

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. CHAFEE. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask that the Senate stand in adjournment following the remarks of Senator LEVIN, under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CHAFEE. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, I thank the Chair. I thank the Chair for her usual courtesy and patience.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS RELATING TO IRAQ

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, I want to take a few moments to speak about the important developments that have taken place over the last several days relating to Iraq.

On Monday afternoon I met for about an hour with Unscm Executive Chairman Richard Butler. Yesterday, General Tony Zinni, the Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Central Command, who would lead any strike that the United States might carry out against Iraq, testified before the Armed Services Committee. I believe that the remarks of Chairman Butler and the testimony of General Zinni would be of interest to my colleagues and to the American people.

I met with Chairman Butler in his office at United Nations Headquarters in New York. Senator WARNER and I had traveled to the Persian Gulf region with Secretary of Defense William Cohen, at the Secretary's invitation, last month and, while Senator WARNER was unable to travel to New York on Monday, a member of his staff, Judy Ansley, was able to attend my meeting with Chairman Butler.

During the course of this meeting, we covered a host of issues concerning Unscm inspections relating to Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. I will not attempt to cover all those issues today but I did want to recap some of the major points that he made.

One of the most important points that Chairman Butler made was that people should not get bogged down in debating the detailed procedures that are being worked out at UN headquarters for Unscm to inspect the so-called presidential sites. Instead, the international community should focus on Iraq's clear commitment in the Memorandum of Understanding to finally implement the UN Security Council resolutions to give Unscm and the IAEA immediate, unconditional

and unrestricted access to any site in Iraq.

Chairman Butler noted a fundamental historic reality that from day 1 Iraq has sought to limit, mitigate, reduce and, in some cases, defeat the law (i.e. UN Security Council's resolutions) by a variety of devices.

I want to just spend one more moment to restate that point. The details are obviously important. But the more you focus on the details that need to be worked out, the more that let's Saddam Hussein off the hook. And the hook here, which he is on and must be kept on, is his commitment and the U.N. resolution requiring that UNSCOM and the IAEA be given immediate, unconditional, and unrestricted access to any sites in Iraq.

That is the goal. That is the commitment. That is the requirement. That is what Iraq is bound by. That is undisputed.

While, again, details are important, we should not be focusing on the details because the more we do the more Saddam Hussein is going to say, "Oh, all those are details subject to negotiation." We don't want this to get bogged down in negotiations over details. We want to hold Saddam Hussein's feet to the fire. And the fire here is an unqualified commitment to immediate, unconditional, and unrestricted access to any site in Iraq, including the Presidential sites.

Saddam is the one who is going to try to raise and create ambiguity.

Again, while, of course, there are details to be worked out, we should be the ones who are focusing on the clear, unambiguous requirement to open these sites to access.

Chairman Butler confirmed that after Unscm became aware, despite earlier denials, that Iraq had possessed 2,100 gallons of anthrax and 3.9 tons of VX, Iraq claimed that it had destroyed those substances. He noted first of all, that was a violation of the UN resolutions, since destruction of such substances is to be carried out by Unscm, and second, that Unscm was unable to verify that Iraq had destroyed them.

Chairman Butler made the point that since 1995, Unscm had found important indicators of weapons of mass destruction programs that Iraq has sought to conceal and about which they have lied to Unscm. He noted, moreover, that Unscm has evidence of a connection of significant biological substances to Iraq's special security organization, thus demonstrating that Saddam Hussein uses the same apparatus to seek or manufacture weapons of mass destruction that he uses to keep himself in power.

Chairman Butler stated that Unscm only goes looking for things in two circumstances: one, when they have evidence that supports a search, such as documentation of the possession of growth media which could be used for biological weapons; and two, when Iraq lies to Unscm. In the latter case, a broad forensic investigation has to be

undertaken. He was quick to add that just because a specific inspection doesn't "hit pay dirt," doesn't mean that the search is over, particularly in view of Iraq's track record of lies and deception.

Chairman Butler described the Memorandum of Understanding that UN Secretary General Kofi Annan negotiated with Iraq as a "high-level political commitment" that he "hopes to heavens the Iraqis observe." He noted that he has talked to the Secretary General and has received the clarification that when a site, presidential or not, is inspected by Unscm, it will be his decision as to when and where the inspection takes place, how it is inspected, and who the members of the professional, technical part of the team are who will actually carry out the inspection. He also said that those decisions will be made by the Director General of IAEA with respect to nuclear matters. He added that this is consistent with the Secretary General's intention, that the details were being formalized within the United Nations, and that he would let me know if there were any changes to those details.

Chairman Butler added that the diplomats who will accompany Unscm inspectors as observers to the eight presidential sites will be there to ensure not only that the Unscm inspectors comport themselves with dignity, but also that the Iraqis behave properly as well.

Finally, Chairman Butler noted with concern that there has been a three and one-half month hiatus in some of Unscm's work in Iraq, but that he is very pleased that this agreement was worked out that should permit Unscm to resume the full spectrum of its activities and that they will shortly test the agreement.

Madam President, Senator WARNER and I have written to the Majority Leader and the Democratic Leader urging them to invite Chairman Butler to come to Washington to meet with all Senators. Senator WARNER and I certainly hope that an invitation will be extended and that Mr. Butler would respond favorably to such an invitation, as we believe that all Senators should have an opportunity to hear directly from this dedicated international public servant.

Madam President, during his appearance before the Armed Services Committee, General Zinni testified that our friends in the Persian Gulf region congratulated the United States when Secretary General Kofi Annan negotiated the MOU with Iraq and they felt it was a victory for United States strength and resolve. He added, in response to my question, that he shared that view. He also testified that he agreed with Chairman Butler that the negotiation of the MOU leaves us in a better position to obtain Iraqi compliance with Security Council resolutions.

I commend all of General Zinni's testimony to our colleagues.

I again thank the Chair. I yield the floor.