weapons were intended to discredit inspectors.

"At that time the US was very eager to sway the votes of the Security Council and they felt that stories about these things would be useful to have and they let it out," Mr Blix said. Reuters

# The UN is Dead; Long Live the UN



*Form a 'coalition of the concerned' capable of standing up to the US*

Vikas Singh  
Assistant editor, TOI

Hungary, 1956. Czechoslovakia, 1968. Afghanistan, 1979. Grenada, 1982, Panama, 1989. Vietnam — no longer a time or place, but a state of mind. Each an instance of the utter impotence of the UN when it came to reining in a reigning superpower. All through the Cold War, the Soviet Union and the United States did as they pleased, while the UN looked on helplessly.

Sensibly, most nations openly or tacitly signed up with one of the blocs, rather than depending on the UN to safeguard their security. Everybody pretended to take the UN seriously, but they knew it was nothing more than a glorified debating society.

After the Cold War ended, the UN became the rubber stamp that legitimised US actions. Everything was fine, till Dubya decided he didn't need even this fig leaf. As a result, the truth has become embarrassingly evident: America will do exactly what it likes. Earlier, it refused to ratify the Kyoto Protocol. Today, it has ignored the UN. Are we sure that tomorrow it won't try to browbeat the World Trade Organisation?

Dick Cheney is reportedly enthralled by Victor Davis Hanson. Frankly, that's bad news. Hanson endorses Plato's view that peace is but "a parenthesis", war is the natural state of mankind. Consider this excerpt from one of his works, *The Soul of Battle*: "Democracies... in the right circumstances, can be imbued with the soul of battle... a rare thing indeed that arises only when free men march unabashedly toward the heartland of their enemy in hopes of saving the doomed, when their vast armies are aimed at salvation and liberation, not conquest and enslavement. Only then does battle take on a spiritual dimension."

All very romantic, goosebump-raising stuff, but how come the 'spiritual warriors' flexed their muscles when India helped Bangladesh fight a 'just war of liberation' in 1971? And how come they still back a WMD-wielding dictator in Pakistan? Cheney, Rumsfeld and Co are not just unilateralists, they're self-righteous unilateralists. And who's the evil enemy? Whoever Washington chooses to so designate!

That's what's truly frightening about the new order. We're back in the Wild West, folks. And the most persuasive talk isn't going to save you if you rub the fastest gun in town the wrong way.

The word is that the Bushmen now want to 'Saddamise' Syria. If the UN's performance on Iraq is anything to go by, Bashar

al-Assad might as well start packing his bags. In this unipolar world, the UN resembles nothing so much as the walking dead. So why don't we just give it a decent burial? And start thinking about an arrangement that will enable countries to genuinely stand up to American unilateralism?

What about the work being done by UN agencies, the aid they provide the dispossessed? Here's Graham Hancock in *Lords of Poverty*: "Garnered and justified in the name of the destitute and the vulnerable, aid's main function in the past half-century has been to create and then entrench a powerful new class of rich and privileged people. In that notorious club of parasites and hangers-on made up of the United Nations, the World Bank, and the bilateral agencies, it is aid — and nothing else — that has provided hundreds of thousands of 'jobs for the boys' and permitted record-breaking standards to be set in self-serving behaviour; arrogance, paternalism, moral cowardice, and mendacity."

Maybe Hancock is over the top. But why not just spin off all the agencies into stand-alone entities — a series of super NGOs — and ask them to fend for themselves? One body, UNOPS, already works on a self-financing model. Its activities range from de-mining to peacekeeping, disarmament, managing truth commissions (in Guatemala) and creating a legal framework from scratch (in Cambodia). It has a turnover of about \$1 billion, and could be a model worth emulating.

Even if the UN is allowed to linger on, that still leaves us with the problem of a rampaging America. Do all governments now have no option but to kowtow to Washington? Or is there a way for them to safeguard their interests and register dissent peacefully, without having to constantly worry about antagonising the American juggernaut?

Perhaps the answer lies in bypassing the UN to form an alliance with enough economic and military clout to be taken seriously by the Americans. This group doesn't necessarily have to be knee-jerk confrontational with the US. But if the US insists on behaving like a rogue regime, this 'coalition of the concerned' should have the wherewithal and the will to take united action, say by imposing economic sanctions. Utopian? It may seem that way today. But how plausible would the current global order have seemed if someone had predicted it 20 years ago? The world has a way of changing beyond our wildest expectations.

The practical objection would be that one or the other nation would invariably break ranks to work out an advantageous deal with America. Maybe they wouldn't, if they remembered that old dictum, "We must all hang together or assuredly we will all hang separately." Ironic, isn't it, how far America has come since Benjamin Franklin uttered those wise words?



*If the UN didn't exist, we would have to invent it to counter the sole superpower*

K Subrahmanyam  
Consulting editor, TOI

"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore." The inscription on the Statue of Liberty would be equally valid for the United Nations, which ironically enough, the US has today declared a basket case.

With the sole superpower, the US, having ignored the UN Security Council and resorted to unilateral military action against Iraq, many have asked if the UN has become as obsolete as its predecessor, the League of Nations. The current situation is vastly different from the 1930s when the permissiveness of the League towards the Japanese aggression in Manchuria and Italy's in Abyssinia led to the demise of the international organisation.

For the first time in history, the entire globe comprises nation states which — except for Palestine — are represented in the UN. Despite its many flaws, the UN constitutes a forum in which opinions of the world community, in all its diversity, are expressed.

This was seen in the open debate in the Security Council on the Iraq issue, when the overwhelming majority of nations expressed their opposition to war. The UN is not just the Security Council, and is not solely concerned with international security issues. It encompasses a spectrum of activities, all of which are vital to the progress and well-being of humanity. The UN is needed as a global co-ordinating agency for everything from weather forecasts to labour standards, human rights to eradication of poverty and disease.

While the UN was a brainchild of Franklin Roosevelt, the Security Council — for which the League of Nations had no counterpart — was devised to ensure that in the bipolar post-war world the two superpowers would not come into military confrontation. The safeguard was the veto system. But bipolarity was an aberration caused by the simultaneous development of nuclear capabilities in the US and the USSR, which made a war between them unthinkable. With the dissolution of the USSR, and the emergence of a unipolar order, the Security Council lost much of its relevance, as demonstrated in the Balkans and now in Iraq.

The situation is similar to that in the 19th and early 20th century when the British empire was the sole superpower.

The writ of the US — which calls itself the 'only indispensable nation' — rules the world. Though a democracy at home, the US is imperialistic in its foreign policy, as was Britain during the Raj. The world has to adjust itself to this situation and try to develop countervailing factors to restrain US power. In this effort, the European Union, Russia, China, Japan, India, Brazil and other major nations have a significant role to play.

More than ever, the UN today has a crucial role in projecting the countervailing influence of the international community. Decolonisation and victory over apartheid did not come about because of US leadership. They were achieved despite the disinterest of the US. The international community is prepared to go ahead with the Kyoto Protocol, the international criminal court, the law of the seas and other issues, despite US opposition. While the military result in Iraq was never in doubt, the war for the hearts and minds of the people — all over the world, including significant sections within the US — was lost by Washington's unilateralists. Thanks to satellite TV and real-time coverage, civilian casualties can no longer be brushed under the carpet.

In a world dominated by a single superpower it is vital to have a forum which will project a counter perspective. That can only be the UN, with its Security Council and — more importantly — the General Assembly. Norms and principles which will lead to a peaceful and equitable world order have to be continuously articulated to create transnational public opinion based on the aspirations of all of humanity and not just of the US. Slavery, racism and conventional imperialism died a natural death because of changes in global perceptions.

Undoubtedly, the UN was designed to favour the most powerful nations, and its partisan functioning over the past 58 years has been justifiably criticised. There are various proposals to reform the UN, though it is unlikely that the US would permit any change which could curtail its power. As it stands, the UN charter does not permit any revision of structure without the agreement of the five permanent Security Council members. So the world may have to live for some time with the UN in its current form. In the interim, the effectiveness of the organisation as a countervailing factor to the US will depend largely on the solidarity among the other major powers. Instead of signing off the UN, we need to realise that if it did not exist we would have to invent it to cope with a US-dominated world.

For the real worth of the UN is not what it actually is but what potentially it symbolises: the necessity of dissidence. The voice of the small, the weak and the dispossessed. If we no longer hear them, or even want to hear them, our moral deafness will inevitably impair our sense of what it means to be part of humankind.

**TIMES SAMVAD**



## Annan concerned at lack of functioning govt.

UN By Sridhar Krishnaswami 10.14

WASHINGTON, APRIL 10. The United Nations Secretary General, Kofi Annan, has said it appeared that there was no functioning government in Iraq at this time and this must be of concern to the U.S.-led coalition forces.

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"...From what we have seen in the reports it appears there is no functioning government in Iraq at the moment", Mr. Annan remarked at the world body headquarters in New York. "We also saw the scenes of jubilation. But, of course, when you think of the casualties, both military and civilian, the Iraqis have paid a heavy price for this... we've seen scenes of looting and obviously law and order must be a major concern," he said.

Mr. Annan observed that he still saw a continuing role for the weapons inspectors in Iraq and that mandates had only been temporarily put on hold. "...The mandate is still valid. It is only suspended because it became inoperable on account of the war. And I would expect Mr. Blix and Mr. El-Baradei to be able to return as soon as it is possible. And I think they are the ones with the mandate to disarm Iraq." He said the Iraqi envoy to the U.N., Mohammad al Douri had not asked for asylum; at the same time, he did not know what the present status of the Iraqi envoy is. "...I did talk to him on Monday. We reviewed the situation in Baghdad and what was happening. He did not have much information. I do not know where he is or what his status is at the moment."

On Wednesday, Mr. al Douri made a startling observation by saying "The game is over" that drew a response from the U.S. Defence Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, who said, "Well, I would say it was not a game." Mr. al Douri became defensive when reporters asked him what exactly he meant by saying that he had "no relationship" with Saddam Hussein. "I have no communication with Iraq," the envoy shot back. There have been unconfirmed media reports that the U.N. is trying its best to get into the peacekeeping role inside Iraq — the blue helmets coming from Arab nations to police the post-conflict phase in Iraq.

According to a report in *The Wall Street Journal*, U.N. officials are said to be working still on a Draft of what is being called a 'Coalition-Plus Initiative'. The Bush administration has made it known that it is clearly not for a "central role" for the United Nations in the post-conflict phase. But those pushing the so-called Coalition Plus Initiative are hopeful that Washington will see the advantages: the Blue Helmets will reduce the number of troops and in the process inject a sense of internationalism and support to the new government.

1 1 APR 2003

SEE FINDQ

# U.N. Annan calls for meet on Iraq

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, APRIL 7. The United Nations Secretary General, Kofi Annan, has called for a Security Council meeting this morning to discuss issues pertaining to Iraq. The meeting comes after the head of the U.N. body has had five different meetings with groups of member states, including those from the Arab world, last week discussing for the most part the humanitarian relief work.

The Arab States, for instance, have expressed a "lots of unhappiness" — in the words of Mr. Annan — on how the world body has gone about; and have said in no uncertain words that they wished to see greater U.N. efforts in the post conflict phase of Iraq.

## Will it be smooth-sailing?

But agreement on post-conflict Iraq is not going to be easy and if first indications are anything to go by, the same divisions in the Council are emerging as was witnessed in the run up to the March 20 war in Iraq. Russia, France and Germany want the U.N.

to be the central agency in post-war Iraq. This is fine to the Bush administration, but only up to a certain point. Washington is willing to allow the U.N. to play the lead role in humanitarian relief and to a large extent in reconstruction, but want the world body nowhere near the political evolution in Baghdad.

The argument in some quarters here, including official, is that after the coalition has taken the lead in many areas especially with "blood and resources," it is simply baffling not to expect the United States or Britain wanting to play the lead political role in the unfolding scheme of things.

Analysts argue that if there is one major reason why Russia and France — and China — are insistent on a major role for the world body, it is on account of economic factors. Moscow, France and Beijing have literally billions going by way of oil interests and much of this has been pegged down to contracts with the Saddam Hussein regime.

In fact, some make the point that the insistence of Russia and France in the pre-conflict days was precisely in a vested interest to see the old scheme of things to

continue. That said, contracts cannot be flushed down the drain on whims and fancies of incoming governments unless a prevailing national interest clause can be shown, and/or if proved that either Saddam Hussein was taken for a ride or he personally profited in the multi-billion dollar transactions. And it does no good for the incoming interim government in Baghdad to get on the wrong side of the international community just to score a few political points.

At least on the outward, the impression in the Security Council is that major powers — the veto holding members especially — will not want the Council to be involved in any fashion that would legitimise the current goings on.

## Oil-for-Food on top

One of the first things that the Council has to address, and which is one reason why Mr. Annan has called a meeting, is the Oil-for-Food programme. On March 28, the Council unanimously rallied behind Mr. Annan, giving him authority for 45 over contracts

# ANNA Annan calls for meet on Iraq

By Sridhar Krishnaswami  
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THE HINDU

# Six nations keep Council haggling

IRWIN ARIEFF  
UNITED NATIONS, MARCH 14

THE UN Security Council's six undecided members, wooed by both sides in the duel to disarm Iraq, played hard to get again on Thursday. Caught between US, Britain, Spain and Bulgaria — who back war — and France, Russia, Germany, Syria and China — who support peaceful disarmament, the six are scrambling to come up with a compromise to bridge the gap.

But so far, they have agreed that talks should continue, diplomats said. "None of the undecideds have said how they are going to vote because if you say how you are going to vote, you are not consulted anymore," German Ambassador Gunter Plüger said. Angola, Cameroon, Chile, Guinea, Mexico and Pakistan spent much of Thursday in talks in search of a common plan.

But during a closed-door Council meeting, they offered their ideas rather than

a shared proposal, diplomats said. That left the Council divided with US and Britain short of the nine "yes" votes and no vetoes needed for a resolution to be adopted.

But the six signalled they intended to keep talking, keeping the process alive for Friday and probably into the weekend. "We still haven't voted, there is time," Chilean Foreign Minister Soledad Alvear said on Thursday. She said Chile could not support the draft resolution in its current form.

"We are different countries," Pakistani Ambassador Munir Akram said. "The purpose is to get peaceful disarmament and not war. Nobody has rejected the ideas. It's a question of how to do it." "The discussions continue," summed up British UN Ambassador Jeremy Greenstock. The talks' focus is a British "side paper" setting out tests for Iraq to meet to demonstrate its commitment to disarmament as required by council resolutions. —Reuters

# US seeks early lifting of UN sanctions against Iraq

**United Nations:** The United States on Wednesday sought an early lifting of UN sanctions against Iraq that would free oil exports and suspend some trade restrictions that Washington imposed more than a decade ago.

US secretary of state Colin Powell, after visiting UN secretary-general Kofi Annan, said he expected to produce a Security Council resolution "this week" that would also give the United Nations a "vital" role in the country's future.

The draft is expected to be distributed to the 15 UN Security Council members on Friday, shortly before they start a weekend retreat. Failing that, it would be circulated on Monday, Bush administration officials said.

Mr Powell said he was working with "all our friends", including Germany, France, Russia and China, who had opposed the US-led invasion of Iraq. "Whatever is in the past is in the past. We are not now talking about a matter of war. We are talking about a matter of peace," he said. Diplomats said the draft would include an undefined political and economic role for the United Nations, which was to appoint a special coordinator.

A UN representative named by Mr Annan would have a seat on a board that would oversee revenues from Iraq's oil industry, the envoys said. US oil executives, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund are expected to be on the board.

The resolution would phase out the oil-for-food programme but it is uncertain which or how many contracts currently in the pipeline will be honoured, as Russia has insisted.

Without adoption of the resolution, no Iraq or US entity in Baghdad has the legal authority to export oil. Washington wants it adopted by June 3, when the oil-for-food programme is up for renewal.

The multi-billion dollar programme was designed to ease the impact of sanctions which were imposed when Saddam Hussein's troops invaded Kuwait in August 1990. The programme, which now has more than \$12 billion, allowed Iraq to sell oil to purchase

- Draft resolution to be circulated to UN members on Friday.
- UN representative would be on board to oversee Iraq's oil revenue.
- No mention of return of UN arms inspectors in resolution.

civilian goods under UN supervision. Oil revenues are deposited into a UN escrow account, which is used to pay suppliers.

But the draft resolution does not call for the return of UN arms inspectors to verify that Iraq no longer has alleged weapons of mass destruction, as specified in UN resolutions and which several council members have demanded.

Close US ally Britain just signed on to the text of the resolution, which had been a subject of dispute between the state department and the defence department, diplomats said.

Separately, US President George W. Bush said in Washington he would suspend a 1990 US law, the Iraq Sanctions Act, because Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein was no longer in power.

The action would lift trade restrictions on US firms, including licensing of industrial and commercial projects or restricting exports of US goods, technology and services.

US treasury secretary John Snow said some US sanctions would be lifted immediately, allowing US residents and private groups to send up to \$500 per month to any person in Iraq for humanitarian purposes.

Mr Bush, after a session with Spanish prime minister Jose Maria Aznar on Wednesday, said he thought there was a changed atmosphere in the council.

"We believe there is a mood to work together to achieve a resolution that will expedite the reconstruction of Iraq," he told reporters. But so far Russia and France, while saying they would be flexible, have advocated a final lift of sanctions, rather than a suspension, after the UN inspectors were back on the ground. Reuters

UN ARMS INSPECTORS TO LEAVE IRAQ

# Bush to Saddam: Quit or face war

UNHQ, March 17. — The USA, Britain and Spain withdrew their resolution on Iraq in the United Nations today, abandoning efforts to win the world forum's backing for a war.

US President Mr George Bush is scheduled to address the nation late tonight to give Iraqi President Mr Saddam Hussein a final ultimatum. "He will say that to avoid military conflict Saddam must leave the country," spokesman Mr Ari Fleischer said. General Powell clarified that Mr Bush would assert that leaving Iraq was the only way for "Saddam to avoid war. Those who must leave Iraq include Saddam and immediate members of his family". Gen. Powell added that the move to quit diplomatic efforts was made after "we spent a great deal of time overnight and early this morning talking to friends and colleagues."

With this development, war seems a near certainty in Iraq and is likely to come sooner than later, officials believe. UN chief

weapons inspector Mr Hans Blix is preparing to give the Security Council a 30-page report late tonight listing about a dozen key remaining disarmament tasks that Iraq should complete in the coming months.

The UN announced late tonight that its weapons inspectors will leave Iraq tomorrow.

The USA had earlier asked the world body to pull out its inspectors, saying the window for a diplomatic solution to Iraq crisis has shut. The inspectors and support staff, who number around 135, would be flying out to Cyprus. "They are closing shop today in preparation for withdrawal," officials said.

UN Secretary General Mr Kofi Annan justified the action, and informed the Security

Council that he had ordered the evacuation of UN staff from Iraq and suspended the oil-for-food programme there. Mr Annan said he regarded the mandates of the six-year-old oil-for-food programme, the UN arms inspectors and UN peacekeeping force on the Kuwait border as "suspended".

Earlier this evening, British ambassador to the UN Mr Jeremy Greenstock blamed France for threatening to veto the resolution, which would have given Iraq an ultimatum to disarm by Monday or face war. US envoy Mr John Negroponte said since Security Council "consensus will not be possible", "we regret that in the face of an explicit threat to

veto, the vote-counting became a secondary consideration". Almost to the cue, French ambassador Mr Jean-Marc de La Sabliere said consultations in the past hours showed "the majority confirmed they do not want force".

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18 MAR 2003

THE STATESMAN

# UN to tell Iraq to destroy missiles

**EVELYN LEOPOLD**  
UNITED NATIONS, FEBRUARY 20

**C**HIEF UN weapons inspector Hans Blix has decided to ask Iraq to destroy its Al-Samoud 2 missiles but has not yet determined whether the rocket engines that drive them should be demolished also, diplomats and UN sources said on Wednesday.

Whether or not Iraq destroys the missiles will be a key test for the United States of Baghdad's willingness to give up a defence system just as Washington is building up its military for a possible invasion.

US officials have signalled that an Iraqi refusal would violate Security Council orders that it surrender its ballistic missiles and other weapons of mass destruction.

been scrutinising this week.

He first raised alarms about the Al-Samoud 2 missile, which Iraq has openly admitted it developed, in his report to the Security Council on January 27. He said that it appeared to be illegal because it exceeded the 150-km range set down by the United Nations.

Blix said the liquid-fuel Al-Samoud 2 had been test-fired to a distance of 183 km and noted that the Al-Samoud's 760 mm diameter was increased from the earlier version. Iraq, he said, had also imported 380 rocket engines, chemicals used in propellants, test instrumentation and control instruments. How many of these components Blix may ask Iraq to destroy is not yet clear.

Blix also has suggested that the missiles violated a 1997 letter from former chief UN inspector

Rolf Eikeus, which banned the use of engines from certain surface-to-air missiles in ballistic missiles.

Iraq's UN Ambassador Mohammed Aldouri said on February 12 that the range discrepancy was attributable to the fact that the missiles were not weighted during tests with payload guidance systems and fuel that would have limited their range. On Wednesday, Aldouri told reporters that the missiles were within the range set down by the UN and that Baghdad was asking for new technical talks with the UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) that Blix heads.

"The Iraqi side asked to have technical talks with UNMOVIC to reach a kind of mutual understanding on this very complicated issue," Aldouri said. — Reuters



**A special edition of British tabloid The Sun distributed in Paris portrays French President Jacques Chirac as a worm on the front page for his stand on Iraq. Reuters**

Blix is expected to write a letter to Baghdad officials shortly after weapons inspectors complete their inventory of sites assembling missiles, launchers and other components, which they have

# UN Council puts off action on Pyongyang

LOUIS CHARBONNEAU  
UNITED NATIONS, FEBRUARY 20

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THE UN Security Council on Wednesday shunted aside the issue of North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons programme and whether economic sanctions should be imposed, indicating Council members were in no hurry to take up the matter.

The decision was likely to delight the US administration of President George W. Bush, which is determined to prevent the nuclear stand-off with North Korea from interfering with the 15-member council's concentration on a looming war with Iraq.

Ahead of an unusually brief council meeting on Pyongyang's refusal to comply with its non-proliferation obligations, one diplomat said the Council would ignore the matter for the time being to allow for further diplomacy by interested governments. "We'll say we've received the ball and are studying the ball and will continue to study the ball and that we'll pass the ball to ex-

## 'Kids, not soldiers, eat aid'

■ **BEIJING:** A North Korean government study released on Thursday shows foreign food aid is helping reduce malnutrition among children in famine-hit North Korea, UN agencies said, in a rebuttal of US charges the North uses aid to feed its Army.

■ **SEOUL:** A North Korean MiG-19 fighter jet briefly crossed into South Korea today but retreated without incident when two South Korean jets raced it, a South Korean military official said.

—Agencies

perts because we've never quite seen a ball like this before," said the diplomat.

At issue was a vote by the governing board of the UN nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), to refer the crisis to the Security Council. The Council has the power to punish nations for violating UN rules aimed at preventing the spread of nuclear weapons.

—Reuters

2 1 FEB 2003

INDIAN EXPRESS



# Amman lays the rule on aid

Press Trust of India

UN 5/3

UNHQ, March 26. — The coalition partners are responsible for providing humanitarian aid to Iraqis “gravely affected” by their military action till the conditions stabilized, UN Secretary-General Dr Kofi Annan has told the USA.

“The UN is prepared to do all it could to provide humanitarian aid to the Iraqis but its capacity would be limited until security conditions allowed the safe return of the staff in affected areas,” Dr Annan told US National Security Adviser Ms Condoleezza Rice yesterday.

“Until then humanitarian assistance would have to be provided by the USA and its coalition partners in the areas under their control, consistent with overall responsibility under international law,” the UN Secretary-General said.

Regarding the post war era, any role by the UN beyond the humanitarian assistance would have to be approved by the Security Council. Dr Annan also emphasised on the need to maintain territorial integrity of Iraq and the right of its people

## Howard wants US regime in post-war Iraq

29/3

CANBERRA, March 26. — The USA should govern Iraq with the help of Britain and input from Australia in the immediate post-war period, Australian Prime Minister John Howard said today.

He said the disunity within the UN suggested the world body may not be suitable to help administer a post-conflict government. Mr Howard said he had given that view to the US President and British Prime Minister who would discuss the postwar reconstruction of Iraq at a meeting in the USA this week.

Mr Howard declined an invitation to the meeting because he did not want to leave Australia while its soldiers were at war. But foreign minister Mr Alexander Downer will visit the USA next week for talks on the Iraq war. — Agencies

to determine their political future.

The meeting, requested by the USA, was held under the shadow of deteriorating humanitarian situation in Basra in southern

Iraq and inability of the USA to provide assistance to people because of continued fighting following unexpected strong resistance by Iraqis.

Responding to criticism, White House spokesman Mr Ari Fleischer said Iraq was mining the Umm-Qasr port that resulted in slowing down of the humanitarian aid.

Russia and France also stressed on the responsibility of the USA to provide assistance in areas under their occupation as they want Washington and its allies to bear all the monetary burden of the aid.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Mr Richard Boucher said the USA was working to get a Security Council resolution authorising Dr Annan to “take the steps necessary to sustain the oil-for-food programme” in Iraq.

**Blair to meet UN chief:** British Prime Minister Mr Tony Blair is expected to meet Dr Annan tomorrow to discuss the war and the deteriorating humanitarian situation, adds another report from UNHQ.

**Editorial: Anglo-American Dilemma,**  
page 6

THE STATESMAN

27 MAR 2003

# USA hints at climbdown, reserves right to strike

From Trust of India

UNHQ, March 14. — With differences widening and time running out, day-long bilateral meetings and closed door discussions among UN Security Council members failed to produce any compromise over Iraq even as the USA hinted at withdrawing its resolution seeking authorisation of war and taking its own decision.

The USA hinted that it would push back the date of its ultimatum to Iraq — 17 March — by a few days, which, analysts say, while indicating a climbdown from their earlier insistence on forcing a vote, could also mean war by the end of next week at the

earliest as the Americans could then pick a time of their choosing to attack because they would be doing so unilaterally and beyond the UN's purview.

US ambassador Mr John Negroponte has not called for a vote today and chances of it coming up tomorrow are remote. The sponsors should normally give 24 hours notice if they want to press for a vote. As he came out of the UNHQ, Mr Negroponte said time was running out and that the USA was ready to go the extra mile if it leads to an understanding within the UNSC.

The Bush administration, however, said it could withdraw the resolution and the effect of the

withdrawal would be that the USA would then decide unilaterally when to order its almost 260,000-strong force in the Gulf to attack Iraq. Reports from Washington said several top advisers to President Bush want the resolution to be withdrawn so that the USA has the flexibility to take its own decision.

**Tri-nation summit:** Mr George Bush will leave on Sunday for Portugal to meet British Mr Tony Blair and Spanish Prime Minister Mr Jose Maria Aznar.

Mr Bush will confer with his two closest allies to forge a new diplomatic strategy in the wake of the certain defeat of their second "war" resolution in the Council.

# Prospects dim for UN resolution on Iraq

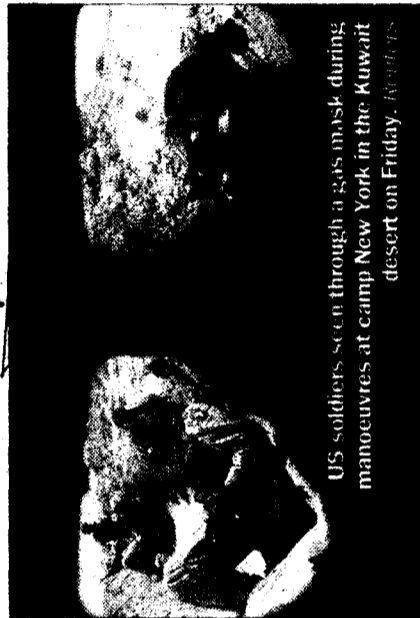
**EVELYN LEOPOLD**  
UNITED NATIONS, MARCH 14

**W**ITH UN Security Council unable to reach an agreement on a resolution authorising military action in Iraq, the US, Britain and Spain may abandon a vote altogether rather than face rejection.

Nevertheless, the Bush administration agreed with Britain to continue negotiations until Monday before calling for a vote or withdrawing entirely. Deliberations will continue on Friday

and over the weekend. Once the diplomatic manoeuvrings have ended, US President George Bush intends to issue an ultimatum to Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, telling him to disarm or face invasion, according to officials.

But the possibility that the resolution would be withdrawn, first raised on Wednesday by Spanish Foreign Minister Ana Palacios, appeared to make the six undecided nations — Chile, Mexico, Pakistan, Angola, Cameroon and Guinea — wary of backing opinion by endorsing war with Iraq.



US soldiers seen through a gas mask during manoeuvres at camp New York in the Kuwait desert on Friday.

would argue that they had a moral victory and mandate for war, even if the resolution was vetoed.

British Ambassador Jeremy Greenstock indicated willingness to lengthen a deadline for Iraqi compliance with disarmament demands. But British PM Tony Blair is desperate for a UN resolution to shore up his political base in the face of strong anti-war sentiment in his party and country.

If there was no vote, the legal situation might be governed by Resolution 1441, adopted on November 8, which threatened "serious

consequences" if Iraq disarmed. But if the attack is defeated, an attack Iraq would be in violation of international law.

ration for what could be a stunning defeat, the British blamed France for not considering any alternatives. "France rejected my proposal before I went to the White House," said Fleischer. "I don't think we should have been there."

making progress peacekeeping operations mapped out by Iraq that offer an alternative to war."

# 'Disappointed' Blix to step down

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, MARCH 29. The top weapons inspector, Hans Blix, will be stepping down in June



Hans Blix

when his contract expires. "His contract expires at the end of June and he doesn't intend to renew it," a spokesman for the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspections Commission said.

Mr. Blix, who headed the UN-MOVIC since 2000, said this week that he did not propose staying beyond his contractual period with the United Nations. A diplomat, former Foreign

Minister and lawyer, Mr. Blix has not hidden his disappointment that the United States did not give his inspections team a few more months to complete the job in Iraq. "A few more months would have been useful," Mr. Blix has said in an interview. The 75-year-old Swede who had led the International Atomic Energy Agency for 16 years prior to retiring in 1997 has been at the centre of all attention at the United Nations and elsewhere since last November when the Security Council passed resolution 1441.

Most nations have been following the Blix reports rather closely and carefully, the last of which he gave as a quarterly report a few days before the United Nations weapons inspectors were formally pulled out of Iraq by the U.N. Secretary-General, Kofi Annan. Mr. Blix really did not seem to mind what others made out of his reports, his refrain being that nations always tried to 'squeeze' things out to augment their points of view.

The stepping down of Dr. Blix will not lead to any loss of sleep to senior officials in the Bush administration, many of whom were sharply critical of him for not going that extra mile and condemning Iraq.

3 0 MAR 2003

THE HINDU

140-15

# U.N. move to ease crisis

13 By Sridhar Krishnaswami

**WASHINGTON, MARCH 28.** The United Nations Security Council is close to a vote on a move that would permit the temporary go-ahead for the Oil-for-Food programme so that the humanitarian crisis in Iraq could be eased a little.

The Security Council has reached a broad consensus on a 'deal' but diplomats are holding out the potential of a delay as Governments of 15 Council members are studying the resolution.

"Our assessment is positive" remarked a U.S. official in New York saying that formal clearance is being awaited from Washington.

The Oil-for-Food programme was put in place in 1996, permitting the Iraqis to use oil revenues to purchase food, medicine and a host of other civilian supplies. Nearly 300 personnel were overseeing the programme when the U.N. Secretary General, Kofi Annan suspended operations when the military conflict broke out.

The U.S. and Britain — with the approval of Mr. Annan — had asked the Council to make sure that the existing Iraqi order of \$10 billions that had been approved which included nearly \$2.5 billions in food to proceed as and when conditions permitted for goods to enter Iraq.

The resolution would also give some leeway to Mr. Annan over the next 45 days to make "tech-

nological and temporary" adjustments. But the resolution makes it clear that it is the responsibility of the U. S. and Britain to take care of any humanitarian crisis that might break out under Geneva Convention rules of responsibilities of "occupying power." About 60 per cent of Iraqis are dependent on the rations from the Oil-for-Food programme.

The consensus over the new resolution was not easy. Council members such as Russia and Syria which are vehemently opposed to the ongoing military operations against Iraq were adamant against anything in the resolution that would even indirectly legitimise what the U. S. and Britain are doing in Iraq.

Russia and Syria are said to have opposed references in the draft that called for coordination with "relevant authorities."

The final resolution will only mention "necessary coordination," it is said. In addition to adjustments to the Oil-for-Food programme by way of a new resolution, the United Nations has separately launched an appeal asking the international community for about \$ 2.1 billion to cover all kinds of emergency needs, including refugees. Officials in the U.N. are estimating a refugee count of about 350,000 and help ranging from food to tents.

THE HINDU

29 MAR 2003

# UN must be at heart of Iraq recast: France

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London  
27 MARCH

**F**RENCH foreign minister Dominique de Villepin said on Thursday the United Nations must play the key role in rebuilding post-war Iraq following a crisis which has "shattered" the established world order.

"The UN must be at the heart of the reconstruction and administration of Iraq," said Mr de Villepin, speaking at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London.

"The legitimacy of our action depends on it. We must come together to build peace in a region rife with a sense of insecurity and deep faultlines." The foreign minister said diplomatic bridges needed to be rebuilt. "We must

now find once again the path to European unity and reassert transatlantic solidarity on the basis of those requirements. We must rebuild the world order shattered by the Iraqi crisis."

Mr de Villepin said he was confident that France and the United States would restore the close ties they enjoyed before the Iraqi crisis unfolded.



**Eye in the sky:** An arresting gear officer watches as an F/A-18 Hornet makes a landing on the USS Theodore Roosevelt in the eastern Mediterranean on Thursday. — AP

"Because they share common values, the United States and France will re-establish close cooperation in complete solidarity," he said.

"We owe it to the friendship between our peoples." Mr de Villepin said France's main priority in the reconstruction of Iraq would be for the United Nations to pass a humanitarian resolution on the oil-for-food programme. — Reuters

28 MAR 2003

*The Economic Times*

40-10 22/3  
SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2003

## U.N. COUNCIL MUST ACT

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY'S fears of a superpower on the rampage untrammelled by collective control may be coming true. If no credible initiatives are taken in the next few days to restore to the United Nations and its policy-making body, the Security Council, their primary role as the only source of legitimacy for international action, and to halt the American war of aggression against Iraq, unilateralism will have scored a dangerous victory. Both Russia and China have regretted the attack on Iraq but have failed to go beyond expressions of pious hopes for a return to the U.N. The Russian President, Vladimir Putin, has stressed that the pivotal role in defusing crises in the world must belong to the U.N. Security Council and a Chinese statement has asked the U.S. to call off its war and "return to the right path of seeking a political solution". France and Germany have expressed their opposition, with Jacques Chirac warning of the serious consequences of the flouting of international norms. The embarrassment of India's muted, ambivalent response during the runup to the crisis has been mitigated to some extent by the official statement describing the American action as unjustified. The international community, whose opposition to the war is being demonstrated in the streets around the world, most visibly in the United States itself, waits to see if these words are followed up with action to get the issue back to where it belongs: the United Nations.

As a chorus of independent international opinion has accused the U.S. and its ally, the U.K., of planning an illegal invasion amounting to a war of aggression, Iraq has charged that the U.S. acted as a terrorist state by attempting to assassinate its leadership. A war waged without a clear mandate from the U.N. Council, according to the Geneva-based International Commission of Jurists, would constitute a flagrant

violation of the prohibition of the use of force, a rule enshrined in the U.N. Charter precisely with the aim of preventing states from using force as they pleased. In a pre-emptive action to counter the charge that it is in breach of this international restraint on the use of force, the U.S. on Thursday gave its official reasons for invading Iraq, saying Baghdad had broken a ceasefire resolution adopted after the 1991 Gulf War. Here again, there is no legal backing for the use of force, the case differing fundamentally from the first Gulf War which was waged under the auspices of a global coalition sponsored by the U.N. Here is a clear case for the Security Council to act to immediately halt the horrendous tragedy from causing further damage. The geopolitical reality, however, is that none of the Security Council members plans to support a formal condemnation or even criticism of the U.S., with most of them following the lead of the U.N. Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, who has focussed attention on the enormous task of providing relief to the victims of the war.

That is the measure of the tragedy of this crisis. Because, it is more than about Iraq. It is about the value of multilateralism as symbolised by the United Nations. It is a context in which the near paralysis of action by Governments in the wake of the American aggression must be a cause of concern. It signals perhaps in the clearest possible way so far in the post-Cold War era the dangers ahead if the international community allows the erosion of the authority of the U.N. Some analysts have described Thursday's pre-emptive assault on Baghdad as a turning point. It indeed is, in more ways than one. The U.S. President may have struck a lethal blow to visions of world government by going to war leading a "coalition of the willing" and ignoring the U.N., the long established mainstay of global peace and order.

# U.N. will render all help: Annan

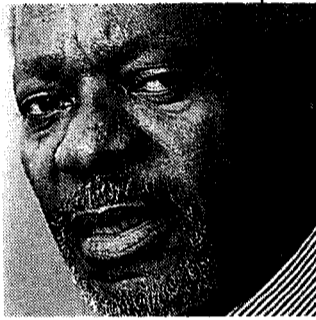
119-11

2/3

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, MARCH 20. The United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, has said that in spite of the best efforts of the international community, war has come to Iraq for the third time in the last 25 years. He has made the point that if there had been a little more perseverance "Iraq could yet have been disarmed peacefully, or — if not — the world could have taken action to solve this problem".

Mr. Annan has called on the world community not to dwell on the divisions of the past. "Let us confront the realities of the present, however harsh, and look for ways to forge stronger unity in the future", Mr. Annan said. "I hope that all parties will scrupulously observe the requirements of international humanitarian law and will do



everything in their power to shield the civilian population from the grim consequences of war. The United Nations... will do whatever it can to bring them assistance and support."

Meanwhile a spokesman for the Secretary-General has said that the Bush administration's National Security Advisor, Condoleezza Rice, plans to visit New York soon to discuss the future role for the U.N. in Iraq.

21 MAR 2003

THE HINDU



# Divided at the United Nations

By Chinmaya R. Gharekhan

*Having taken the U.N. route, however reluctantly, President Bush would be well advised to stick to it... He would still achieve his objectives, albeit a little later than he might like.*

IT IS ironic that the crisis over Iraq, which provided the first occasion for the five permanent members of the Security Council to work together and demonstrate their unity in the post-Cold War era in 1990, is also responsible for causing deep, open and, at present, unbridgeable split among their ranks. If the British and the Americans keep to their intention of putting their revised draft resolution to vote by March 17, we might witness the fascinating spectacle of two, perhaps three, permanent members vetoing a resolution sponsored by their fellow members in what is the most exclusive club in the world. It would be the first time ever in the new world "disorder" that one permanent member would exercise its veto power against another on an issue of the highest importance to the latter. During the Cold War, permanent members routinely used their veto power on issues of importance to their national interests or for their "special" friends or allies. Since 1990, vetoes have been used sparingly. The U.S. has invoked it the most often, primarily to bail out Israel. The Chinese have used it on a few occasions when Taiwan came into their calculations. Thus, they vetoed extension of the peacekeeping operation in Haiti because the government of Haiti extended recognition to the Taiwan regime. But the resort to veto by one permanent member against another in modern times would be unprecedented.

On February 24, 2003, the U.S., the U.K. and Spain circulated a draft resolution with practically only one operative paragraph: "Decides that Iraq has failed to take the final opportunity afforded to it by resolution 1441 (2002)." A cleverly drafted, deceptively simple text, but extremely potent. If the Council were to adopt such a resolution, it would mean that Iraq would not be given any further "final" opportunity, that the work of the weapons inspectors would come to an end and the "serious consequences" referred to in 1441 would follow anytime, without the need for any further authorisation from the Council. The sponsors have submitted a revised draft on March 7 in which the operative paragraph, corresponding to the operative para-

the original draft, would ask the Council to decide if Iraq had failed to take the final opportunity afforded to it under 1441 unless the Council concluded, on or before March 17, that Iraq had demonstrated the cooperation demanded of it under 1441. This is the famous ultimatum or what the sponsors would call one more final opportunity to Iraq to avoid war. The revised draft has another strange paragraph calling upon Iraq to take the decisions "necessary in the interests of its people and the region".

France, Russia and Germany have made it clear that they will not let such a resolution pass. The French Foreign Minister stated in his intervention in the Council on March 7 that, as a permanent member, France would not allow the passing of a resolution which authorised the automatic use of force. These three countries signed and sent a joint letter to the Security Council on March 5, emphasising the same common position against the draft resolution. In the letter, France and Russia affirmed unambiguously that as permanent members they would assume all their responsibilities on this point.

Incidentally, permanent members never say that they will "veto" a resolution. The word "veto" does not figure in the U.N. Charter. Article 27 (3) states that decisions on non-procedural questions need an affirmative vote of nine members, including the concurring votes of the permanent members. A strict interpretation of this provision would mean that all the P-5 (permanent five) should vote affirmatively for a resolution to be validly adopted. In other words, if one of the P-5 did not vote in favour, the draft would not be adopted. In actual practice, however, abstention by a permanent member is not enough to block a resolution. For a resolution to be rejected, at least one of the P-5 must vote against a draft resolution.

There is one more way in which

France, Russia (and Germany) can prevent the resolution from being adopted, and that is by persuading enough number of the non-permanent or elected members not to support the resolution. They do not have to vote against; abstention would do just fine. If France, Russia and Germany can prevail upon at least four more members to abstain, the resolution will fail for want of the minimum required majority of nine. In such a scenario, there would be no need for a veto by any permanent member, an obviously preferable alternative for France and others. This is what France and its partners have been working for, this is what took the French Foreign Minister to Angola, Cameroon and Guinea immediately after the Council meeting on March 7, and this is what made the Russian President, Vladimir Putin, call the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, on the telephone. But this is also precisely what the U.S. President, George W. Bush, and his Foreign Minister would like to avoid. The Americans, it appears, would prefer to see their draft vetoed than fail to attract a minimum of 9 affirmative votes.

It is evident that France and Russia have an understanding between them on double veto; they have safety in each other's company. China may decide to join them, though it is more likely to abstain. The present line-up in the Council is somewhat as follows: in favour of the draft — the U.S., the U.K., Spain and Bulgaria; against or not in favour — France, Germany, Russia, China and Syria. This leaves six members undecided or "floating": Pakistan, Angola, Cameroon, Guinea, Chile and Mexico. It is difficult to imagine Mexico not supporting the U.S. The same is true, though only to a lesser extent, of Chile. Pakistan would normally be expected to go along with the Americans. But Gen. Musharraf has genuine domestic opposition to his aligning with the U.S. on this issue.

Since he has done a huge favour to Mr. Bush by arresting the top al-Qaeda operative, Khalid Sheikh Muhammad, he might perhaps get away with an abstention. However, if Pakistan's would be the ninth vote, it is difficult to imagine it not voting in favour, unless, of course, it were to deliver Osama bin Laden at the same time!

If the above analysis is reasonably accurate, it gives six votes on each side: the U.S., the U.K., Spain, Bulgaria, Chile and Mexico in favour and France, Germany, Russia, China, Syria and Pakistan not in favour. The position of the three African members becomes crucial; can they afford, in economic terms, not to support the Americans?

Since Saddam Hussein will not oblige by stepping down, since the chances of a successful coup against him in the next few days are extremely remote, and since the U.N. weapons inspectors have not been of any use so far from the American perspective, Mr. Bush seems to have no option but to go to war, which no one, perhaps not even himself, wants. How did the Americans manage to get themselves so isolated? They never were able to present a convincing case about the threat that Iraq is supposed to pose to its neighbours, let alone to themselves, or of its link with the al-Qaeda. Then again, they miscalculated the strength of public opinion against war and its ability to influence decision-making, the genuine apprehension felt everywhere about the destabilising effect of a war, the stimulus to fundamentalism and terror that it would certainly provide, as well as their own clout with other countries. Is this a case of a superpower over stretching itself at least in political terms? Having taken the U.N. route, however reluctantly, Mr. Bush would be well advised to stick to it.

As the U.N. Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, said in the Hague on March 10, military action outside the Council would not be in conformity with the U.N. Charter. Mr. Bush's prestige would not suffer; it would in fact increase if he were to, even at this stage, remain within the letter and spirit of the Charter. He would still achieve his objectives, albeit a little later than he might like.

14 MAR 2003

THE HINDU

# Is the United Nations relevant?

By C. Raja Mohan

HD-10 18/3

**A**S THE Gulf crisis deepens, the future of the United Nations is as much at stake as that of the Iraqi leader, Saddam Hussein. If the great powers of the Security Council fail to come to an understanding on Iraq in the next few days, the U.N. might become less relevant for international security. It is an outcome that no one would seem to want. But it also appears inevitable. If the United States goes to war without the support of the international community, as it well might in the next few days, the idea of collective security that underlies the U.N. system would also become irrelevant. The Gulf war could well engineer the demise of the current international order and launch a new one.

The U.N. debates have made it clear that the differences between the U.S. on the one hand, and France, Russia and Germany on the other, over Iraq now seem irreconcilable. Even Britain's Tony Blair has now gone wobbly as he desperately seeks U.N. cover to sustain his shaky support to the U.S. The U.S., in its determination to pursue the war against Mr. Hussein, stands in virtual political isolation. It certainly has the support of key neighbours of Iraq to enforce a regime change in Baghdad. But that has not been of much use in shaping the international debate on Iraq.

The U.S. President, George W. Bush, has to decide in the next couple of days whether he will continue with the diplomatic dance at the U.N. or go the unilateral route. That will be a momentous decision that could alter the structure of international relations for a long time to come.

The U.S. Defence Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, indicated on Tuesday that America was prepared to go to war even without British participation. Although he modified that statement later, Mr. Rumsfeld's remarks reflect the mood of the hardliners who were never enthusiastic about going through the U.N. to effect a regime change in Iraq. The

*The debate on Iraqi disarmament has masked a deeper crisis. It is about basic differences among the great powers on the nature of the new threats to international security.*

White House itself has dismissed the absence of international support as inconsequential.

The White House spokesman, Ari Fleischer, argued earlier this week that the U.N. alone might not speak for the international community. "There are many ways to form international coalitions," he added. "The United Nations Security Council is but one of them." This is the first time that the White House has elevated the potential role of the "coalition of the willing" as an alternative to the U.N. As the prospect of a war outside the U.N. framework appeared real, the U.N. Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, was quick to warn against the dangers of undermining the world body. If the great powers "fail to agree on a common position and action is taken without the authority of the Security Council, the legitimacy and support for any such action will be seriously impaired", he argued.

Any potential compromise at the U.N., however, will fall way short of the positions staked out by Washington on the one side, and Paris, Moscow and Berlin on the other. Neither can afford a compromise that smacks of a political defeat and the attendant domestic consequences. Walking back from the war now or agreeing to delay it further will be a huge political blow to Mr. Bush. Across the Atlantic, a decision by the European powers to support an early war will be hugely unpopular as Mr. Blair has discovered. Neither side has left much room for itself to retreat from stated positions nor do they have room to save the face of the other. That precisely is why the desperate British attempt to build a consensus might not succeed.

The crisis at the U.N. is not merely about procedures and timelines on disarming Iraq.

Nor is it about the failure of the Bush administration to make an effective political case for its war to oust Mr. Hussein. Washington has erred badly in its judgment that arguments about Iraqi non-compliance with past U.N. resolutions will be enough to gain international support for a regime change in Iraq. Instead of making a political argument for changing the regime in Baghdad, the Bush administration lost its way, developing a criminal case about the Iraqi programmes for weapons of mass destruction. As a result, the UNSC debate was transformed into a courtroom drama assessing the reports of bureaucrat-inspectors. It has now degenerated into an awful headcount within the jury for a guilty verdict and capital punishment.

The debate on Iraqi disarmament has masked a deeper crisis. It is about basic differences among the great powers on the nature of the new threats to international security. It is also about unbridgeable divergence on when and how to use force against these threats. The U.S. and its former European allies no longer agree on these fundamental questions. They do not share an understanding of the threats posed by global terrorism and weapons of mass destruction and the means that must be employed to defeat them.

Collective security systems are based on shared security perspectives among the major powers and a political will to act together. The collective security framework of the U.N., devised at the end of the Second World War, never worked dur-

ing the Cold War thanks to the East-West divisions. After the Cold War, the U.N. system certainly expanded its role in international security affairs, although there was no coherence to this increased activity. The lessons drawn by the U.S. after the tragic events of September 11 and the course it has set for itself in addressing the new challenges to international security are neither shared by its former Cold War partners, nor by its new friends in Russia. As a consequence, the marginalisation of the U.N. has become inevitable.

Irrespective of the outcome in Iraq, India has no reason to bemoan the collapse of the old international order, for it had such little say in its management. The thundering rhetoric from New Delhi on the importance of the U.N. role in Iraq is hypocritical. After making the big mistake of taking the Kashmir dispute to the U.N. in the late 1940s, India has never really been willing to consider an expanded role for the U.N. in the management of international security. The absence of support in the U.N. did not deter India from taking unilateral military action in East Pakistan in 1971 that led to the creation of Bangladesh. Nor did India take the permission of the U.N. to launch "bread-bombing" of Sri Lanka in 1987.

As the U.N. began to raise its profile in world affairs in the 1990s, India was firmly opposed to its interventionary role. India has devoted considerable diplomatic energies to fob off Mr. Annan's attempts to muscle in on the Kashmir dispute with Pakistan. It had firmly rejected the UNSC Resolution 1172 passed unanimously in June 1998 asking New Delhi to roll back its nuclear and missile programmes.

Instead of worrying about the decline of the U.N., India needs to think creatively about new international coalitions that can deal with the challenges from terrorism and the spread of weapons of mass destruction to irresponsible regimes and extremist groups.

1 3 MAR 2003

THE HINDU

# A grave decision

By Kofi A. Annan

The Charter of the United Nations is categorical. "In order to ensure prompt and effective action by the United Nations," it confers on the Security Council "primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security". That responsibility can seldom have weighed more heavily on the members of the Council than it does this week.

Within the next day or two, they have to make a momentous choice. The context of that choice is an issue whose importance is by no means confined to Iraq: the threat posed to all humanity by weapons of mass destruction. The whole international community needs to act together to curb the proliferation of these terrible weapons, wherever it may be happening. But the immediate and most urgent aspect of that task is to ensure that Iraq no longer has such weapons. Why? Because Iraq has actually used them in the past, and because it has twice, under its present leadership, committed aggression against its neighbours — against Iran in 1980, and against Kuwait in 1990. That is why the Security Council is determined to disarm Iraq of these weapons, and has passed successive resolutions since 1991 requiring Iraq to disarm.

All over the world, people want to see this crisis resolved peacefully. They are alarmed about the great human suffering that war always causes, whether it is long or short. And they are apprehensive about the longer-term consequences that this particular war might have. They fear that it will lead to regional instability and economic crises; and that it may — as war so often does — have unintended consequences that produce new dangers. Will it make the fight against terrorism, or the

search for peace between Israelis and Palestinians, even harder? Will it sow deep divisions between nations and peoples of different faiths? Will it compromise our ability to work together in addressing other common concerns in the future? These are serious questions, and the answers must be carefully considered.

Sometimes it may be necessary to use force to deal with threats to the peace — and the Charter makes provision for that. But war must always be a last resort. It should be used only when every reasonable alternative has been tried — in the present case, only if we are sure that every peaceful means of achieving Iraq's disar-

## OPINION

mament has been exhausted.

The United Nations, founded to "save succeeding generations from the scourge of war", has a duty to search for a peaceful solution until the last possible moment. Has that moment arrived? That is the decision that the members of the Security Council now face. It is a grave decision indeed. If they fail to agree on a common position, and some of them then take action without the Council's authority, the legitimacy of that action will be widely questioned, and it will not gain the political support needed to ensure its long-term success, after its military phase. If, on the other hand, the members of the Council can come together, even at this late hour, and ensure compliance with their earlier resolutions by agreeing on a common course of action, then the Council's authority will be enhanced, and the world will be a safer place.

Let's remember that the crisis in Iraq does not exist in a vacuum. What happens

there will have a profound impact on other issues of great importance. The broader our consensus on how to deal with Iraq, the better the chance that we can come together again and deal effectively with other burning conflicts in the world, starting with the one between Israelis and Palestinians.

We all know that only a just resolution of that conflict can bring any real hope of lasting stability in the region. Beyond the Middle-East the success or failure of the international community in dealing with Iraq will crucially affect its ability to deal with the no less worrying developments on the Korean peninsula. And it will affect our work to resolve the conflicts that are causing so much suffering in Africa, setting back the prospects for stability and development that the continent so badly needs. Nor is war the only scourge that the world has to face.

Whether they are protecting themselves against terrorism or struggling against the grim triad of poverty, ignorance and disease, nations need to work together, and they can do so through the United Nations. However this conflict is resolved, the U.N. will remain as central as it is today. We should do everything we can to maintain its unity. All around the world, these last few months, we have seen what an immense significance not only States, but their peoples attach to the legitimacy provided by the U.N., and by the Security Council, as the common framework for securing peace. As they approach their momentous decision this week, I hope the members of the Council will be mindful of this sacred trust that the world's peoples have placed in them, and will show themselves worthy of it.

*(The writer is Secretary-General of the United Nations.)*

1 2 MAR 2003

THE HINDU

'NO EVIDENCE OF UNDERGROUND WEAPONS'

# Iraq's cooperation active: Blix

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

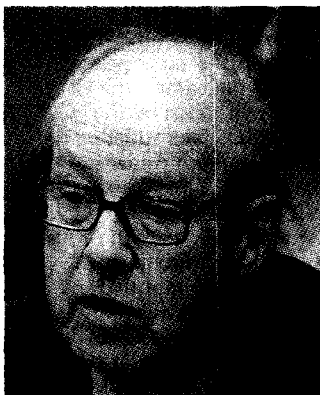
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9/3

**UNITED NATIONS, MARCH 7.** In what is a further setback to the Bush administration, the top United Nations weapons inspector, Hans Blix, has informed a deeply divided Security Council that the destruction of the Al Samoud missiles constituted a "substantial measure of disarmament" and argued that Baghdad's recent cooperation can be "seen as active or even proactive."

"We are not watching the destruction of toothpicks. Lethal weapons are being destroyed", he said.

Dr. Blix said Baghdad had recently furnished additional documentation on anthrax and the VX nerve gas agent but that "many have been found to restate what Iraq has already declared."

He said that he would be presenting to the Council later this month, the remaining disarmament tasks but then it would take some time to ensure that the process was complete. "It will not take years nor weeks, but months", he noted going on to make the point that even after all this had been completed, Iraq should be subject to inspections and monitoring of its facilities. Dr. Blix told the Council that he will soon be seeking interviews with Iraqi scientists outside the country and criticised Baghdad for not being more forthcoming in producing documents. "Only few such documents have come to light so far and has been handed over since we began inspections...I hope that efforts in this respect...will give significant results," he said. He said the "process" of weapons inspections faced few



The Chief United Nations Weapons Inspector, Hans Blix, addressing the U.N. Security Council on Friday. — AFP

difficulties and that weapons inspectors have been able to go about their task with relative ease. Dr. Blix said Iraq has till date destroyed 34 Al Samouds, even as the legality of the Al Fatah missiles was being determined.

In an indirect dig at the Bush administration, which has been saying that Iraq has indeed underground weapons and mobile laboratories, the Executive Chairman of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission, UNMOVIC, said inspections have found no evidence to the effect. He once again asked for more information on any suspect sites.

The Head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Mohammed ElBaradei, also took issue with the United States' intelligence agencies by maintaining that the suspect aluminium tubes were not destined for any equipment that could be used to refine uranium for nuclear weapons use. The Council was

also informed that the IAEA found no evidence to support reports that Iraq was trying to buy uranium from Niger... these specific allegations are unfounded," he said.

UN from crisis

The U.S. has labelled the Blix report as a "catalogue of non-cooperation" by Iraq. The Secretary of State, Colin Powell, told the Council that Iraq was refusing to offer immediate, active and unconditional cooperation it was being demanded by the world body and mandated by Resolution 1441. Any cooperation from Iraq is only coming in a "grudging manner" against the backdrop of the threat of military force.

The reaction of the Foreign Ministers from Germany, France, Russia and China was along expected lines — appreciation to what Dr. Blix had said in terms of the changed cooperative environment from Baghdad and conviction that the inspection process must continue. The Ministers were either opposed to a second Resolution or any Resolution that had automaticity in the use of force. "France will not allow a Resolution to pass that will authorise the use of force," the French Minister, Dominique de Villepin, said. "We see no need for a second Resolution," remarked the German Foreign Minister, Joschka Fischer, which found support from the Foreign Ministers of Russia, France and China. Meanwhile, it is said that the U.S. and Britain have revised the second Resolution authorising the use of force. The amended draft, according to an agency report, will now give Saddam Hussein a specific date — March 16 or 17 — to fully disarm.

More reports on Page 14

8 MAR 2003

SEE HINDU

# Britain moves new resolution in U.N.

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, FEB. 25. The Bush administration and its "allies" are getting ready for some heady times at the United Nations Security Council.

On Monday, Britain introduced a one-page resolution signed by the United States and Spain, calling on the Council to say that Iraq "has failed to take the final opportunity afforded to it" by resolution 1441 and one that was adopted unanimously on November 8, 2002. While the formal draft language does not formally call on the Council to authorise the use of force, adopting the new resolution would invariably mean that.

The counter-proposal or memorandum has been put forth by France, Russia and Germany, which have opposed military action, and are calling for a peaceful disarmament of Iraq through the strengthening of the weapons inspections. The new process, if approved, will see the inspections regime running past July 1.

"The time has not come to discuss a military option," the top envoy of France

said. China is not an official sponsor of this plan but is supporting this idea. But diplomats believe that if push comes to shove at the Council on the U.S.- backed resolution, Beijing will abstain instead of casting its veto. Iraq as a foreign policy issue is not something that China would want Sino-American relations to be defined with. Further, Beijing will want other veto-wielding members such as France and Russia to stick their necks out as they have been more vociferous in their stance against military action.

The U.S. has four votes in the 15-member Council that would include Britain, Spain and Bulgaria. For a resolution to pass, it requires nine votes and no permanent member casting a veto. Five members — Russia, France, Germany, China and Syria — are against any use of force; and there are six non-permanent members who are said to be "fence sitters". These countries are Angola, Cameroon, Chile, Guinea, Mexico and Pakistan. And the focus of Washington is on these six and the strategy of winning support is through a variety of means including high profile lob-

bing and economic incentives.

The members of the Security Council are looking to their respective capitals for guidance on how to go about with a second closed door session set for Thursday.

In pressing for a second resolution, the administration here has hinted that the President, George W. Bush, may be inclined to wait until after the March 7 report of the top weapons inspector, Hans Blix, and then push for a vote.

According to present indications, the week of March 7 to March 15 will be a crucial determining period following which Mr. Bush could go the military route, alone if necessary. "It's time to deal with this problem," argued the National Security Advisor, Condoleezza Rice, at the White House going on to brush aside the French proposal that gives inspections another four months to run its course.

Senior officials such as Dr. Rice remain sceptical that the Iraqi leader, Saddam Hussein, will comply with the latest set of demands of Dr. Blix on the dismantling and destruction of the Al Samoud-2 missiles.

# America wants UN vote on Iraq by mid-March

Washington, February 24

THE UNITED States and Britain intend to introduce a new UN Security Council resolution on Monday that will set the stage for war in Iraq by declaring Baghdad in violation of UN demands.

The White House said it expected the United Nations to consider a new Iraq resolution "in short order", with a vote by mid-March.

"In New York on Monday afternoon, a resolution will be introduced concerning the situation in Iraq," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer told reporters.

Asked if the United States agreed with Britain that the resolution should be voted on by mid-March, Fleischer said: "The President has made clear that following introduction he expects this to be considered in short order. I'm not going to put a specific characterisation on what short order means, but that is not a bad estimate."

Fleischer would not discuss the specific language of the resolution, but said: "It will be very short and to the point."

Britain's UN ambassador, Sir Jeremy Greenstock, will make the formal introduction, which a spokesman for Prime Minister Tony Blair has said he hoped would be voted on by mid-March, a sig-

## B-52s begin training runs over the Gulf

Washington, February 24

US STRATEGIC bombers capable of launching cruise missiles and precision-guided bombs began practice runs over the Gulf region defence officials said.

The first training flight of a B-52 Stratofortress and its crew took place over an unspecified area "in the North Arabian Gulf region," according to the US Central Command.

The duration of the flight has not been disclosed. "The missions will be conducted on a recurring basis and are designed to maintain aircrew proficiency and familiarisation," the command said.



REUTERS

A B-52 Stratofortress.

The B-52, which can fly at high subsonic speeds at altitudes up to over 15,000 meters is capable of dropping or launching a wide array of weapons in the US inventory. AFP

nal there would be no invasion of Iraq before that time.

Getting approval will be difficult in face of opposition from France, Russia and China, who have veto power on the 15-member council.

So far only Spain and Bulgaria support the United States and Britain while the other nations have spoken in favour of France's position for continuing arms inspections or are uncomfortable in having to make a decision.

To counter the US, French President Jacques Chirac's spokeswoman, Catherine Colona, said France would put forward proposals immediately for

went to Africa to talk to officials in Angola, Cameroon and Guinea.

At the same time US President George W. Bush has been making telephone calls to his counterparts in various nations, including Chilean President Ricardo Lagos, whose government has publicly leaned toward the French position but is still undecided.

"It is true that President Bush called President Lagos, another thing is how you interpret that," a Chilean government spokesman said. "Chile couldn't accept pressures because it has a

more intrusive inspections. "There is no reason to interrupt the inspections and go over to another logic that would lead to war," she said.

France earlier this month circulated proposals to Security Council members calling for a tripling of inspectors and UN guards to "freeze" suspected weapons sites, and more spy plane overflights. These proposals are expected to be refined, probably in the form of an informal draft resolution.

The United States has been sending senior officials to lobby council nations. Two have already visited Mexico and another

sovereign and autonomous foreign policy," the spokesman added in Santiago. He said Chile would have to study the resolution.

On the other side, Chirac and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder were scheduled to meet on Monday evening in Berlin to discuss their strategy.

## Missiles must go

Iraq said it is "serious about solving" a UN order to start destroying its Al Samoud 2 missile programme by the end of the week, but asked the UN to reconsider. A UN official in Baghdad said that wasn't an option.

Iraq's chief liaison to UN weapons inspectors insisted on Sunday night that Baghdad is "clean" of weapons of mass destruction and suggested the UN and Iraq could come up with a compromise over an order to destroy the missiles.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said he expected Baghdad would go ahead with the destruction in the end.

"If they refused to destroy the weapons, the Security Council will have to make a decision," Annan said during a trip to Turkey. "I don't see why they would not destroy them."

Agencies

## French butt of British jokes

London, February 24

WHAT DO you call a Frenchman advancing on Baghdad? Listeners to a BBC Radio show were denied that knowledge after politically-correct producers edited out the entire joke, *The Times* reports.

But they did leave in an anti-British joke, spurring the red-faced presenter to pen a letter to listeners apologising for the unpatriotic slant of his show.

"I am sorry for the unmeant, unpatriotic insult to so many lovely British women," Ned Sherrin, presenter of Radio Four's *Loose Ends* wrote in a letter published in *The Times*. The apology followed the gag: "What do you call a pretty girl in London? A tourist."

He circumvented his producers by cracking his French gags to *The Times*. Question: What do you call a Frenchman advancing on Baghdad? Answer: A salesman.

Question: What do you call 20 French politicians face down in the Channel? Answer: A start.

Reuters

## S. Rajagopalan

Washington, February 24

THE WHITE House is concerned at the beating that President George W. Bush's image has received worldwide, but it has ruled out any recalibration of the US's plans to take on Iraq.

Instead, the administration is to make a new bid to influence global public opinion by focusing on "the plight of the Iraqi people with a focus on human rights and Saddam Hussein's brutality".

It also plans to highlight Bush's plans for humanitarian assistance and reconstruction of Iraq.

Citing officials, who are closely reading the messages pouring in from US embassies across the world, the *Washington Post* went so far as to say: "Many people in the world increasingly think President Bush is a greater threat to world peace than Iraqi President Saddam Hussein."

The synchronised anti-war protests in many world capitals on February 19 stunned the White House. However, after a three-day silence, Bush sought to shrug off the protests, commenting: "Size of a protest, it's like deciding, well, I'm going to decide policy based upon a focus group."

## Bush's humane side on show

Over the past few days, the Secretary of State has given interviews to BBC, France's Channel 1, Germany's N-24, Russia's RTR Television and the Middle East Broadcasting.

Some of Bush's advisers have suggested that the shrill protests will start waning.

Meanwhile, a new Time/CNN poll says 54 per cent of Americans favour military action to oust Saddam Hussein. The number is down from the 73 per cent noticed three months after the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

MISSILES / BLIX DEADLINE MAY BRING CRISIS TO A HEAD

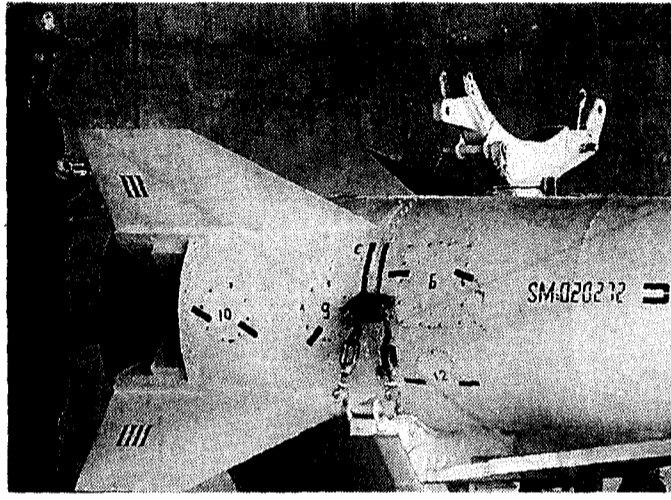
# Iraq's fate hinges on Saddam move

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, FEB. 22. The blunt message to Iraq from the top United Nations weapons inspector, Hans Blix, about having to destroy perhaps scores of the Al Samoud 2 missiles, parts and components by March 1 presents a serious challenge to the Saddam Hussein regime and with this, an opportunity to come out of the crisis unscathed.

The ball now is in Iraq's court, so to say. The Blix message — detailing not only the missiles whose range had exceeded that set by the U.N. in 1991 but also the manner the projectiles had to be got rid of — has also a lot going for the United States and France, two key members of the Security Council which have taken diametrically opposite views on the showdown in the Persian Gulf.

If Iraq meets the Blix deadline, it will undoubtedly strengthen the hands of France, which has been pushing for an expansion of the weapons inspection process. The French position has hardened since the last presentation of the report by Dr. Blix and Mohammad ElBaradei on February 14. France did indeed make a passionate case against war on February 14, but at the same time, there is the perception in New York that it might have gone "slightly overboard" in its criticism of the U.S.



**UNDER SCRUTINY: A U.N. weapons inspector examines an Al Samoud missile at a site 40 km north of Baghdad on Sunday. — AP**

and in the process, hardening the stance of the Bush administration.

A determined Bush administration, quite undeterred by the criticisms at the U.N. and worldwide protests, is pressing on with a new resolution at the Council, which will be introduced next week. And the manner in which the Saddam Hussein regime responds to the Blix demand will bring matters to a head in the Council.

Washington has all along been demanding that the Al Samoud 2 missiles whose range exceeds the set stipulations must be destroyed; and has

been making the point that Iraqi intentions on this missiles were not honest from the beginning — that Baghdad wanted a missile that would travel a longer distance with a smaller payload.

What the Bush administration will be paying close attention to is whether the Saddam Hussein regime will be willing to destroy a whole arsenal of missiles under the supervision of the U.N. In fact, one of the first things to be agreed upon is the numbers — Iraq, according to one estimate, has declared 76 Al Samouds in June 2002 and had said that some have been

used for tests. The U.N. believes that Iraq has between 100 and 120 missiles.

There are two factors that are being paid close attention while the regime decides: first, Iraq has pumped a lot of money into this missile project, irrespective of whether it wanted to "cheat" from the beginning; secondly, and more importantly, with a war looming on the horizon whether Mr. Hussein will be willing to give up a weapons system that could be valuable in the event of a military showdown.

If Mr. Hussein balks at the Blix demand, it could come in very handy to the Bush administration to push its case at the Council. Right now, the focus of the U.S. and Britain is at two levels: ensuring that Russia, China and France do not cast their vetoes; and making sure there are enough non-permanent members to get nine votes to have the resolution passed. But France has been emphatic in its assertion that any reference to the use of force will be vetoed.

At the same time, with the March 1 deadline and a possible meeting of the Council on March 7 to hear Dr. Blix, any dithering by Iraq will not go down well with the top U.N. official, who has shown to be quite blunt — whether in pulling up Iraq or in saying later that it is more forthcoming.

23 FEB 2003

SEE HINDI

# Blix asks Iraq to UN SF-11 28/2 destroy missiles

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

UNITED NATIONS, Feb. 22. — In a crucial order that could make the difference between war and peace, Chief United Nations Weapons Inspector Mr Hans Blix has given Iraq time till 1 March to begin destroying dozens of its Al Samoud 2 missiles that exceeded allowed range, their engines, warheads and guidance system under the world body's supervision.

Diplomats said Mr Blix was under intense pressure from the USA and Britain to move fast and Iraq's reaction to this development could make the difference between war and peace.

In a four-page letter, handed over to the Iraqi Ambassador Mohammed Al-Douri yesterday, Mr Blix told Iraq that "appropriate arrangements" should be made so that the destruction process could commence by 1 March.

Mr Blix's order follows the conclusion reached by an international experts' panel, convened by him, that the missiles are capable of exceeding the range of 150 km set by the Security Council. A copy of the findings of the experts' panel was attached to the letter. The inspectors, he said in the letter, would select a variety of methods for destruction, depending on items to be destroyed such as explosive demolition, crushing, melting and

other physical and chemical methods. Mr Blix is also preparing a list of 35 outstanding questions about Iraq's chemical and biological weapons and long-range missile programmes which he would like Baghdad to answer. He would discuss it on Monday with his advisory board of commissioners before finally submitting it to Baghdad.

Diplomats said Iraq's response to the letter would be closely watched, for, a reluctance to demolish one of its most prized weapon systems that could be used in case of American attack, would be taken by Washington and London as Baghdad's failure to disarm voluntarily and support their case for war. The UN assessment is based on data provided by Iraq, which had explained that in some of the tests, the missiles went beyond allowed range because it lacked guidance system and the absence of any warhead also made them lighter.

Al-Douri wants UN experts to go to Iraq and see for themselves that the missiles cannot exceed the 150 km limit. In his last report to the Council, Mr Blix had said, in some tests the missiles exceeded the range by 33 kms. But experts say such increase would not affect their striking capability.

In his report, Mr Blix had also said Al-Samoud 2's diameter had been increased to 760 mm from the earlier version and Iraq had reported 380 rocket engines.

23 FEB 2003

THE STATESMAN



BEGIN PROCESS BY MARCH 1, IRAQ TOLD

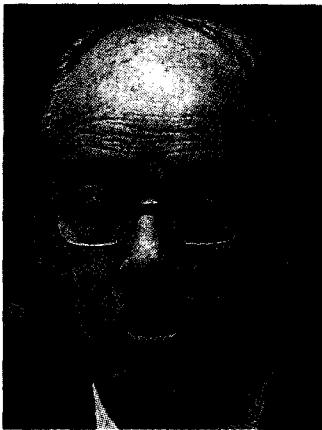
2872 **Destroy missiles, says Blix** *wr HD-1*

UNITED NATIONS, FEB. 22. The United Nations Chief Weapons Inspector, Hans Blix, ordered Iraq on Friday to destroy dozens of its missiles with ranges that violate U.N. limits, and gave Baghdad a March 1 deadline to begin the demolition.

His demand that Iraq eliminate the Al Samoud-2 missile system will test Baghdad's willingness to disarm as negotiations enter a crucial stage. Washington has strongly pushed for the destruction of the missiles and all their components.

The United States and Britain are trying to focus the world's attention on illegal Iraqi weapons activities while they prepare a new U.N. resolution that could pave the way for military action. The U.S. Secretary of State, Colin Powell, sought support for the resolution from Foreign Ministers of four Security Council nations on Friday.

Iraq's decision could be a factor on whether the Council approves such a resolution, expected to be introduced early next week. Washington's goal is



to achieve a minimum nine votes on the Council, while avoiding a veto by France, Russia or China. All three of those permanent members are opposed to war and want to extend the weapons searches.

The order to destroy the Al Samoud-2 missiles confronts the Iraqi Government with a serious dilemma: whether to give up a valuable weapons system its military would almost certainly use against a U.S.-led coalition, or refuse to comply and face accusations that it is not cooperating with

U.N. inspectors. In a four-page letter, Mr. Blix told Iraq to hand over to inspectors "for verifiable destruction" all Al Samoud-2 missiles and warheads, SA-2 missile engines configured for use in those missiles, machinery to produce missile motors, and other components. "The appropriate arrangements should be made so that the destruction process can commence by March 1, 2003," he said in the letter to Amer al-Saadi, an adviser to the Iraqi President, Saddam Hussein. By no coincidence, March 1 is also the date of Mr. Blix's next report on Iraqi compliance due to the Council.

Mr. Blix also ordered that fuel, launchers, testing equipment and all software and documentation about the Al Samoud program be destroyed — but not the factories where the missiles were built as the United States wanted. He handed the letter to the Iraqi Ambassador, Mohammed Al-Douri, at the U.N. headquarters on Friday. There was no immediate response from Iraq to the letter.— AP

29 FEB 2003

THE HINDU

# The U.N. stays relevant

By Chinmaya R. Gharekhan

ONE OF the most positive fallouts of the crisis over Iraq has been the enormous increase in the prestige and credibility of the United Nations. The harder the American administration has worked to make it irrelevant, the more relevant the U.N. has become, not just for the peoples of the world, but also for most Governments, including even some such as Tony Blair's, which are having to face enormous pressure of public opinion for apparently uncritically supporting the Bush administration in its confrontation with Saddam Hussein.

Strange as it may sound, at least a part of the credit for restoring the U.N.'s image should go to the U.S. President, George W. Bush, loath as he might be to accept it, since it was he who decided to go the U.N. route after berating it in his September speech to the General Assembly. Had he, at that time, taken the decision to go ahead unilaterally, he would have faced less flak than what he would if he were to take a unilateral approach today. Mr. Bush did so against his own better judgment and against the advice of many of his conservative advisers. Since, from all accounts, it was the Secretary of State, Colin Powell, who persuaded the President to take the matter to the Security Council, and since Mr. Powell has not succeeded so far in getting even a simple majority of nine members in support of the Anglo-American position, not to mention all the veto powers, it would be understandable if Mr. Bush were to be rather unhappy with Mr. Powell. It would be in keeping with politics, and not only in America, if those who favoured not getting mixed up with the U.N. from the beginning were to tell their boss: we had told you so. Should Mr. Powell not manage to cobble together the needed majority in the Security Council by the time it next meets on the Iraq issue, it should surprise no one if America were to have a new Secretary of State.

The person who most deserves

*On the issue of Iraq, concessions on both sides of the Atlantic would have to be worked out and that again means buying some time, which the U.N. can credibly provide.*

credit for the heightened credibility of the U.N. is Hans Blix, head of the U.N. Monitoring, Observation and Verification Commission for Iraq (along with El Baradei of the IAEA). The reason is simple. In his report to the Council on February 14, Mr. Blix said things that all those who had already planned the street rallies in 600 cities across the world would have liked him to say and did not say things which would have made life difficult for them. This is not to suggest for a moment that Mr. Blix was influenced by such considerations, but he surely was not unaware of the momentous nature of his testimony. By the same token, if Mr. Blix had given a report, based strictly on objective criteria, which would have been more favourable to the American position, he would have invited upon himself the most obnoxious adverse comments. Apart from loss of personal prestige, he would have, for no fault of his, harmed the credibility of the U.N., perhaps beyond repair.

Such is the nature of the game. It seems that Mr. Blix came under a lot of pressure from members of the U.S. Government before he finalised his report. Sometimes, the reality on the ground simply does not leave room for flexible or creative reporting! All said and done, Mr. Blix has done the U.N. and his own country, Sweden, proud.

All reports indicate that for various reasons including the deployment of the needed forces, the phase of the moon, etc., the Americans will not be ready to initiate military operations against Iraq for a few more weeks, until about the second week of March. There should, therefore, be not much problem for the U.S. to wait for another meeting of the Council on March 14 before decid-

ing on its next step. It is unlikely that Mr. Blix and company can come up with a report in a month's time which would be at complete variance with what they said on February 14.

The possibility, however, cannot be altogether excluded. In any case, it would give time to Mr. Powell, as also Mr. Bush, to work on their allies and to persuade them to fall in line. A delay of a few weeks would also buy the American administration some goodwill from its allies as well as the international community at large. Logic suggests, therefore, that there would be no war until the middle of March. Governments do, at times, behave logically.

Will the Americans have their way and succeed in getting the second resolution of their choice? Normally, there should not be much doubt on this score. This time, however, some of their allies, especially France and Germany, have taken a very tough position against them. The French President has even ticked off, in no uncertain terms, the new candidate countries ready to join the E.U. for prematurely lining up with the U.S. The rift in the NATO over preparations for Turkey's defence has been papered over but is bound to leave a bitter aftertaste for both sides. On balance, it should still be possible for the Americans to bring around their allies. It is highly unlikely that France and others will persist in their opposition to the breaking point on an issue of such overriding importance to the U.S.

The Americans, for their part, will also have to give something to their allies, whom the present dispensation in Washington has done its best to alienate, since it will be equally difficult for them to ignore their public opinion. In other words, on

the issue of Iraq, concessions on both sides of the Atlantic would have to be worked out and that again means buying some time, which the U.N. can credibly provide.

For India, this hot potato needs to be handled with pragmatism. There is no need to take a highly so-called principled position and be overly critical of the American position at this stage, nor would it be justifiable to express support for the Americans in what they are planning to do. Concern for the long-suffering Iraqi people, call for strict Iraqi compliance with its disarmament obligations in conformity with Security Council resolutions adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter and preference for any action under the instrumentality of the U.N. are the right notes to strike. There is, however, one issue on which India should not hesitate to speak up. It has been widely reported in the media that the Americans are contemplating the use of nuclear weapons against Iraq in the event of a war. They are talking of using the so-called nuclear 'bunker busters'.

These nukes would be used presumably if the Americans had intelligence that Mr. Hussein had taken shelter in a bunker. It may be recalled that the U.S. had bombed a civilian shelter during the Gulf War, which had resulted in a large number of casualties. A nuclear weapon, however tactical and smart, is bound to cause death and destruction which cannot be justified even if Mr. Hussein were to perish in the process. Granted that the passion and commitment of previous years are lacking in India's call for a nuclear-free world today.

Nonetheless, on an issue of such enormous importance, silence is not a desirable policy. It would also be in keeping with the present Government's position on non-use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon states, and would do no harm to its domestic image, for it to express unambiguous disapproval of any plans for the use of any kind of nukes in a war against Iraq.

22 FEB 2003

THE HINDU

## Syria, Israel lock horns at UN over terrorism <sup>27/2</sup>

**United Nations:** Israel and Syria clashed in the United Nations Security Council, charging each other with fomenting terrorism, identifying themselves as victims and claiming that they were in the forefront of the fight against the menace.

Taking floor for the first time in the Security Council on Thursday, new Israeli ambassador Dan Gillerman charged Syria with being "one of the world's foremost sponsors of terrorism" which supported "no less than ten separate terrorist organisations."

Syrian ambassador Fayssal Mekdad called Mr Gillerman "ignorant", and said his country has made "effective and rich contribution" in fighting global war against terror while more than 400,000 Palestinians living in his county are victims of "Israeli terrorism". The clash took place when the Council was discussing the work of its Counter-Terrorism Committee. In recent debates, Arabs had been strongly at-

tacking Israel and accusing it of indulging in "terrorism" in the occupied territories. Only non-members of the Council took part in the debate but Syria, which is a member, took floor at the end of the debate to respond to the Israeli charges.

Mr Mekdad strongly denied that Palestinian groups in his country had been conducting terrorist activities in Israel. "Israel cannot understand that occupation is terrorism."

The problem with Israel is that it only thinks about its children, its settlements, its occupation and the need to maintain occupation," he said.

But striking a personal note, Mr Gillerman said he was the only ambassador in the room whose four-year-old grandson needed armed protection in kindergarten and Israel was the only democracy in the world.

The world, he said, should never allow the apologists for terrorism to invoke the "mantra of root causes" to justify murder. PTI

22 FEB 2003

THE TIMES OF INDIA

## Focus on non-permanent members

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, FEB. 20. The U.S. and Britain are seeking to pressure the non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council even while making sure that enough diplomacy is in place to ensure that Russia, France and China do not cast their vetoes when a new resolution is introduced and voted on.

At the same time, there are also indications that France is doing its best to put its view forward among the non-permanent members as well. And indications are that matters will come to a head sometime this week or early next week. The formal voting declaring Iraq to be in "material breach" of its obligations is not expected before the top weapons inspector,

Hans Blix, gets before the Council on February 28. The French had asked for a Ministerial Meeting of the Council on March 14 but this is getting nowhere due to the objections of Washington.

The idea of the United States and Britain is that they would seek a toughly worded resolution from the Council and then set a deadline of perhaps of two weeks — at the most three — for Iraq to take specific steps.

The second resolution is being worked on at a fast pace and a full text will emerge when once Washington and London have agreed on the final language. "A resolution within the next few working days is highly likely," the British Ambassador to the United Nations said going on to say that "explicitly or implicitly" there will be a deadline. In New

York, the Security Council wrapped up an open meeting where non-members expressed their views of the ongoing crisis in Iraq. Nearly 60 nations opted to speak and most were critical of the U.S. attitude. The Iraqi Ambassador to the U.N., Mohammad al Douri, stressed that Iraq would continue to cooperate.

The envoy said what was being asked of Iraq was "not to handover weapons of mass destruction" rather to handover documents and evidence that Iraq was free of weapons of mass destruction. "This is what Iraq is doing," he said. The Bush administration remains totally unimpressed by the arguments of the international community that the weapons inspectors should be given "more time" or that the inspections process should run out its course.

THE HINDU

21 FEB 2003

# Blixkrieg in a divided UN

But there can be no doubt that USA's coercive diplomacy is working

THE long-awaited make-or-break report of UN inspectors to the Security Council has indicated mixed, even ambiguous, conclusions which are likely to be used differently by the US as well as those who urge restraint to buttress their respective stances. The head of IAEA, M. AlBradaei, has re-endorsed his earlier conclusions that the inspectors found no evidence that Iraq has nuclear weapons, or has restarted a weapons programme. Hans Blix, the head of UN inspection body, has reported that inspectors have "not found any weapons of mass destruction" although that, by itself, does not mean that there are no chemical and biological weapons in Iraq. Such ambiguity is likely to persist if for no other reason than the difficulties of accounting for such chemical and biological agents which have both civil and military uses, and will need time and effort to resolve.

Questions have arisen over the extent to which ballistic missile ranges violate Iraq's commitments. At the same time, even a small number of proscribed weapons unaccounted for add to the concerns that Iraq is not fulfilling its obligations. Iraq has attempted to balance the pressure with a decree to ban the import and production of weapons of mass destruction. This fulfils one of the major conditions laid down by the US, although the timing indicates its focus on countries that have adopted an approach

different from that of the US and UK to urge restraint in the use of force against Iraq. The coming days are likely to witness high-pressure diplomacy, not to talk of extensive public protests in the US and European countries. There is a need to step back from the pressure of events and actions by the great powers as well as the smaller powers, each one of whom is in pursuit of its own interests.

The issue at the moment is squarely with the UN Security Council which perhaps faces its biggest challenge in decades. The evidence placed on the table of the Security Council hardly justifies a UN mandate for initiating a war. In the face of the inspectors' report the US, therefore, would be unlikely to seek a resolution authorising use of force, and is more likely to press for a condemnatory resolution which would open the way for its future policy. At the same time, Washington could derive some satisfaction from the fact that its high-pressure threat of use of force with nearly 150,000 troops already deployed for war against Iraq, has been a major factor in producing greater cooperation by Iraq to fulfil its obligations, although, seen from the US perspective, it is far from adequate. In many ways, the situation is not very different from New Delhi's coercive diplomacy last year which produced positive results, even though not to the satisfaction of all.

17 FEB 2003

INDIAN EXPRESS

# UN creates task force on rebuilding post-war Iraq

**United Nations:** The United Nations has set up a task force on Iraqi reconstruction to prepare contingency plans for dealing with the devastation caused by a possible war against Baghdad, UN officials said on Thursday.

The new task force would supplement preparations already under way at the world body on how to deal with Iraq's hungry, wounded and homeless in the event war comes.

Disclosure of the new task force came as UN secretary-general Kofi Annan briefed Security Council diplomats on the world body's contingency plans for what many UN officials have begun referring to as "the morning after."

US humanitarian groups, meanwhile, criticised the Bush administration's plans for the aftermath of a war as inadequate and complained that it would not make a commitment to help the Iraqi civilians if Iraq used chemical or biological weapons.

Mary McClymont, president of InterAction, an alliance of 160 US-based humanitarian groups, also said in a statement the administration had been unwilling to share its contingency plans with non-governmental groups. The UN task force will be headed by Rafeeuddin Ahmed, a Pakistani national and former associate administrator of the UN Development Programme, officials said.

Mark Malloch Brown, head of the UN Development Programme, said recently that rebuilding Iraq could cost up to \$30 billion over three years and eventually soar to up to \$100 billion.

For comparison purposes, Mr Malloch Brown has estimated the cost of rebuilding Afghanistan at \$15 billion to \$18 billion over 10 years. UN agencies,

working with private aid and humanitarian agencies, began months ago to solicit funds and move food and supplies to countries bordering Iraq.

In the private sector, a coalition of dozens of aid groups has for weeks been holding regular meetings with officials of the US Agency for International Development's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, to coordinate their efforts.

Washington, which has warned Baghdad it will disarm Iraq by force if it does not soon do so on its own, is carrying on its own contingency planning for the aftermath of war. To date, the United States has spent \$18 million on humanitarian contingency planning for Iraq, a US official said on Thursday.

A confidential UN planning document prepared in December estimated that as many as 4.5 million to 9.5 million of Iraq's 26.5 million people could quickly need outside food to survive once an attack began. As many as half a million Iraqis could require medical treatment as a result of serious injuries suffered in the early stages of a war on Iraq, according to the document.

War would also produce a huge refugee problem, driving some 900,000 Iraqis into neighboring countries. Another two million could be driven from their homes but remain inside Iraq, where access by relief agencies would be a particular problem due to the fighting, the document said.

McClymont's statement said: "(US) Administration officials have told us they do not plan to take responsibility for the care and protection of Iraqi civilians should these weapons (weapons of mass destruction) be used during the war." Reuters

15 FEB 2003

THE TIMES OF INDIA

# Iraqi missile exceeds range: experts

By Sridhar Krishnaswami  
**UNITED NATIONS, FEB. 13.** In a development that is certain to add to the highly charged environment on Iraq at the United Nations Security Council on Friday, a team of experts has concluded that an Iraqi missile has exceeded the maximum range allowed under the U.N. resolutions.

The experts, who were appointed by the chief weapons inspector, Hans Blix, met here

for two days this week and determined that the Iraqi missile, Al Samoud 2, exceeds the maximum 150 km range allowed by the U.N. The experts were drawn from the five permanent members of the Security Council along with two others from Germany and the Ukraine.

The finding will undoubtedly bolster the position of the United States, which has been saying that Baghdad has not been conforming to the terms of the Council's resolutions. In fact,

the top American diplomat here, John Negroponte, has argued that it is now for Dr. Blix to recommend to the Council what is to be done.

"This is something that our own intelligence sources have been telling us for months. But apparently, it is a matter of agreement among the experts," Mr. Negroponte said. Dr. Blix, for his part, has refused to comment on the finding. "I will tell the Security Council on Friday," was his remark.

Atul Aneja reports from Manama:

Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister, Tariq Aziz, said that the range of the Al Samoud missile was neither serious nor a "dangerous violation."

On his arrival in Rome for a three-day visit, Mr. Aziz said that the missile, without the addition of the weight of its guidance package, exceeded the U.N.-stipulated range only by 16 km "and that is not a serious violation."

# Blix set to submit crucial report

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

UNited Nations, Feb. 13. Reflecting, among other things, the seriousness of the Iraqi crisis, the Foreign Ministers of Russia, China and France are returning to the United Nations Security Council to hear what the chief weapons inspector, Hans Blix, has to say on February 14.

It is not clear now if the British Foreign Secretary and the U.S. Secretary of State will also be attending the crucial meeting. Indications from Washington and here are that Colin Powell will also be attending. The top American envoy to the world body, John Negroponte, has said that a final decision on Gen. Powell attending the Friday session has not been made but "in all probability, he will plan to attend". The Foreign Minister of Germany is also expected to be here.

At a Congressional panel, Gen. Powell indicated that he might be present in New York on Friday, saying he planned to ask the Foreign Ministers of France and Germany if they were trying to get Iraq "off the hook." "That is the question I will put to them on Friday," he remarked, once again stressing that the issue before the Council was that of Iraqi disarmament and compliance and not more inspectors. "More inspectors aren't the issue. Dr. Blix hasn't asked for more inspectors," Gen. Powell told a Committee of the House of Representatives.

"We are reaching a moment of truth with respect to the relevance of the United Nations Security Council to impose its will on a nation like Iraq... And we are reaching a moment of truth as to whether or not this matter will be resolved peacefully or will be resolved by military conflict," the senior Cabinet official said.

The U.S. is watching with keen interest how the situation unfolds on Friday when the top U.N. official in charge of weapons inspections gives his second report to the Council. In his January 27 report, Dr. Blix was sharply critical of Iraq over its

obligations on disarmament — that while Baghdad was quite forthcoming on the process, there was little to show for by way of substance.

France is pushing for an agenda that would vastly expand and strengthen the weapons inspections process, an idea rightaway dismissed by the U.S. and Britain. The French "offensive" at the Council has been by way of a position paper that stresses targeted and intrusive inspections, stepped up aerial surveillance, mobile teams to check goods entering Iraq and tripling the number of inspectors, currently around 110.

The French idea has many takers within the 15-member Security Council. "It is important to push the Iraqis up against a wall and not leave them any way out regarding the questions they must answer and on which really active cooperation is expected," the French have maintained.

The response from the U.S. — which has been quite wary of the so-called last-minute games of Saddam Hussein — has been along expected lines. "We believe that Iraq has simply failed in every respect to cooperate sincerely with the inspection process. So, adding a few inspectors is not, in our view, going to have much meaning if you don't have that essential ingredient, which is Iraqi compliance," remarked Mr. Negroponte here.

The showdown between the U.S. and Britain on the one hand and Russia, France and China on the other is expected to begin almost as soon as Dr. Blix submits his report. Britain or the U.S. is expected to immediately introduce a resolution calling for the use of force to disarm Iraq, the language of which is already being worked on.

"I think it's fair to say that there are conversations under way about the language. It still remains somewhat early in U.N. time, but it won't be early in U.N. time for very long," was the remark of the White House spokesman, Ari Fleischer.

14 FEB 2003



# N Korea on Security Council agenda

agency closed-door session in the afternoon at the agency's headquarters in Vienna.

VIENNA, Feb. 12. — Raising the stakes in the nuclear stand-off with North Korea, the UN nuclear agency today reported the communist country to the Security Council for violating its international obligations.

The International Atomic Energy Agency's 35-nation board of governors made the decision — its last resort after months of intransigence by Pyongyang — in an emer-

gency closed-door session in the afternoon at the agency's headquarters in Vienna.

Russia and Cuba abstained from the vote, which sets the stage for possible sanctions. "We consider the sending of this question to the Security Council to be a premature and counterproductive step," Russia's representative said.

North Korea has not met its obligations under international nuclear accords, and the UN watchdog agency said it "remains unable to verify

that there has been no diversion of nuclear material" for weapons use. The IAEA urged the North to comply, but also said it "stresses its desire for a peaceful resolution of the nuclear issue and its support for diplomatic means to that end". In a statement, South Korea's representative called the action "a direct and inevitable consequence" of the North's withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty. "North Korea's actions endanger the peace and stability on the Kore-

an peninsula and in east Asia. It also threatens to undermine the international non-proliferation regime," the South said. But it added that reporting the North to the council "does not mean the end of diplomatic efforts". Russia spoke out strongly earlier today against sending the dispute to the Security Council, calling it pointless and provocative.

"In the current crisis situation on the Korean peninsula, it would be counterproductive and capable only of provoking a negative reaction

from Pyongyang," deputy foreign minister Mr Alexander Losyukov said. But the UN nuclear agency's director-general, Mohammed El-Baradei, who gave the board a report last month saying North Korea is not keeping its promises, had made it clear that the IAEA had little choice after having been backed into a corner. The crisis began in October, when US officials said North Korea had admitted having a nuclear weapons programme in violation of a 1994 agreement.

## UN-precedented Rift

Just when it seemed as if war would be upon us any moment, come two developments of enormous significance. One, the unprecedented Franco-German initiative to avert war. And two, the French and Belgium veto in NATO against the proposal to shift Patriot missiles to Turkey as part of war preparations — a first in the 54 years of NATO's history. The Franco-German counter-move will gain further ground should Russia — Vladimir Putin had already welcomed it — and China also extend support to it. Not surprisingly, the US has described the new initiative as a diversionary move against the proposed war. It is a fair bet that the US and UK would veto the plan when it is placed before the United Nations later this week. That will isolate the US-UK axis within the Security Council, forcing the two countries virtually to embark on a unilateral war. And yet, there can be no doubt that the new proposals offer a welcome way out of the mess, and as such ought to be wholeheartedly welcomed. Not only is the plan strategically more sensible, it is the one chance that war will yet be averted. According to the proposal, the number of inspectors is to be tripled and a UN force is to be introduced in Iraq to back up the inspection. The whole of Iraq will be a no-fly zone for the Iraqis, and the deployed US forces will continue to apply pressure on Saddam Hussein.

An immediate war on Iraq and intensive bombing may lead to weapons of mass destruction — particularly the chemical and biological weapons — if they exist, falling into the hands of terrorist organisations. In any case, tracking down and accounting for stockpiles of WMD in the aftermath of an intensive bombing campaign is bound to be a far more difficult task than compelling Saddam to account for it in an orderly manner by stepping up pressure on him. If Saddam refuses to accept the Franco-German plan he would only strengthen the case for military action. Already pressure on Saddam has led to his making some grudging concessions, though not entirely to the satisfaction of UNMOVIC. With further increased pressure as proposed by the German-French plan, either the inspection becomes fully effective or Saddam will face war. New Delhi should strongly endorse the Franco-German initiative, and not be taken in by possible blandishments that Washington may proffer at this crucial juncture to win friends and influence people to support what is increasingly looking like a jihad against Iraq.

1 1 FEB 2003

THE STATESMAN

# UN inspectors find 'positive change'

Baghdad, February 10

THE CHIEF UN weapons inspectors have said they sense a "good beginning" and a changed "positive attitude" in Baghdad toward their job of ensuring that Iraq is free of banned arms.

In their two days of talks, however, Hans Blix and Mohamed ElBaradei did not win immediate agreement, as expected, for U-2 reconnaissance flights over Iraq.

"Iraq has been, as we have said, helpful on process. We distinguish between co-operation on process and co-operation on substance. We had good help from Iraq on the process, we have noted repeatedly that access to sites has been obtained, to all sites that we wanted to see

## Iraq green light for US spy planes

IRAQ SENT a letter to UN weapons inspectors on Monday approving the use of US-made U-2 surveillance planes and pledged to pass legislation next week outlawing the use of weapons of mass destruction, Iraq's ambassador to the United Nations said.

AP, UNHQ

on next steps in the months-long Iraq crisis. The Iraqis gave the chief inspectors more documents to try to clarify lingering questions about 1980s chemical and biological weapons, and said they would establish commissions to search for additional documents and any leftover weapons.

"I'm beginning to see some positive attitude," Blix said. "We are leaving with a sense of cautious optimism." UN nuclear watchdog Mohamed ElBaradei said. "We see a very good beginning, and would like to see much more in the coming weeks."

But in Washington, George W. Bush, in another heavy hint of imminent war, said again that Iraq's "game is over".

Agencies

ended on Sunday were a prelude to crucial reports the two chief inspectors must file with the UN Security Council on Friday, new assessments of Iraqi cooperation that will help the council decide

# Iraq is cooperating, says Blix

Vienna: The chief UN arms inspector Hans Blix said on Friday Iraq appeared to be making fresh efforts to cooperate with UN teams hunting banned weapons, as Washington said the momentum was building for war with Iraq.



Hans Blix

Iraq said UN inspectors on Thursday held their first private interview with an Iraqi scientist linked to previous banned weapons programmes, a key UN demand. Mr Blix welcomed the move but said he wanted to see a lot more during his weekend visit to Iraq. "We want to see disarmament of Iraq through the inspection process," he said in a speech to new weapons inspectors in Vienna. "It requires active cooperation from Iraq. It is on process but on substance."

Weapons inspectors have demanded that experts be interviewed without other Iraqis present, to protect informers from reprisal. To date, Iraq has refused to allow U2 spyplanes to overfly its territory to monitor suspected sites, which U.S. secretary of state Colin Powell said this week were being doctored by the Iraqis to hide banned weapons programmes.

Mr Blix and Mr Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the UN's atomic watchdog agency, the IAEA, travel to Baghdad this weekend for talks with Iraqi leaders seen by many as President Saddam Hussein's last chance to avert war. They are to report to the U.N. Security Council on February 14. A critical report could increase pressure for a new UN resolution to authorise war.



Students at Baghdad's International School hug each other during a farewell gathering on Thursday. The students are abandoning the school as they get ready to leave Iraq ahead of a feared US air and ground onslaught.

US President George W. Bush said on Thursday he would support a new U.N. resolution authorising war against Iraq, saying "the game is over" for Saddam and challenging the Security Council to stand up to Iraq's defiance. "Having made its demands, the Security Council must not back down, when those demands are defied and mocked by a dictator," Mr Bush said. AFP

9 FEB 2003

WORLD EXPRESS

# UN members unmoved by Powell's call for war

**United Nations:** US Secretary of State Colin Powell has failed to persuade key Security Council members to back an early war in Iraq as attention shifted to a weekend trip to Baghdad by the top UN arms inspectors. However, Baghdad dismissed Mr Powell's presentation as an American stunt.



Colin Powell

French foreign minister Dominique de Villepin told Europe 1 Radio on Thursday that the time was not right to discuss a new UN resolution, opening the way for a US-led war to rid Iraq of any hidden weapons of mass destruction.

"A second resolution? We are not at the time for that right now," he said, adding that a "broad majority" in the Security Council wanted inspections to continue. "As long as the arms inspections make progress, we must pursue them," he said.

After Mr Powell's 80-minute address on Wednesday, nearly every council member agreed that Saddam Hussein's government fell far short of compliance with UN resolutions, but few made the leap to suggesting Iraq presented a big enough threat to warrant war.

The next step is a trip to Baghdad this weekend by Hans Blix and Mohamed ElBaradei, who heads the nuclear inspections. The two will address the Security Council on February 14.

The US, which has amassed troops in the Gulf region for an invasion, hopes the inspectors' reports will convince sceptics that further inspections are useless.

But France, China and Russia, who have veto power in the 15-member council, maintained past positions that UN arms inspectors needed more time. So did six other coun-

cil members.

Mr Powell sought to show that no matter how diligent inspectors were, Iraq could move equipment and bulldoze suspected sites in violation of a November 8 Security Council resolution. He used satellite photos to show before and after shots of suspected chemical weapons facilities that had mysteriously disappeared and played recordings of intercepted conversations between Iraqi military officials.

"Unless we act, we are confronting an even more frightening future," Mr Powell said. "Clearly, Saddam will stop at nothing until something stops him."

Later, he suggested that Iraq was on a road to war, telling CBS Television the inspectors' reports would be "very important".

Mr Powell told the Security Council Iraq gave orders to sanitise documents referring to 'nerve agents', hid sensitive documents in cars that were driven around the country and placed weapons scientists under house arrest to keep them away from inspectors.

Iraq dismissed Mr Powell's presentation. "What we heard was for the general public and mainly the uninformed in order to influence their opinion and to commit aggression on Iraq," Amir al-Saadi, Mr Hussein's scientific adviser, said in Baghdad.

In New York, Iraqi's ambassador to UN Mohammed Aldouri said weapons of mass destruction were not like aspirins, easily hidden but required "huge production facilities". Ten former communist countries broke ranks with western Europe by staunchly supporting the US and offered to join the coalition to disarm Mr Hussein.

Foreign ministers of Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania expressed their preparedness for war. Agencies

## Diplomacy prevails



- China, France and Russia want inspections to continue
- Arms inspectors to address UN on Feb 14
- Iraq dismisses Powell's presentation as American stunt
- Ten former communist countries offer to join US-led coalition against Iraq

## 'Saddam harbouring Al Qaida fugitive'

**Islamabad:** He's the closest thing to a smoking gun in Washington's intelligence arsenal, a man who could finally and definitively link Saddam Hussein with the world's most notorious terrorist and push reluctant allies to support a US-led war against Iraq.

Abu Musab Zarqawi has been linked to the murder of a US diplomat in Jordan and poison plots in half-a-dozen European countries. US secretary of state Colin Powell on Wednesday told the UN secu-

rity council that Osama bin Laden's man in Iraq sits atop a "sinister nexus" of terror, and that Saddam has been harbouring his nefarious group.

"We are not surprised that Iraq is harbouring Zarqawi and his subordinates," Mr Powell said. "Ambition and hatred are enough to bring Iraq and Al Qaida together."

Mr Powell made the point to the world body that the Al Qaida operative— known for his expertise at concocting poison and his fanatic zeal for terrorism— was a threat

to Europe, as well as America and the rest of the world. Some 116 operatives of the cell have been arrested around the world, Mr Powell said. "Zarqawi and his network have plotted terrorist actions against countries including France, Britain, Spain, Italy, Germany and Russia," he said.

Mr Powell and other US officials say Zarqawi has set up a camp in a corner of northern Iraq controlled by a tiny Kurdish extremist group, Ansar al-Islam. AP

# Powell fails to sway Council sceptics

Feb. 6 (Reuters): Despite a dramatic presentation by secretary of state Colin Powell of Iraqi attempts to thwart UN inspections, key Security Council members did not budge from their opposition to war.

While nearly every council member during Powell's electric 80-minute address on Wednesday agreed that Saddam Hussein's government fell far short of compliance, few made the leap to suggesting Iraq presented a big enough threat to warrant war.

The next step is a trip to Baghdad this weekend by top UN disarmament officials, chief UN inspector Hans Blix and his colleague, Mohamed ElBaradei, in charge of nuclear arms, after which they will address the Security Council on February 14.

France, China and Russia, which have veto power in the 15-member council, maintained past positions that UN arms inspectors needed more time. So did six other council members.

Late tonight, Nato's secretary-general turned the tables on France and Germany in a deadlock over measures to protect Turkey in case of a war in Iraq, giving them until Monday to agree or face isolation.

Bringing to a head three weeks of wrangling which has exacerbated transatlantic tensions, George Robertson set a Monday morning deadline for Nato's 19 allies to formally hand military planners a list of defensive tasks.

Continued resistance from France, Germany and Belgium at a highly charged meeting of Nato ambassadors on Wednesday suggested they were not moved by Powell's indictment of Baghdad.

Robertson used his prerogative as chairman of the North Atlantic Council to put the proposals under a so-called "silence procedure" — effectively daring any ally to take the political risk of vetoing them.

"The council this afternoon examined the arguments in great detail. We did not reach a final conclusion, but we've put a set of decisions under a silence procedure for decision early next week," the secretary-general told a news conference.

"Does that mean that there is a continuing disagreement over the timing issue in Nato? Yes, it does. But I am confident that we will reach a decision early next week," he said.

Under the procedure, the decision to start military planning will take effect automatically unless any member nation raises objections by "breaking the silence" before 0900 GMT on Monday.

As one diplomat put it, the manoeuvre left Thursday's story one of "Nato has still not agreed". But if any of the three countries holding out break the silence, "the finger will be pointed squarely at them for not supporting an ally."

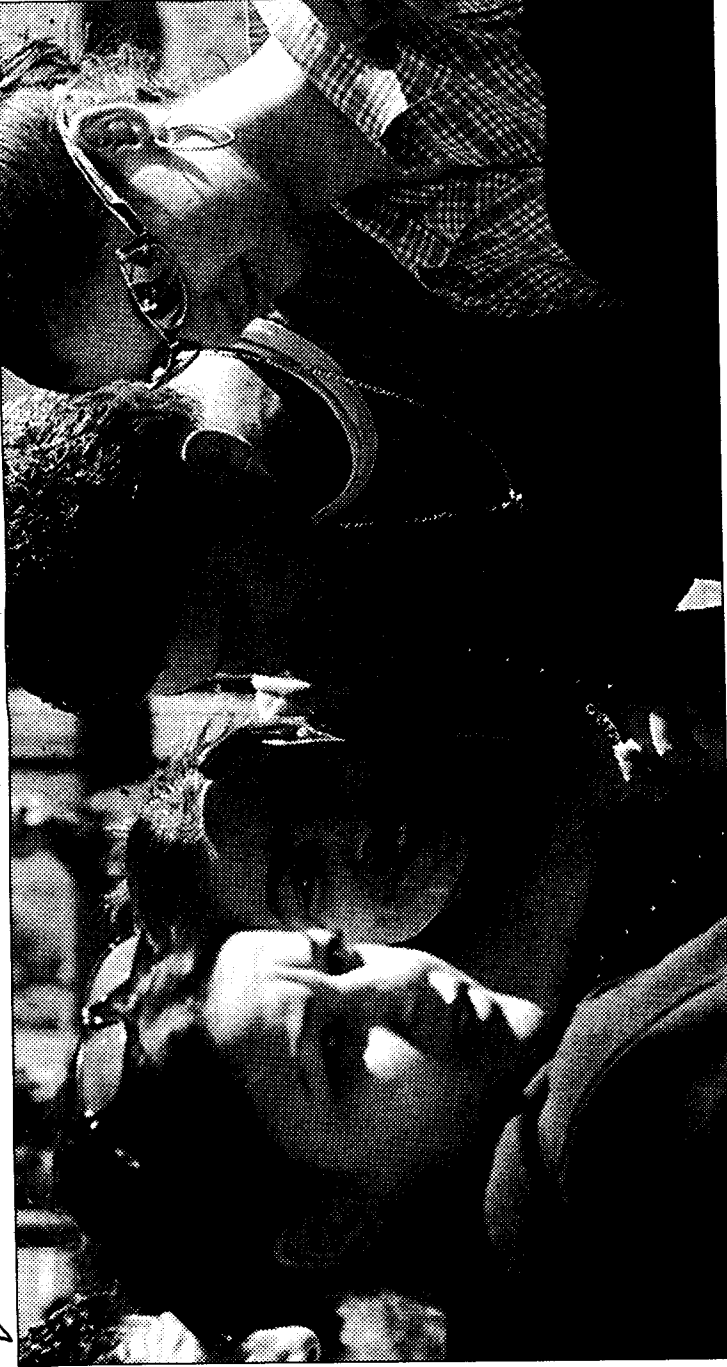
Officials said the tasks to be planned included the possible deployment to Turkey — a likely launchpad for a US-led strike on Iraq — of Patriot air defence missiles, early warning aircraft and special anti-chemical and biological warfare teams.

The Patriots would probably come from the Netherlands. The Awacs surveillance planes, based in Germany, are jointly held and operated by a consortium of 13 Nato nations.

Deployment would require a further unanimous decision.

Military planners would also look at how Nato could protect forces in European military bases and fill gaps left if troops are deployed from Balkans peacekeeping missions to Iraq.

But an initial US request for a wide range of support, including possible post-war humanitarian and peacekeeping tasks, had been narrowed down to make a consensus easier to reach.



Students at Baghdad's International School hug each other during a farewell gathering on Thursday. The students are abandoning the school as they get ready to leave Iraq ahead of a feared US attack. (AFP)

## Vatican fears wave of terrorism

diplomatic profile in the Iraqi crisis to try to avert war.

The pope will receive German foreign minister Joschka Fischer tomorrow and Iraqi deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, one of Iraq's most prominent Christians, will see the pope next week.

Martino gave a lukewarm reaction to evidence against Iraq presented by Powell to the UN yesterday. "My first impression is that this (Powell's new evidence) is vague," he said. He also described it as "unconvincing".

The Vatican has been on a collision course with the Bush administration over any war in Iraq, making clear it would not consider an attack a "just war".

hind the conflict.

"I wonder why those who want to make war do not take into account the serious consequences," Martino said.

"The reaction in the Muslim world will be enormous. Acts of terrorism will increase dramatically," said Martino, who served as Vatican representative to the UN for 16 years.

"Even if it is a two, three-day strike, what about later? What about the consequences inside and outside Iraq? I'm afraid that a war would completely affect the whole area of the Middle East... and will increase refugees, terrorism and endanger the environment," he said. Martino spoke as the Vatican raised its

PHILIP PULLELLA

Vatican City, Feb. 6 (Reuters): Pope John Paul's pointman for peace said today an attack on Iraq would unleash terrorism and kill civilians and called the latest evidence by US secretary of state Colin Powell unconvincing and vague.

In an interview with Reuters, Archbishop Renato Martino, president of the Vatican's justice and peace department, said the pope was deeply saddened by the recent turn of events.

He also stressed the Vatican's stand that it could not consider any US-led action against Iraq a "just war" and that there were perhaps economic reasons be-

In Christian teaching that means use of force must meet tough conditions of moral legitimacy. To be considered a "just war", all other means must be exhausted and force must be proportionate to the wrong it tries to rectify. Asked if he believed an eventual war on Iraq would be based on economic interests, he said: "That's part of it, too."

"The pope has said that war must always be a last resort. If there is a war we have to see if 3,000 bombs or missiles will strike only military targets without killing civilians, or if they hit power plants. Then hospitals don't have electricity. The entire population will suffer, the sick, the poor, children," he said.

## US to welcome 2nd UN resolution

**Washington:** In an indication that the US would like to involve the international community in a decision on Iraq, President George W Bush has said that he would welcome a second UN resolution on the issue but only if it meant that Saddam Hussein would be disarmed promptly.

However, he reiterated that last year's UN resolution gave the US the "authority" to declare war if Saddam Hussein did not disarm.

Addressing a joint press conference with British Prime Minister Tony Blair after the two leaders met here on Friday, Mr Bush said "(a second security council resolution would be) welcome if it is yet another signal that we are intent upon disarming Saddam Hussein. But (Resolution 1441) gives US the authority to move (towards war) without any second resolution."

That resolution, passed on November 8 last year, warned



**US President George W. Bush (R) and British Prime Minister Tony Blair answer questions during a joint press conference in the grand foyer of the White House in Washington DC, on Friday**

of "serious consequences" if Iraq did not disarm. "Saddam Hussein must understand that if he does not disarm, for the sake of peace, we will disarm him," Mr Bush said.

Mr Blair said confronting Iraq "is a test of the international community."

Mr Bush said secretary of state Colin Powell, in his presentation to the security council on Wednesday, would "make it clear that Saddam Hussein is fooling the world and that Saddam is a menace to peace in his own neighbourhood." PTI

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THE TIMES OF INDIA

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2003

W  
**A DISTURBING REPORT** H-10 29/1

THE REPORT SUBMITTED by the head of the international weapons inspection team, charged with tracking down and destroying Iraq's stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons and the infrastructure for the production of the same, has come as a setback for those who hoped that yet another West Asian war could be avoided. In submitting his report, the chairman of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC), Hans Blix, charged Iraq with not fully accepting the Security Council's resolution on the dismantling of its chemical and biological weapons programme. While Baghdad had cooperated with the process of inspections, especially in terms of providing access to sites and facilities used for the production of these weapons, it had to do a lot more in relation to the substantive aspects of this exercise, UNMOVIC observed. In elaborating on this observation, Mr. Blix noted that Iraq had not adequately answered questions pertaining to the past production of the nerve agent VX and ingredients for the germ agent, anthrax. Iraq had also failed to help the inspection teams track down stocks of artillery shells filled with mustard gas and 6,500 chemical bombs, the existence of which had been indicated by inspections undertaken in the past. The conclusions drawn by UNMOVIC do add weight to the accusation levelled by the U. S. administration that Baghdad is leading the U.N. inspectors on a wild goose chase even as it continues to hide its weapons of mass destruction (WMD) stockpiles. A parallel report submitted by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), to the effect that its inspection teams had not found any evidence to show that Iraq had revived its nuclear weapons programme, does not counter-weigh the UNMOVIC report since concerns on this score were much more muted.

With UNMOVIC having tabled a negative report on Iraqi compliance, Washington can be expected to become more vehement in its argu-

ment that military action is necessary since Baghdad will not give up its WMD programme voluntarily by cooperating with the inspection teams. This need not necessarily mean that an outbreak of war is imminent since the U.S. has apparently not completed the build up of the forces with which it intends to invade Iraq, destroy its WMD stockpiles and re-cast its regime. But the UNMOVIC report has weakened the case of those countries, such as Germany and France, which have insisted that Baghdad must be given every opportunity to cooperate with the weapons inspection teams. Mr. Blix's assessment, that Iraq did not appear to have come to a genuine acceptance of its disarmament obligations even though more than a decade had passed since it first gave its assent, would add strength to Washington's arguments. While it is imperative that the rest of the global community insist that the Security Council consider the issue once again before a decision is taken to initiate military action against Iraq, those seeking to forestall a war have to first deal with the implications of the UNMOVIC report.

Even before the UNMOVIC report had been tabled Iraq had declared that it had cooperated fully with the weapons inspectors. But it will be difficult for Baghdad to convince its audience since Mr. Blix has a reputation for impartiality quite unmatched by others who led the inspection efforts in the past. It is possible that Iraq's continued insistence on its innocence, especially when it contrasts with the assessment of impartial monitors, might be attributable to an accounting problem. Whatever the truth may be, it is now essential that Baghdad takes its friends in the international community, and neutral nations, into its confidence and come forth with a complete disclosure of its non-conventional weapons programme. It would be unwise for Baghdad to believe that the nascent anti-war sentiment in the West will build with sufficient speed and strength to block a U.S. administration that appears to be bent on war.

THE HINDU

29 JAN 2003



# Debate begins on Iraq in U.N. Council

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

UNITED NATIONS, JAN. 29. The U.N. Security Council has begun a closed door debate on Iraq, but no formal decision is expected today. According to senior diplomats, no formal or informal draft resolutions are doing the rounds.

The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Mohammad ElBaradei, prior to heading to the Council chamber told mediapersons that he still needed more time. "We are still in mid-course", he said, also making the point that time was "running out" for Iraq with the international community getting "impatient".

Prior to the start of the session, the Russian envoy to the U.N., Sergei Lavrov, denied that his country had softened its stance vis-a-vis military action against Iraq and insisted that the remarks of the Russian leader, Vladimir Putin, had been misinterpreted. Mr. Putin, according to him, had said, "We believe that inspections must continue and that if Iraq stops cooperating with inspectors and starts blocking inspections, we must look into it". Welcoming the statement of the U.S. President, George W. Bush, that the Secretary of State, Colin Powell, would be at the U.N. headquarters on February 5 with "more information" on Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, Mr. Lavrov said, "we would be interested in looking at it". The bottomline to the Security Council was that the information would have to be "convincing" evidence. "We would like to see undeniable proof."

The Security Council is deeply divided on how to go about the next phase on

the Iraqi crisis with many permanent members keen on allowing the inspectors to have more time to complete their task. "We have not seen any reason so far to undercut inspections", the Russian envoy said.

The top weapons inspector, Hans Blix, who heads the U.N. Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC), is being questioned on the report he submitted to the Council on Monday.

With him and going through the same process is the chief of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Mohammad ElBaradei. Dr. Blix was sharply critical of the manner in which the Saddam Hussein regime responded to the requirements of disarmament as demanded by Resolution 1441.

There is a thinking in some quarters that the next crucial phase would be in two parts: between now and February 5 when Gen. Powell addresses the Council; and the following week when after the presentation of the additional material, the United States could lean on the second Resolution authorising the use of force. There are some in the Council, Germany notably, who want to hear one more time from Dr. Blix on February 14. It remains to be seen if Washington would agree to this.

Meanwhile what has raised some eyebrows here is the statement of the U.S. President, George W. Bush, on Tuesday night that the Iraqis might have known in advance the sites that weapons inspectors planned to visit and that this had enabled Baghdad to clean up the sites.

THE HINDU

30 JAN 2003

# Tough battle ahead in U.N.

110-12  
31/1  
By Sridhar Krishnaswami

**UNITED NATIONS, JAN. 30.** The United States faces a really tough battle at the United Nations Security Council where a clear majority of permanent and non-permanent members are pushing for additional time for the weapons inspections process in Iraq. But Washington has told the Council that the time for "decision-making is fast approaching".

On Wednesday the Council debated the Iraq crisis for the whole day in two sessions. According to diplomats attending the sessions at least 11 out of the 15 members of the Council are for giving the inspectors more time in Iraq. "The majority in the Council is in favour of giving more time to the inspectors", remarked the top Envoy of France, Jean-Marc de la Sabliere. "As long as the prospect...of the disarmament of Iraq through peaceful means exists, we have to continue", he remarked. At the end of the day only Spain and Bulgaria were with Britain and the United States. But only Britain remained steadfast with the Unit-

ed States arguing that the fundamental issue was not that of time. "Time is for the birds if the attitude isn't right", remarked Britain's Envoy, Jeremy Greenstock.

The day-long meeting of the Council was held behind closed doors with members making their statements and quizzing the head of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission, Hans Blix, and the Chief of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Mohammad ElBaradei, on their reports presented to the Council this Monday. "...I will continue to plead for more time", remarked Dr. ElBaradei. The Security Council is not going to take up Iraq until next Wednesday when the U.S. Secretary of State, Colin Powell, will be here to present additional information and intelligence to the Council.

This meeting of the Security Council will see the participation of several Foreign Ministers — Britain, France and Germany have said their Ministers will attend and Washington is hoping that the Foreign Ministers of Russia and China also attend.

The February 5 meeting of the Council is critical for two reasons: the Bush administration will have to present compelling evidence to sway members; and after the presentation of the additional information, the United States will press for a Resolution declaring that Iraq is in "material breach"—code words for justifying military action.

There has been a long debate within this Bush administration on what intelligence information to share with the Security Council members and the weapons inspectors. According to one version, Gen Powell will be bringing with him satellite images of several things: mobile biochemical labs and the Iraqi clean-up operation of sites prior to the arrival of weapons inspectors. But Russia has made it clear that what the Council is looking for is "undeniable proof". Whether the Security Council will be swayed by the "new evidence" is another matter; but for now many members have applauded the President's decision to send his Secretary of State with additional information.

# UN long-haul hope for anti-war lobby

HASSAN HAFIDHAND  
LOUIS CHARBONNEAU

Baghdad/Vienna, Jan. 13 (Reuters): UN arms experts said today they wanted up to a year to complete their inspections in Iraq, as Washington massed a force in the Gulf that will be ready to wage war within weeks. The UN inspectors' comments were likely to further fuel an anti-war camp that includes much of the public in Europe and West Asia, many of their governments and the Pope.

Top UN inspectors Hans Blix and Mohamed ElBaradei go to Baghdad next weekend to demand Iraq account for missing stocks of such items as chemical bombs, nerve gas and missile en-

gines. But they appeared anxious today to slow the timetable of the attack the US threatens to launch if Iraq's answers fail to satisfy.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) spokesman Mark Gwozdecky said UN resolutions provided timelines of "somewhere between six and 12 months" for inspections.

"We think we'll get the time we need since no one has explicitly said that they disagreed with our assessment of the time it would take," he said in Vienna.

ElBaradei himself told reporters in Paris: "We need to take a few months... How long depends on the cooperation of Iraq."

Asked if the timeframe of a

year quoted by the IAEA spokesman was conservatively lengthy, ElBaradei replied: "Yes".

Tens of thousands of US troops have already been massed in the Gulf and analysts say military chiefs want any attack on Iraq to be launched within the next two or three winter months, before temperatures in the desert region rise.

"It is a far better option to wait a little bit longer than to have to resort to war," Gwozdecky told CNN separately.

He stressed that January 27, when inspectors are scheduled to report to the U. Security Council on Iraq's compliance with disarmament demands, was not a final deadline.

"There's a little bit of misunderstanding about this January 27 reporting date. The Security Council is asking us to report but not to have all the answers at that point," Gwozdecky said.

Inspectors briefed the Security Council last week on the Iraq inspections. "We heard unanimous support from the council members that they were four-square behind us, and we believe that they're willing to give us the time that we need," he said.

The newspaper *USA Today* said today the US force in the Gulf would not be ready for full-scale war until late February or early March because of logistical complications.

It said the delayed timetable had contributed to the willing-

ness of President George W. Bush's administration to accept extending arms inspections beyond the January 27 report.

Blix and ElBaradei told the UN Security Council last week that while searches in Iraq so far had not uncovered "smoking guns", Baghdad had left a "great many questions" unanswered.

Washington has signalled that if Iraq does not provide satisfactory answers, this could be deemed non-cooperation under UN resolutions and, therefore, a trigger for war.

The US announced new troop deployments over the weekend amid signs most governments in Europe and West Asia are nervous about war and want all other options explored.

A German official was quoted as saying France and many other countries in the new Council resolution only if they are to realise their goal of a common European foreign policy.

Saudi Arabia is mounting a diplomatic drive to ask fellow Arab states to unanimously oppose an attack on one of their own.

Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair are chief prosecutors of the case against Iraq, and say they have intelligence it has weapons of mass destruction.

But even in Britain, a poll showed only 13 per cent of people would support a war waged without UN approval.

HD-1A

2/1

## Pak. joins U.N. Council

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

**ISLAMABAD, JAN. 1.** Pakistan today joined the U.N. Security Council as a non-permanent member for two years.

The Foreign Office issued a statement reminding the 'crucial juncture' at which Pakistan was taking the seat and maintained that it would play its role with a 'deep sense of responsibility and in a constructive spirit'.

It is after a gap of 10 years that Pakistan is returning to the Security Council as a non-permanent member.

Though the Foreign Office sought to underline the importance of the 'crucial juncture,' the establishment in the country is fully conscious of the challenges it poses particularly given the unilateralism of the U. S.

Immediately after the unanimous election of Pakistan to the Security Council, its permanent representative in the U.N. was quoted as saying

that the country would strive for implementation of the U.N. resolutions on Kashmir. The statement of the Foreign Office did not touch the subject and merely talked about working for implementation of the U.N. resolution in collaboration with other members.

It is for the sixth time that Pakistan has been elected to serve on the Security Council. "Pakistan is strongly committed to the principles enshrined in the U.N. Charter.

Since joining the United Nations in 1947 Pakistan has worked actively for the maintenance of international peace and security," Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman said.

"Pakistan's contribution is reflected in its prominent role for decades in U.N. peacekeeping operations across continents, its efforts for peaceful settlement of disputes and its endeavours for equity and justice in the content of the economic and social issues on the global agenda," the spokesman said.

THE HINDU

12 JAN 2003

# Iraq slams UNSC for toeing US line

Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Jan. 2. — Iraq severely criticised the UN Security Council on Thursday for adopting a US-backed resolution that tightens controls on imports to Iraq, saying the measure would inflict “deliberate damage and harm to our people.”

The resolution, passed on Monday by a 13-0 vote with Russia and Syria abstaining, puts new limits on purchases of certain communications equipment and antibiotics which the USA and Britain said could be used by the Iraqi military in a war. Iraq's Deputy Prime

Minister, Mr Tariq Aziz, accused the USA on Thursday of with going ahead plans for war without awaiting the weapons inspectors' report on their findings. “Despite the presence of the inspectors, US aircraft carriers are heading to the region and US and British soldiers are arriving and making preparations,” he told a visiting Spanish delegation.

Iraq's criticism of the Security Council resolution came in editorials in the state-run press which is regularly used to express the government's views. The daily *Al-Jumhuriya* said the resolution, which deals with goods Iraq can import under the UN oil-for-food program, is new evidence of Washington's “hegemony” over the Security Council.

“This is a bad resolution which would lead to inflicting a deliberate damage and harm to our people,” the paper said. “They came in search for weapons of mass destruction and they did not find any weapons,” Mr Aziz said. “They demanded full cooperation and

we provided them with such cooperation and we hope they will say so. Yet, we do not know what they are going to say,” he said.

On Thursday, inspectors visited Iraqi air force warehouses 50 km north of Baghdad and the Ibn Firas State Company, 18 km North-west of the city, which makes drones for the air force. They also made a return visit to the Al-Fatah military industry site near Baghdad. They

did not say why they returned to the facility, which conducts research and development on missiles and rockets.

**Blix visit:** Chief UN arms inspector Mr Hans Blix is likely to visit Iraq before submitting a report on



UN inspection experts inside the Al-Fatah company near Baghdad on Thursday. — AFP

Baghdad's weapons of mass destruction to the UNSC on 27 January, adds PTI.

**Pakistani protest:** Pakistanis are expected to hit the streets tomorrow to protest against possible US military action in Iraq, amid a swelling of anti-US sentiment over FBI raids and US bombing at the border with Afghanistan, adds AFP from Islamabad.

**Israeli missile tests:** Ahead of a possible US strike against Iraq, Israel will conduct new tests on its Arrow missile interceptor to perfect its line of defence in case of an attack by Iraq, defence minister Mr Shahul Mofaz has said, adds PTI from Jerusalem.

**'War would be catastrophe for Arabs':** A US war against Iraq would hurt the Arabs as much as the creation of Israel in 1948 did, Palestinian leader Mr Yasser Arafat said in an interview published in the Egyptian government newspaper *Al Ahran* today, adds AFP from Cairo.

THE STATESMAN

3 10 2003

# UN arms experts scour Basra

Agence France Presse

BAGHDAD, Jan. 5. — UN experts today extended the hunt for arms of mass destruction to Iraq's second largest city of Basra in the south and the northern city of Mosul, as well as inspecting sites around Baghdad, Iraqi officials said.

They said five disarmament teams went to work. A team of inspectors visited a site in central Baghdad that was not immediately identified, according to officials at a press centre run by Iraq's information ministry.

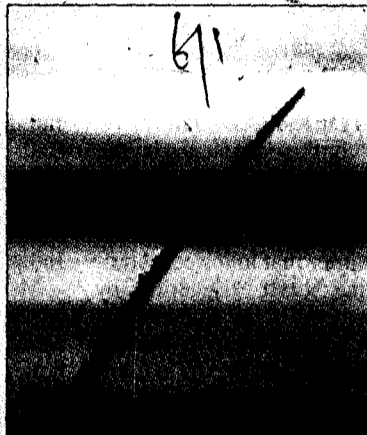
A team of missile specialists inspected the April 7 firm in Nahrwan, 20 km south-east of Baghdad, while a third team travelled to Ramadi, 100 km west of the capital.

In Mosul, a team inspected Ibn Sina hospital, while inspectors also visited a centre of oceanographic studies at the university in Basra, 50 km south of Baghdad, officials said.

It was the 37th day of inspections since the UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) resumed work in Iraq on 27 November after a four-year break.

**'Combat drill by citizen militia':** A people's militia in the province directly south of Baghdad that could be a bulwark in defending the capital against a possible US invasion has carried out a combat exercise designed to confront an enemy force attacking from several directions, an Iraqi newspaper reported today, adds AP.

In Mosul, meanwhile, a team of UN arms inspectors operating from a



An Israeli Arrow missile soars through the air shortly after its test-launch from Palmahim, south of Tel Aviv, on Sunday. The missile system will form a key defence in case of a possible Iraqi strike. — AFP

**BAGHDAD:** An official Iraqi newspaper said today that Baghdad had succeeded in neutralising UN Resolution 1441 on disarmament and proving to the world it has no weapons of mass destruction. Iraq has "pulled the teeth of Resolution 1441, neutralising it by being credible and giving assurances," *Al-Iraq* said. — AFP

just-opened base searched one of the northern city's hospitals. Other teams visited four sites in and around Baghdad and in the southern city of Basra.

The official daily *Al-Iraq* said the civilian militia of President Saddam Hussein's Baath Party carried out the war game yesterday in Babil province. Militiamen practiced deceiving an attacking enemy and fighting in urban and rural areas, the paper said.

# Pak in Security Council, India wary

**JYOTI MAJHOTRA**  
NEW DELHI: DECEMBER 31

**T**he world's most exclusive club, the UN Security Council, will roll over to admit a handful of new non-permanent members, including Pakistan, as of tomorrow. Watching from half a world away will be India, a close watch that lasts as long as two years, when the new terms expire.

Pakistan is one of five nations, besides Germany, Spain, Angola and Chile, that joins the Council at a time when the UN not only confronts the reason of its own existence after 57 long years, but also some of the most important issues of our time. Chiefly among them, terrorism, the impending war in Iraq as well as the continuing crisis in West Asia.

But diplomatic observers expect Islamabad's permanent representative (PR) to the UN Munir Akram (who refused to rule out the use of nuclear weapons by Pakistan during the crisis with India this summer) to use its presence in this high-profile body to bring up, again and again, the lack of action

and Pakistan in May, Islamabad will be ready to take its place as the President of the Council. The diplomatic sources said it would be "natural for the world community to attempt to persuade New Delhi to return to dialogue with Islamabad at the time." "If it hasn't happened already by then. They pointed out that with Pakistan at the helm of the Council, "things could become pretty interesting." MEA officials bravely say they are not unduly worried about Islamabad's presence in the high seat. They point out that Islamabad has much to be guilty about, especially over its linkages with the missiles-for-uranium deal with North Korea, with its continuous shelter of Al Qaeda elements in northern Pakistan (prohibited under SC resolution 1333), on terrorism (under SC resolution 1373) as well as the link between Pakistani nuclear scientist A.Q. Khan and Baghdad's weapons for mass destruction.

"The permanent members of the Security Council, especially the US, are not particularly happy about Pakistan's cooperation on terrorism," the officials said, adding, "even if they are not pushing General Musharraf on cross-border terrorism with

India, the fact remains that Islamabad's alibis either on the North Korea scandal on the Al Qaeda don't measure up.

Officials admitted that Pakistan could do other things, such as making use of the "Arria formula" to push for informal discussions by Council members of the Kashmir dispute.

Non-permanent members often use this label to raise issues that may not make it to the permanent table, just like Mexico did last summer when it sought to raise the Kashmir dispute. Its a thought that India dreads. When Mexico's PR invoked the "Arria formula," it took a major effort on the part of India's permanent representative to the UN Vijay Nambiar, to persuade the other members to drop the discussion.

Meanwhile, New Year's Day belongs to France which takes over as President of the Security Council for one month tomorrow. With UN rules awarding presidencies to each of its 15 members (five permanent and 10 non-permanent) for one month each, Germany follows suit in February. Guinea and Mexico will take turns to preside in March and April. When May Day dawns, Islamabad will be in the chair.

## Pak plans no tit-for-tat over visas

**ISLAMABAD:** PAKISTAN has said it isn't considering a tit-for-tat response to India's plans to tighten restrictions on Pakistanis visiting the country. We have seen these reports but at this point no reciprocal response is being planned, Interior Ministry spokesman Ifikar Ahmed said here yesterday. Ahmed did say that Pakistan would return Indians who have overstayed their visas, many of whom are stuck here because of a shutdown in rail, road and air links between the two South Asian neighbours following an upsurge in tensions last December.

Currently, Indians travelling to Pakistan have to specify which cities they wish to visit. Ahmed said this process will continue, but there are no plans to restrict the number of cities they can go to. —AP

on the UN resolutions on Kashmir.

Interestingly, in what amounts to a strange coincidence, by the time the snows melt in the mountains that separate India

# UN inspectors spies: Iraq

CAROL GIACOMO  
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 12

96-2  
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**I**RAQI Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan on Sunday accused UN weapons inspectors of spying as the experts visited at least eight sites.

In the government newspaper *Al-Jumhuriya*, Ramadan repeated accusations last week by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein that the inspectors were carrying out "intelligence" work, but confirmed Baghdad would continue to cooperate with them.

"We know they are playing an intelligence role. The way they are conducting their inspections and the sites they are visiting have nothing to do with weapons of mass destruction," he said. "But we are cooperating with the inspection teams in a positive way in order to expose the lies of those who have bad intentions."

Meanwhile, despite allies' reservations, the US maintained its war footing on Sunday amid indications it considers a January 27 report by UN inspectors the start



US soldiers of the 52nd Fighter Wing head for the Gulf region at Spangdahlem on Sunday. Reuters photo

of the end game in efforts to disarm Iraq.

The *Washington Post*, quoting a senior US official, reported on Sunday that while the administration believes the January 27 UN report will probably not provide a definitive trigger for war, "it is a very important day (marking) the beginning of a final phase" toward

decisive action. President George Bush says he has made no decision on whether to invade Iraq.

The Pentagon also launched an e-mail campaign on Saturday urging key Iraqi civilian and military leaders to turn away from President Saddam Hussein.

In a further effort to try and produce the kind of documentation

that would bolster a case for war, US officials say they expect arms inspectors to focus on Iraqi sites that have not been inspected before. Also, they have pressed the team to insist that Iraq validate claims it made in a report to the UN last month on its weapons capability.

Pentagon officials said on Saturday Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld had ordered another 27,000 troops to the Gulf. Defence officials said this means the US could be positioned for an attack by mid-to-late February with a force exceeding 150,000 soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen.

Increasing pressure from allies for Washington to allow UN weapons inspectors to complete their work in Iraq has raised speculation in recent days about whether US war plans might yet be slowed.

Among top officials in Europe who have spoken out against an early war is British Prime Minister Tony Blair. Blair told his Cabinet last week UN inspectors should be given time to do their job and that January 27 was not a deadline for military action. — Reuters

13 JAN 2003



# UN inspectors in Iraq find empty chemical warheads

**Paris:** Chief UN inspector Hans Blix said on Friday that he wanted "to have more explanations" from Baghdad about chemical warheads found on Thursday.

Mr Blix was speaking in Paris a day after his inspectors found 11 empty chemical warheads at an Iraqi munitions dump.

The Iraqis had claimed the find was not linked to any prohibited weapons, but the US said it was not surprised, adding that chemical munitions were one of the areas of omission in Baghdad's December arms declaration.

At a press conference alongside French President Jacques Chirac, Mr Blix said that he was not certain about whether the warheads were listed in the declaration. He added that the empty warheads would be destroyed.

The US has said it will be a "very good thing" for the world if Saddam decides on exile because "the last thing anyone wants is a war".

"Historically, some dictators have gone into exile," defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld said in an interview to CBS-TV.

Meanwhile, the US has failed to win support of other members in the UN security council to make January 27 as the cut off date for any confrontation with Baghdad, the day when the weapons inspectors are mandated to present their first major report on Iraq.

With chief inspector Hans Blix demanding more time, other members favoured delaying the deadline at least until March 27. US ambassador to UN John Negroponte said the US has questions about March 27 being the right date to outline the key disarmament tasks.

In Baghdad, on Friday, a defiant Saddam Hussein called on his people to rise up and defend the nation against a new US-led attack

and promised that Iraq's enemies would face "suicide" at the gates of his capital.

The 40-minute televised address, delivered on the 12th anniversary of the Gulf war, revealed no sign that Saddam was prepared to bow to demands of the UN nor step down as has been suggested by Arab leaders as a way to avoid war.

"The people of Baghdad have resolved to compel the Mogols of this age to commit suicide on its walls," Saddam said, referring to the US. "Everyone who tries to climb over its walls will fail in his attempt." He said the Iraqi nation was fully mobilised against the threat of a new conflict and told President George W. Bush to "keep your evil away from the mother of civilisation."

"The whole nation will rise in defence of its right to live, its role and sacred sites, and their (aggressors') arrows will go a stray or backfire, god willing."

In an appeal for Arab support, Saddam said, "western peoples and circles" had long interfered with the nations of West Asia, "in particular Zionist Jews and Zionists who are not of the Jewish people."

"Long live Palestine, free and Arab, from the (Mediterranean sea) to the (Jordan) river," he said. With the new of new war looming, Saddam called on Iraqis to "hold your swords and guns up high to remind those who might under illusions that your country will stand firm."

The current crisis loomed after the US and Britain accused Iraq of maintaining weapons of mass destruction banned under UN resolutions approved after the Gulf war.

Under a tough new security council resolution, UN inspectors have been searching Iraq since November to try to determine if Iraq has disarmed as it maintains. Agencies

18 JAN 2003

THE TIMES OF INDIA

# Iraq willing but up against time: UN

HT-15  
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Baghdad, January 19

THE UN nuclear agency chief said on Sunday Iraqi officials appeared willing to respond to some demands of weapons inspectors. But he said time was running out for Baghdad.

"We had specific questions to ask, we had certain proposals to them and I think they indicated responsiveness in some areas ... I hope we would have some results in the next few days and weeks," said Mohamed ElBaradei.

ElBaradei and chief UN inspector Hans Blix held a first round of talks with Iraqi disarmament officials earlier in the day in a last-ditch effort to get full Iraqi cooperation with weapons inspections before they report back to the UN Security Council on January 27.

"What we tried to do today at this meeting is to impress on the Iraqi authorities that the time is running out, that they need to adopt a pragmatic, proactive approach toward resolution of at least some of the outstanding issues," he said.

"I got the feeling that they got on board some of the messages that we have been trying to impress on them."

Blix and ElBaradei spent two-and-a-half hours at the Foreign Ministry with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's scientific adviser Amir al-Saadi and General Hussam Mohammad Amin, head of Iraq's National Monitoring Directorate.

"We are having good, constructive meetings," ElBaradei told reporters. "We are still going to meet on Monday. We are making progress," he added, without elaborating. The two men are due to leave Baghdad on Monday.

Demands that the inspection process be given a chance picked up steam on Saturday when a wave of anti-war protests rolled around the world from Tokyo to

## Kuwaiti cop held for sabotage plot

KUWAITI AUTHORITIES have arrested Mohammed Hamad Fahd al-Jubayed, a sergeant in the Kuwait national guard, on suspicion of plotting with Iraqi Intelligence to blow up a power plant and to commit other acts of sabotage. These included tampering with food sold to the US military, a Government spokesman said on Saturday.

Kuwait said Sunday its arrest of a Kuwaiti soldier suspected of spying for Iraq showed that Saddam Hussein was planning "terrorist attacks" in Kuwait, further inflaming tension between the two Gulf War foes.

USA Today, Kuwait City

London and the United States — where tens of thousands attended celebrity-led rallies.

Blix said on arrival on Baghdad that it was in Iraq's power to avert war. "We don't think war is inevitable. We think the inspection process we are conducting is the peaceful alternative, and it requires very active Iraqi cooperation," he said.

ElBaradei's spokeswoman Melissa Fleming underlined the inspectors' message of the last few days: "What we are looking for is proof that they have destroyed weapons, proof that they haven't produced (weapons). We are saying Iraq has to make the effort itself to prove it, not just open doors."

The inspections have yet to uncover compelling evidence of banned weapons programmes, but the United States has said they are designed as a test of cooperation with a UN disarma-

ment resolution rather than an effort to find hidden arms.

US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said in Washington on Sunday that the United States would know "in a matter of weeks" whether Iraq was cooperating fully with the inspectors.

"The test is: 'Is Saddam Hussein cooperating?'...he's not doing that," Rumsfeld said on the *Fox News Sunday* television programme. "If the test is, are the Iraqis going to cooperate — that's something you're going to know in a matter of weeks, not in months or years."

He said Washington had "a lot of intelligence" to establish that Iraq had chemical, biological and nuclear weapons programmes, and that there was significant information about Iraqi "efforts to deceive" by hiding and dispersing weapons.

UN teams, who returned to Iraq in November after four years away, headed for at least seven sites in search of traces of the weapons programmes that Iraq says it has eradicated.

Blix had said before leaving Cyprus that Saturday's discovery of documents at the home of an Iraqi scientist was a worrying indication that Iraq was choosing to hide relevant papers that it should be actively delivering to the inspectors.

UN inspectors had raided the scientist's house and found 3,000 pages of material apparently related to enrichment of uranium that could be used for nuclear weapons.

"Iraq has an obligation to give a full declaration, so they (documents) should have been given. Why are they still there? Are there more?" he said.

"These are not weapons of mass destruction (WMD). Documents are not WMD. Shells are not. But they are a sign that not everything has been declared and that is worrying."

Reuters

# Powell asks UN for strong action against Baghdad

United Nations, January 21

BRUSHING ASIDE near unanimous opposition to a military action to disarm Iraq, US Secretary of State Colin Powell has warned the United Nations Security Council against shirking from its duties and failing to take action against Saddam Hussein.

"If the United Nations is going to be relevant, it has to take a firm stand with respect of Iraq's continuing disregard of its obligations under the Council resolutions," he told reporters after the Council meeting on combating terrorism.

Iraqis are not completely cooperating with the inspectors, he said, adding Baghdad knows what it has and giving information in "dribbles" under pressure was not acceptable. "We cannot be shocked into impotence because we are afraid of difficult choices that are ahead of us," he bluntly told the Council, making clear that the US intends to take a hard

line against Baghdad.

"We cannot shirk our responsibilities of dealing with a regime that has gone about developing weapons of mass destruction, that has committed terrorist acts against its neighbours and against its own people, trampled human rights of its own people and its neighbours," he said.

Addressing the Security Council meeting and later talking to reporters, Powell made it clear that the UN inspectors do not have much time so far as the US was concerned. They are to present first major report on Iraqi disarmament and cooperation on Monday next and on January 29, when the Council would discuss it, the US is expected to present evidence against Iraq. The inspectors are expected to seek more time but Powell, at the United Nations and top American officials in Washington, made it clear that they are opposed to it, diplomats said.

German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer was most vocal in

expressing opposition to military strike, warning that any such action would involve considerable and unpredictable risks for global fight against terrorism. "These are the fundamental reasons for our rejection of any military action," he said in the first major statement made by Germany since it joined the Council as a non-permanent member on January 1.

French Foreign Minister Dominique De Villepin said his country would not associate with the military action in the event the US came to the UN for another resolution explicitly seeking use of force. "We believe today, nothing justifies envisaging war," he told correspondents, arguing that use of force should be ultimate resort.

Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov advised US against unilateral military action. British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw wanted to "wait and see" what the inspectors report but also warned Saddam that "time is running out."

PTI

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

22 JAN 2003

# Blix: More inspectors for Iraq

Press Trust of India

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14. — Chief UN inspector Mr Hans Blix has revealed that the UN intends to send more weapons inspectors to Iraq and that the teams would stay there at least until March.

He said 60 new inspectors, most of them Americans and Arabs, began training yesterday and would soon bring his total inspection team to nearly 200. "I am upscaling as fast as I can" in response to Security Council directives," he said.

"The Pentagon may not be impressed by my numbers or by what we do. But there is a limit to how many inspections you can do in a day," he told the *Washington Post*.

Besides their headquarters in Baghdad, the UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency have opened a branch office in Mosul. The team has also added eight helicopters and was planning

its own high-altitude surveillance throughout Iraq, using unmanned aircraft.

Mr Blix said although they provide no guarantee of finding all underground weapons sites or mobile laboratories Iraq is alleged to have, the presence of so many inspectors fanning out around the country "will constitute a deterrent" to any Iraqi action. "It is a form of containment," he said.

Also, Mr Blix said the upcoming report to the Security Council on 27 January will mark "the beginning of the inspection process, not the end of it."

Mr Blix said he will give the Security Council an "interim update" on the inspections and that he does not expect any definitive conclusions in that report.

Although the November resolution of Security Council Resolution 1441 — which the USA often quotes — asked UNMOVIC and IAEA to report on Iraqi cooperation 60 days after the inspection began, Mr Blix said

# UN awaits Iraq report amid wardrums

EVELYN LEOPOLD & JONATHAN WRIGHT  
UNITED NATIONS/DAVOS,  
JANUARY 27

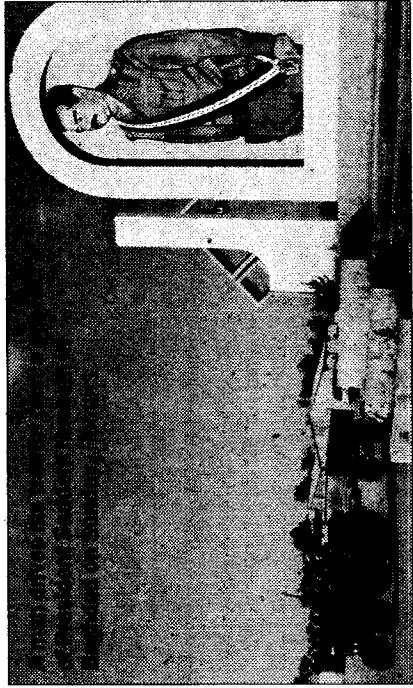
**H**OURS before UN arms inspectors deliver a crucial report to the UN Security Council on Monday, the US made clear it would go to war alone if it could not muster support among a deeply divided international community. Chief Weapons Inspector Hans Blix has said he would report that Baghdad did not account fully for its dangerous weapons in a 12,000-page declaration submitted on December 7.

He also is expected to say that Baghdad has hampered interviews with Iraqi scientists and blocked the use of U-2 surveillance flights

over all parts of Iraq. Blix said when questions arise about anthrax, the deadly VX nerve gas or Scud missile sites, the Iraqis "simply say there is nothing left of this, and there is no evidence that we can view, there are no more documents."

El Baradei, Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency in charge of nuclear arms, may be less critical, with his spokeswoman, Melissa Fleming, saying he would not reveal any banned atomic arms program. "I think we are making good progress in the nuclear area. We, just as I said, need to exhaust the option of inspection," El Baradei said.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell brought the case for military action to a highly sceptical audience at the World Economic Forum at Davos in the Swiss Alps on



Sunday. "We are in no great rush to judgment tomorrow, or the day after, but clearly time is running out," Powell said.

He said the US would study the report of the inspectors and consult other members of the Security Council before acting. But

he made clear time was running out. "We will not shrink from war if that is the only way to rid Iraq of its weapons of mass destruction," Powell said. "When we feel strongly about something, we will lead, we will act, even if others are not prepared to join us."

Germany, who holds the rotating presidency of the council for February, would like another report from inspectors on February 14. British PM Tony Blair has also said inspections should continue. "I don't believe it will take them months to find out whether he is cooperating or not, but they should have whatever time they need," Blair said on BBC television.

Some analysts believe that the US and Britain may give an ultimatum to Iraq, setting out steps Saddam must take if he wants to avert an attack. Blair meets Bush at Camp David on Friday.

French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin said conflict with Iraq was not inevitable, but Saddam had to cooperate with inspectors or face "a war of incalculable consequences." —Reuters

# UK demands life term for Muslim cleric

By Rashmee Z. Ahmed  
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**London:** In a forceful attempt to make Britain too hot to hold radical Islamists and inflammatory preachers from around the globe, the authorities are arguing for life imprisonment of a Muslim cleric significantly named by the White House as "linked with Al Qaida".

The cleric, Shaikh Abullah El-Faisal, originally a devout Christian from Jamaica, is being tried here for exhorting his followers to kill Hindus, Jews and Westerners throughout his four-year travels in the UK. Britain's Muslim community has publicly rejected El-Faisal's views as "ugly, shameful and unrepresentative" but legal sources said El-Faisal's hate-filled rants, appear to have been taken seriously enough by the White House. The rants incite young people to "jihad" and even gave his blessing to dropping nuclear bombs on "non-believers' countries".

The US administration has specifically listed El-Faisal's arrest last February as an example of "direct (UK governmental) action against Al Qaeda", the sources pointed



El-Faisal

out. As part of its global report card on countries waging the war on terror, the White House's UK listing names Yasser-al-Siri, Sulayman Bal-al Zainulabidin and El-Faisal.

The list, which ranges across Kenya, Malaysia and elsewhere, details Spanish-Italian arrests across Europe of groups such as the Varesse and "terrorist Mohamed Bensakhria who has links to Osama bin Laden".

El-Faisal, whose activities were first raised in the British parliament in February 2002, is believed to have lived in east London on handouts from the local council and the European Development Fund. Twelve hours of El-Faisal's taped inflammatory rants against non-Muslims, Hindus, India and Jews are being heard by the London court jury, which has uniquely been composed with a specific ban on Hindu and Jewish jurors.

The trial, under an obscure and little-used 140-year-old Victorian law, could result in life imprisonment.

MPs of Britain's governing Labour Party have been calling for El-Faisal's deportation on grounds of promoting "Nazi-type race hatred". He has, in the past, preached to four British Pakistani men known as the Tipton Taliban because they left their English hometown Tipton to fight alongside the Taliban.

24 JAN 2003

THE TIMES OF INDIA

# Police raid London mosque ✓

Press Trust of India ✓

LONDON, Jan. 20. — In a pre-dawn swoop, the Scotland Yard today raided a mosque in north London and arrested seven people in connection with investigations into recent discovery of traces of the deadly poison ricin.

The mosque in Finsbury Park has attracted controversy over its connection with radical Muslim cleric Abu Hamza, who faces exclusion as an agent of the North London Central Mosque Trust because of "inflammatory and highly political" speeches at prayers.

At least 150 police per-

sonnel, including armed officers and others carrying ladders and battering arms, raided the mosque. Two helicopters were seen circling overhead, training spotlights on the north London mosque and two

neighbouring three-storey houses which were also raided. A Scotland Yard spokesman said the raid was part of extensive investigations into terror activities in the UK.

"Although this is linked

to arrests made in north London, at this stage there is nothing to suggest chemical substances are on the premises. Seven people have been taken for questioning," he said. The seven suspects, who were living in the mosque, were arrested under the Terrorism Act 2000 and taken to central London police station. British home secretary Mr David Blunkett said the operation had his "complete support". "As I made clear yesterday, and repeatedly in recent weeks, we must take firm action to investigate, and if necessary deal with, any potential threat to public safety without fear or favour," Mr Blunkett said.



Abu Hamza (3rd from right) is escorted from the Central Criminal Courts after giving evidence at a trial in London on Monday. — AFP

THE STATESMAN

21 JAN 2003

✓  
'I'll just carry on preaching until they stop me physically'

# UK cleric to fight eviction

London, Jan. 17 (Reuters): One of Britain's most outspoken Muslim clerics said today he would fight plans to evict him from a London mosque which watchdog officials allege has become a focal point for Islamic extremism.

Abu Hamza al-Masri, leader of the group Supporters of Sharia, said he had no intention of answering complaints from the Charity Commission that he had abused his position at the mosque in Finsbury Park, in the north of the city.

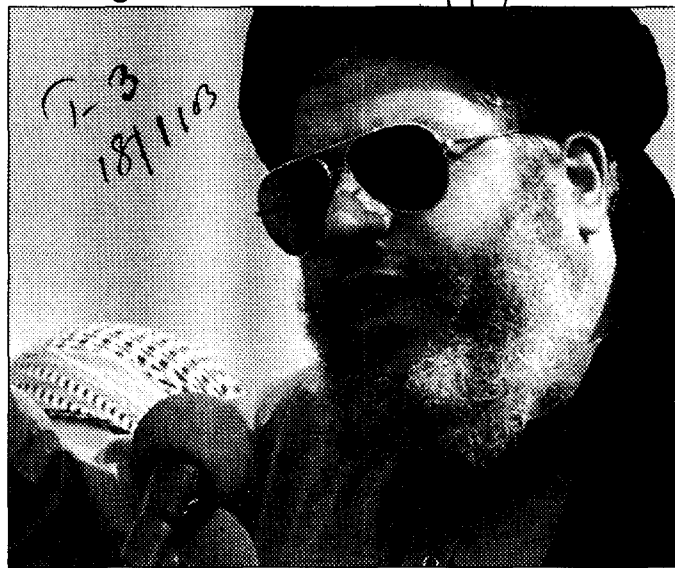
"I'll just carry on preaching until they stop me physically, by putting me in prison," Masri said. "As long as I'm free I'll continue preaching. I'm here to serve my religion, to do my duty and to serve the community which has chosen me to do the work."

Egyptian-born Masri confirmed a report in the *Daily Telegraph* newspaper which said the Charity Commission had given him until Monday night to comply with their request.

The paper quoted David Rich, head of investigations at the Charity Commission, as saying Masri had taken over the mosque to the exclusion of the trustees.

"We have given him written notice that we intend to exclude him from his post permanently," Rich said. "We have heard nothing from him and if we continue to hear nothing by the end of the day on Monday we will remove him."

The Finsbury Park mosque is



Hardline British cleric Abu Hamza al-Masri. (Reuters)

a registered charity, which gives the commission the right to intervene in its affairs if it believes the building is being used for political purposes.

It has already warned Masri for making inflammatory comments.

Masri has become Britain's most notorious Muslim cleric due to his praise for Osama bin Laden's al Qaida network and his outspoken criticism of Western policy towards the Islamic world.

The British government and police have said that, while they keep an eye on his activities, they are powerless to curb him because of the mosque's charitable status. Moderate Muslim

groups dismiss Masri and others such as al-Muhajiroun's founder, Syrian-born Sheikh Omar Bakri Mohammad, as fringe voices and accuse British media of giving radical groups too much attention.

## North African charged

A north African man accused of murdering a British policeman and attempting to kill four other during an anti-terror raid in Manchester appeared in court today, handcuffed and flanked by several armed police.

Kamel Bourgass, 27, appeared at the high-security Belmarsh magistrates court in south London after his arrest on Tuesday night when a police

raid ended in the death of detective constable Stephen Oake.

Bourgass, who was guarded by seven officers wearing heavy body armour, was charged with murdering Oake and attempting to murder four other officers.

He entered no plea and made no effort to apply for bail during the brief proceedings, which were translated into Arabic for him. Judge Timothy Workman remanded him in custody for a further court appearance on January 27.



# Bangla visitors on US watchlist

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K.P. NAYAR

Washington, Jan. 17: India's recent charges that Dhaka had become a haven for terrorists found an indirect echo here this week with the US Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS) adding Bangladesh to its list of countries whose nationals visiting or temporarily staying in America must be fingerprinted, photographed and registered with the authorities.

The decision was greeted with anger from Dhaka, which has been loudly protesting its innocence on the terrorist charge, detaining foreign journalists for fear of reports on the issue and cracking down on everybody but the terrorists themselves.

Pakistan is already on this list and its foreign minister, Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri, has advanced a visit to the US by 10 days to Sunday to urgently discuss the issue with authorities here.

Kasuri's decision follows widespread panic among Pakistanis in the US over the registration procedure, largescale arrests of Pakistanis who tried to register and the flight of hundreds of Pakistani families from the US to Canada seeking political asylum.

Bangladesh was added to the 25-nation list this week along with Indonesia and three countries closely allied to the US militarily and politically: Egypt, Jordan, and Kuwait. All but North Korea on this list of 25 are countries with a majority of Muslims.

With the latest additions, all Bangladeshi males over 16 years arriving in the US or living here as non-immigrants must register between February 24 and March 28. US citizens of Bangladeshi origin and those holding green cards are exempt. So are refugees and diplomats.

It is estimated that there are about 100,000 Bangladeshis in the US. A large number of them are waiting for their green cards and would, therefore, fall in a grey area regarding their ability to stay on in this country.

The US is the biggest overseas market for Bangladeshi garments and there are fears that the new rule will affect business as exporters face hassles not only on arrival but also in getting visas to America.

The US ambassador to Bangladesh tried to douse the rising anger in Dhaka over the restrictions in a statement that registration was to "better track all foreign visitors" to the US.

18 JAN 2003

# US tightens passenger identification to root out terrorism

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**Washington:** The year 2003 was set to ring in a new, tougher regimen of passenger identification aimed at rooting out potential terrorists, according to US officials.

Beginning January 1, every passenger arriving in or departing from the United States, by plane or boat, will undergo unprecedented identity checks, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) said on Wednesday.

As part of a programme to "enhance public safety and national security," said the INS, all commercial carriers will be required "to submit detailed passenger manifests to the agency electronically before an aircraft or vessel arrives in or departs from the United States."

Passenger information to be submitted in advance of travel should include complete name, date of birth, citizenship, sex, passport number and country of issuance,

country of residence, US visa number and date and place of issuance.

In addition, said the INS, alien registration numbers and addresses while in the US will be required where applicable.

"The advance submission requirement will help INS verify the identities of individuals being transported, which ensuring enforcement of US immigration laws," said the INS.

Since the September 11, 2001, attacks on New York and Washington, carried out primarily by aliens in the US illegally, US authorities have been continually tightening border controls, particularly concerning persons coming from Arab countries.

The new measures announced by the INS have been called abusive by civil liberties groups and representatives of the Muslim community in the US. AFP

## Lanka, LTTE to meet

**Colombo:** Sri Lanka will seek a compromise with Tamil Tiger rebels over their demand for shrinking military bases in the name of resettling refugees, a top defence official has said.

Defence secretary Austin Fernando said the Scandinavian team monitoring a truce between government forces and the rebel Liberation

Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) had called for a fresh meeting between the two sides within two weeks to discuss the issue.

The LTTE had insisted that the army give up private property it is currently occupying in the northern peninsula of Jaffna and allow thousands of civilians to go back to their homes. Agencies