

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2503

January 14, 2003

Mr. Nicolas Schiller
148 Cumberland Park Court
Apt. G
Ballwin, Missouri 63011

Dear Mr. Schiller:

Thank you for sharing your thoughts on Iraq. Your views are an essential component in the development of a cohesive US foreign policy strategy dealing with this volatile region.

The Administration appears to be convinced that Iraq will refuse to allow weapons inspectors thereby preventing the US from ascertaining whether or not Saddam is developing weapons of mass destruction. Armed with nuclear, chemical and biological agents, with the capability to deliver these weapons with precision guided ballistic missiles, Iraq under Saddam's control would be a destabilizing force in the pivotal Mideast region. The dangers of inaction are too great which is why I will support the Administration in their efforts to prevent Saddam from strengthening his position militarily.

As discussion of potential military action has increased, Members have been debating the costs and risks of an all-out U.S. effort to achieve that result. In response to reports of accelerated Administration planning for possible military action, on July 31 and August 1, 2002, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee held hearings on U.S. policy toward Iraq. Issues discussed in the hearings included the costs, risks, and duration of reconstituting Iraq's political structure after military action.

I believe the dangers of doing nothing are far greater than the risks of preemptive military action. Iraq has worked to rebuild its Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) programs in the nearly 4 years since U.N. weapons inspectors left Iraq. Defense Secretary Rumsfeld told journalists in July 2002 that Iraq was using mobile facilities to hide biological weapons research and had placed some WMD facilities underground. Many U.S. officials say it could be only a few years before Iraq develops a nuclear weapon.

Iraq has used chemical weapons against its own people (the Kurds) and against Iraq's neighbors (Iran). You will recall that Saddam also fired Scud missiles at innocent Israeli neighborhoods during the Gulf War. The implication of past Iraqi actions is that Iraq would not be deterred from using WMD against the United States or its allies. Even if U.N.-Iraq talks to resume WMD inspections succeed (three rounds of talks have been held thus far in 2002), inspections will not likely ensure that Iraq is free of WMD.

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President Bush is right when he says we cannot sit on our hands and allow Saddam to develop more lethal weapons with the ability to deliver them with increasing accuracy. By preempting Saddam, I am assured we may be saving the lives of countless Americans, our allies and even the Iraqi people.

Again, thank you for taking the time to inform me of your views. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Christopher S. Bond
United States Senator

CSB:md