United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 31, 2003

Honorable Colin L. Powell
Secretary of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

President Bush went to the United Nations on September 12th of last year and challenged it to serve the purpose of its founding or be irrelevant and stated that "We want the United Nations to be effective, and respectful, and successful. We want the resolutions of the world's most important multilateral body to be enforced." The UN Security Council about two months later, on November 8, 2002, adopted Resolution 1441 that returned the UN arms inspectors to Iraq with an enhanced inspection regime. The President subsequently directed departments and agencies to provide "material, operational, personnel, and intelligence support" for UN inspections under resolution 1441.

If our words about supporting UN inspectors' efforts to disarm Iraq are to have meaning and if we truly want the United Nations to be effective, we must act to support the UN arms inspectors and act to unite the UN Security Council behind the use of a U-2 aircraft over Iraq.

UN Security Council resolution 1441 specifically provides that the UN arms inspectors "shall have the free and unrestricted use and landing of fixed- and rotary-winged aircraft, including manned and unmanned reconnaissance vehicles." The UN arms inspectors have accepted the United States' offer to fly U-2 aircraft over Iraq for aerial imagery and for surveillance during inspections. But the Government of Iraq has refused to guarantee the U-2's safety unless a number of unsatisfactory conditions are met. Iraq has effectively vetoed an important part of the inspection effort because the UN arms inspectors have been unwilling to take advantage of the U-2 under these conditions. Dr. Blix has said that Iraq's conditions "went beyond what is stipulated in resolution 1441." Dr. Blix added "I hope (Iraq's) attitude will change," but the Iraqi attitude has not changed.

The UN Security Council should not tolerate Iraq's behavior with respect to the U-2 nor should it allow Saddam Hussein's veto over use of the U-2 to stand.

When you go to the United Nations next week to present evidence about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction programs and its denial and deception practices, we urge you to propose a

new UN Security Council resolution that would formally reject Iraq's conditions on the U-2 overflights, demand that Iraq not endanger its safety or impede the U-2's operation, and put Iraq on notice that any action by Iraq that is intended to harm or interfere with the operation of the U-2 would be considered a material breach of resolution 1442 and would be considered an act of war against the United Nations.

By proposing such a resolution, we would be emphasizing once again the United States' intention that the United Nations be effective. We would also be challenging the Member States of the Security Council, including its permanent Members, to demonstrate that they share our intention.

Additionally, if we are truly serious about supporting the UN inspections, we should increase our intelligence support to the inspectors. Thus far, the U.S. intelligence community has provided only a small percentage of the information in our possession relating to Iraqi suspect sites. A good deal more should be provided without revealing sources and methods. The additional information has been requested by the UN inspectors and we should provide it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin

Hillary Rodham Clinton