

IRAQ

-- A week in review: chemical warheads found in Iraq, Washington's reaction, Saddam's speech, and protests.--



BACKGROUND:

The United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) was created through the adoption of Security Council resolution 1284 of 17 December 1999. UNMOVIC was to replace the former UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) and continue with the latter's mandate to disarm Iraq of its weapons of mass destruction (chemical, biological weapons and missiles with a range of more than 150 km), and to operate a system of ongoing monitoring and verification to check Iraq's compliance with its obligations not to reacquire the same weapons prohibited to it by the Security Council.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations appointed Dr. Hans Blix of Sweden to be the Commission's Executive Chairman. In addition, the Secretary-General appointed 16 individuals to serve on the College of Commissioners of UNMOVIC which provides advice and guidance to the Chairman in the execution of his duties. In conformity with the Charter of the United Nations, the Commission's staff are selected on the basis of securing the

highest standard of efficiency, competence and integrity, taking into consideration the importance of recruiting staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible. The Commission's staff includes weapons specialists, analysts, scientists, engineers and operational planners.

The Commission is financed from a small portion of the monies raised from the export of oil from Iraq (the "oil-for-food" program). Unlike its predecessor, UNSCOM, the staff of UNMOVIC are employees of the United Nations. In addition to the Office of the Chairman with executive, legal and liaison functions, UNMOVIC comprises four divisions (Planning and Operations, Analysis and Assessment, Information, Technical Support and Training) as well as an administrative service. The Commission maintains its headquarters at the United Nations in New York. The Organizational Plan and structure chart of the Commission are available in document S/2000/292.

The Executive Chairman is required to report to the Security Council on the activities of UNMOVIC every three months. In accordance with the resolution establishing UNMOVIC, he must consult the College of Commissioners on written reports to the Council. Thus, the College of Commissioners of UNMOVIC meets at least four times a year in closed session to discuss the report and other organizational and operational activities

STORY:

This may be the critical week for the Iraqi confrontation. Thursday, UN weapons inspectors found a dozen empty chemical warheads in an Iraqi bunker and searched the homes of two Iraqi scientists in Baghdad in the most dramatic day of developments since inspections resumed in November, sparking international debates,

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national smuggling and increased tension over what to do about Iraq in general.

After inspectors entered the homes of two Iraqi scientists, one scientist later accompanied them to an area 10 miles west of Baghdad, where they surveyed a man-made mound of earth. The interviews marked the first time inspectors searched private residences since inspections in Iraq resumed Nov. 27.

Chief Inspector Blix's team has also found conventional weapons, illegally imported within the past two years, but can't yet tell whether they were related to banned weapons. "It is clear they have violated the terms of the bans of the United Nations," Blix said here Thursday.

U.S. officials say the warheads are a violation of a U.N. mandate that Iraq possess no chemical, biological or nuclear weapons or the means to deliver them. "The chemical warheads found by the inspectors were not — not — on the declared list of weapons that Iraq issued just one month ago," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said. "The fact that Iraq is in possession of undeclared chemical warheads, which the United Nations says are in excellent condition, is troubling and serious."

But the find does not show the large-scale covert chemical and biological weapons production effort the United States accuses the government of Saddam Hussein of operating.

Iraq said it had declared the warheads in reports to the United Nations though they were not for chemical or biological weapons. Iraqi officials, who maintain the country has no prohibited weapons, said they were surprised at the furor created by the discovery.

A U.S. defense official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said evidence suggests at least 11 of the warheads were never loaded with any chemical agent. Whether the 12th — which was taken for tests by U.N. inspectors — had ever contained any chemical agent was unknown. But

their design shows they are chemical warheads and therefore prohibited, officials said.

Iraq is allowed to have artillery rockets loaded with conventional explosives, which are a common battlefield weapon. This class of rocket, when loaded with chemical agents, can fly only a few miles. Before the Gulf War, Iraq had a hundred thousands of these rockets, including some loaded with the nerve agent sarin. Some were destroyed during the war, others during the post-war U.N. inspection process. But thousands remain unaccounted for, according to inspectors.

American allies expressed little alarm at the discovery, and urged patience from Washington. French President Jacques Chirac, whose country holds veto power at the United Nations, said he supports giving inspectors more time to determine whether Iraq still has weapons of mass destruction. German officials said it was unlikely they would support a war.

U.S. officials are looking to the initial report from weapons inspectors, expected Jan. 27, as key to their efforts to convince the rest of the world Saddam has weapons of mass destruction and will not disarm. The inspectors are "almost sure" diplomats would ask for another update in February. Any delays are sure to frustrate the White House. But in the meantime, the US is getting ready for the possibility of war.

Despite growing U.S. impatience with Saddam, the top nuclear inspector Mohamed ElBaradei said it would be worth "a few more months" to avoid war.

A seven-ship armada set sail Friday from Naval Station San Diego for possible duty in a war in Iraq. The ships left their home base carrying 10,000 sailors from San Diego and Marines from nearby Camp Pendleton.

Some 60,000 U.S. troops are already in the Gulf region and Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld has signed orders for an additional

67,000 to go over the next few weeks. The size of the U.S. force against Iraq could reach 250,000.

This comes amidst a regular pattern of attacks in response to Iraqi efforts to shoot down planes patrolling a "no-fly" zone. Friday, U.S. warplanes bombed two air defense communications sites in southern Iraq. U.S. Central Command said in a statement out of its Tampa, Fla., headquarters that the targets were struck in self-defense after Iraqi air defense forces fired anti-aircraft artillery and surface-to-air missiles at U.S. planes. The communications sites were between Al Kut, about 100 miles southeast of Baghdad, and An Nasiriyah, about 170 miles southeast of the capital.

In answer to this and brushing aside any hint of compromise, Saddam Hussein proclaimed Friday that Iraq is ready for war with the United States and warned that his enemies would face "suicide" at the gates of Baghdad. With a second Gulf War looming, a defiant Saddam used the 12th anniversary of the first conflict to tell the world he would defend Baghdad against the United States — despite reports that Arab leaders were trying to persuade him to choose exile instead. In a 40-minute televised address, Saddam said his nation was fully mobilized and called on Iraqis to "hold your swords and guns up high" as a warning to those "who might be under the illusion" that Iraq "will not stand firm."

"The people of Baghdad have resolved to compel the Mongols of this age to commit suicide on its walls," Saddam said, comparing the Americans with the Asian warriors who destroyed the city more than 800 years ago. "Everyone who tries to climb over its walls ... will fail in his attempt." Without using President Bush's name, Saddam compared him to the Mongol general Hologu, son of Genghis Khan, who captured Baghdad in 1258. Baghdad's ruler at the time surrendered in exchange for his life and that of his family — but Hologu reneged and executed him.

Then, Sunday, Top U.N. officials said Baghdad disclosed it found four more empty chemical warheads like a dozen others, and said there had been "some progress" in talks to win greater Iraqi cooperation with arms inspectors.

U.N. chief weapons inspectors Hans Blix and Mohamed ElBaradei were in Baghdad Sunday for the first of two days of talks whose outcome could determine whether the US, which disputes Iraq's claims that it has no banned weapons, mounts a military attack to disarm Iraq by force.

After more than two hours of talks, ElBaradei said, "I think we are making some progress. It was a constructive meeting." As a sign that Baghdad might be more forthcoming, Blix said that the Iraqis told them during the talks that they had found four more empty chemical weapons warheads similar to 12 others discovered by U.N. inspectors at an ammunition dump south of Baghdad. Blix also said the Iraqis offered three or four of 11 documents requested by the UN.

Amid fears that war could start in weeks, protesters in the United States were staged a large rally in Washington and vigils in other U.S. cities over the weekend. The largest crowds are expected in the nation's capital, where President Bush and many in Congress are united on the move toward war and protest leaders hope they can draw tens of thousands to march in dissent.

White House press secretary Ari Fleischer said Bush will be at his Camp David presidential retreat over the weekend, but has no problem with the protests. "The president welcomes the fact that we are a democracy and that people in the United States, unlike Iraq, are free" to protest, he said. "The fact of the matter is the people who support the president are not going to take the streets" and demand Saddam to disarm.

Polls suggest Americans are not in step with the anti-war movement but also are not sold on Bush's arguments for war. In a Pew Research Center survey out Thursday, 53 percent of

respondents said Bush has not explained the stakes that justify using military force against Iraq. Yet 76 percent said they would support war if nuclear, biological or chemical weapons were uncovered.

SIGNIFICANCE:

PRO WAR: RICHARD PERLE, former Assistant Secretary of Defense in the Reagan administration and head of the Defense Policy Board: "If a threat is imminent, are we compelled to wait until we've been struck? The notions of law that arise in domestic law within our societies always envision the possibility that if an injury has been done, compensation can follow, but there can be no practical compensation in a case where we have been struck possibly with weapons of mass destruction. We would be foolish to wait until the damage was done and then try to respond."

REND RAHIM FRANCKE, Iraq Foundation: "I have spoken to Iraqis over the past ten years... And there is a unanimous desire for pluralism, representation, participation, accountability in government-- in short, all the things that we call democracy. I have to tell you Iraqis desperately want to be freed of Saddam Hussein, and they also know that the only country that can help them with this is the United States, and they are ready to welcome the U.S. as liberators."

KHIDHIR HAMZA, former director of the Iraqi nuclear weapons development program: "I think military action is surgical, is sooner, and it addresses the basic problem, which is this is a regime that has to be -- remember South Africa. South Africa was embargoed by the world, and they got nuclear weapons. The only way they gave them up was when there was a regime change. These types of regime when they made a decision to go in that direction, they know it is vital for their survival and they are not going to back down.

AGAINST WAR: War with Iraq

- is likely to result in the deaths of many thousands of innocent Iraqi civilians,

- carries a high risk of the use of weapons of mass destruction and
- will lead to substantial regional instability, and increased support for al-Qaida,

according to this new report, a detailed 10,000-word analysis by Professor Paul Rogers of Bradford University, one of the foremost authorities on international security and consultant to Oxford Research Group. Using the most up-to-date information on how the US might fight the war, and how the Saddam Hussein regime might respond, the report concludes that:

- the regime will aim to draw the US forces into urban warfare in Baghdad. A civilian death toll of at least 10,000 is likely, three times as many as died in the 11 September attacks;
- this is a low estimate, the experience of urban warfare in Beirut and elsewhere suggests even higher casualties;
- evidence of Iraqi military tactics in 1991 shows that the survival of the regime is the core policy and that chemical and biological weapons are almost certain to be used, certainly against attacking troops and possibly against targets in neighbouring countries;
- severe casualties arising to Iraqi use of chemical and biological weapons could result in a nuclear response - the first use of nuclear weapons since August 1945.

Even on the "best-case" outcome of regime destruction with minimal loss of life, the effect of replacing Saddam Hussein with a client regime would be deeply counterproductive.

A pro-American regime in Baghdad would be seen across the region as a puppet government through which the US seeks to control Iraq's oil, currently four times the size of total US oil reserves including Alaska.

This would be a "gift" to al-Qaida and other paramilitary groups who have longed claimed that the United States in the Gulf solely because of the region's oil reserves. Support for such groups would rise, with an increased risk of further paramilitary attacks on the US and other states involved in the war.

The report concludes that destroying the Iraqi regime by force is a highly dangerous venture and that alternative policies should be urgently developed.

**THIS WEEK IN HISTORY /
BIOGRAPHY:****JOHN F. KENNEDY
INAUGURATED**

On January 20, 1961, on the newly renovated east front of the United States Capitol, John Fitzgerald Kennedy is inaugurated as the 35th president of the United States. It was a cold and clear day, and the nation's capital was covered with a snowfall from the previous night. The ceremony began with a religious invocation and prayers, and then African-American opera singer Marian Anderson sang "The Star-Spangled Banner," and Robert Frost recited his poem "The Gift Outright." Kennedy was administered the oath of office by Chief Justice Earl Warren. During his famous inauguration address, Kennedy, the youngest candidate ever elected to the presidency and the country's first Catholic president, declared that "the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans" and appealed to Americans to "ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."

Born in Brookline, Massachusetts, in 1917, Kennedy was the son of Joseph Patrick Kennedy, a wealthy businessman. Both of his grandfathers were politicians, and his father served appointed positions in the Roosevelt administration, most prominently as U.S. ambassador to Britain.

Kennedy volunteered to fight in WWII and was decorated for an August 1943 action in which he saved several of his men after the PT torpedo boat he was commanding was sunk in the South Pacific. In 1944, Kennedy's older brother, Joseph, was killed in a bombing mission over Belgium. Joseph had planned to make a career in politics, and Kennedy, discharged and working as a reporter, decided to enter politics in his place.

He won the Democratic nomination for the 11th Congressional District of Massachusetts, and became a U.S. congressman at the age of 29. Twice reelected, he was known in Congress for his foreign policy expertise, often taking a

bipartisan stance when it came to issues of national security. In the election of 1952, in which the Republicans won the White House and majorities in Congress, Kennedy captured the Senate seat after an intensive campaign.

In 1956, he nearly became the running mate of Democratic presidential candidate Adlai Stevenson, winning Kennedy wide national exposure and leading him to consider a bid for the 1960 presidential nomination. In 1957, he won the Pulitzer Prize for his book of biographical essays, *Profiles in Courage*, and in 1958, he was reelected to the Senate by the largest margin in Massachusetts history. By that time, Kennedy's presidential campaign was in full swing.

The press embraced the young, idealistic senator and his glamorous wife, Jackie, and Kennedy's father bought a 40-passenger Convair aircraft to transport the candidate and his staff around the country. On July 13, he was nominated on the first ballot with Senate majority leader Lyndon Johnson chosen as his running mate. Opposed by Nixon and Henry Cabot Lodge Jr., Kennedy performed well in televised debates with Nixon, a new addition to presidential politics. On November 8, he was elected president.

Kennedy, his wife, and family seemed fitting representatives of the youthful spirit of America during the early 1960s, and the Kennedy White House was idealized by admirers as a modern-day "Camelot." In foreign policy, Kennedy actively fought communism in the world, ordering the controversial Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba and sending thousands of U.S. military "advisors" to Vietnam. During the Cuban Missile Crisis, he displayed an unyielding opposition to the placement of Soviet missiles in Cuba and worked on negotiations for their removal. On the domestic front, he introduced his "New Frontier" social legislation, calling for a rigorous federal desegregation policy and a sweeping new civil rights bill. On November 22, 1963, after less than three years in office, Kennedy was assassinated while riding in an open-car motorcade with his wife in Dallas, Texas.

SPORTS:

Raiders, Bucs to Meet in San Diego



Gruden will have his game face on full blast vs. his former team, the Oakland Raiders, in Super Bowl XXXVII.

A Super Bowl of the high seas: the Tampa Bay Buccaneers vs. the Oakland Raiders. All that will be missing is the pirate ship.

Next weekend at Qualcomm Stadium, Tampa Bay coach Jon Gruden, who left the Raiders this season, bringing draft picks and millions of dollars to Oakland in exchange, meets his former team.

His former boss, Al Davis, has been a thorn for the NFL for nearly three decades. Is Paul Tagliabue looking forward to the possibility of handing the Vince Lombardi Trophy to Davis?

And the Raiders have the league's No. 1 offense. Guess who has the top defense?

While the Buccaneers (14-4) coldly tore apart the Eagles 27-10 in frigid Philadelphia, the Raiders (13-5) rode the passing and running of Rich Gannon past Tennessee 41-24.

NFL SUNDAY:

TAMPA BAY at	27	
PHILADELPHIA	10	Final
TENNESSEE at	24	
OAKLAND	41	Final

ENTERTAINMENT:

The Simpsons

Perpetual 10-year-old Bart, his clueless dad Homer and the rest of the Simpson's clan are about to go into TV history as stars of the longest-running sitcom ever. Fox announced a deal to renew the cartoon for two more seasons, taking it at least through May 2005 — its 16th year. That will push "The Simpsons" past "The Adventures of Ozzie & Harriet" (1952 to 1966), as the all-time longest-running situation comedy.

"The Simpsons" premiered as a series on Dec. 17, 1989, after the animated characters were first introduced in a series of vignettes on Fox's "The Tracey Ullman Show" in 1988. While following the lives of the mythical family from Springfield, "The Simpsons" has always been bitingly funny about the world around it. Sometimes the show has to be watched twice to grab all the subtle jokes that come flying by. As cartoon characters, Homer, Marge, Bart and Lisa never grow old and, unlike live actors, can't hold out for more money (although there was a contract dispute a few years ago with the people who provided their voices).

"The Simpsons" is produced by Fox corporate cousin 20th Century Fox. Creator Matt Groening, James L. Brooks and Jean are the show's executive producers. The show is averaging 14.3 million viewers this season, according to Nielsen Media Research. Of the top 20 scripted shows from last season, "The Simpsons" is one of only three with more viewers this season. "The Simpsons" has to beat "Gunsmoke," on CBS from 1955 to 1975, to become the longest-running scripted show ever in prime time. The record for the longest-running prime-time show of any kind seems safe. It's "60 Minutes," which went on the air in 1968 and is still ticking.

FEATURE:

The Home Buying Blues

By Renee Stender

Okay, so you come to the realization that you will not be able to buy your dream home in Marin. What were you thinking in the first place? You have one income and you're a teacher, and you live in the third most expensive counties in the country. You are just lucky to be buying in the first place. What do you do?

You go out and buy some books on the subject of buying your first home and you are feeling pretty sassy about doing your homework. You buy the newspaper, make the drive north on weekends, drag your friends along and get the lay of the land, so to speak.

You've been gathering facts, you know that interest rates are at an all time low. You've heard everyone say that the first year is a stretch but after that you won't regret buying. There's no better investment, you will feel secure, the tax benefits are worth it. You rent, so your money might as well go toward owning your own place. Yeah, yeah, you know all the good reasons for taking the plunge. But, what about the fear factor?

Here you are a middle aged person buying a condo for the first time, knowing that you will be 75 years old by the time it is paid off! Oh, but don't worry, you won't live in it that long, you'll move bigger. But what if...

The search begins (in earnest), a real estate agent is the friend of a friend. You are understandably a bit nervous about the aggressive pressure from a salesperson. Luckily for you, she turns out to be nice, non-aggressive and very good at reading your style. She is well informed and makes you feel special. Excitement is running high as you begin a long series of "walk through's", the reality hasn't sunk in that you might own one of these dwellings. You begin to learn real estate language, the vocabulary of the

informed. Things like contingency, escrow and Pergo-vs-hardwood. You form an opinion about what you like and what you definitely don't like. Who invented sponge painted walls anyway?

Now the fun begins, or paperwork 101... You've found a place that is close enough to perfect and is in the price range. Of course, 3 years ago it was \$35,000 cheaper, but it is better not to think about that. The place is almost big enough, almost cheap enough and almost the dream condo. You hear from your real estate agent more often than your mother! You begin to meet in her office to sign 57 pages, 432 times, to make an offer. You sign 44 times on 63 pages to counter offer. You sign 112 times on 97 sheets to create contingencies. "More contingencies, more copies," she cheerfully smiles at you. There are insect reports, contractor inspections, association minutes to read, and so and so forth. You are the proud owner of your own accordion file, full of, yes, more papers, which actually makes you happy because the heavy weight seems to substantiate your hard work and hard decisions.

Miracle of miracles, the seller's are not overly greedy and they take your offer. Now starts the real fun, pack your boxes, line up your strong friends, rent a truck, call the utility company; oh, not so fast! Remember how the real estate agent seemed like your new best friend? Well, the mortgage broker has married into the family. He or she knows everything about you, your marital status, dependents, credit history (yikes), debts, shoe size, favorite color, cat or dog person, car preference, books read, jokes enjoyed, fantasies dreamed (like going to every major league baseball park in the U.S.), fear of heights, allergies...before you know it, you have sent every document known to the free world, fax, mail, signatures, a very clear paper trail.

So, do you get the house, condo, garage, shed? Well, the loan committee has to decide. But, if you are new to this journey, remember: you will need the following documents: pay stubs (last 10 yrs.), bank statements, birth certificates... Oh, and a sense of humor!!

Quote of the Week:

Ask not what your country can do for you--ask what you can do for your country.
-Kennedy's inaugural address

Fact of the Week:

38% of Americans say they enjoy football.

Word of the Week:

Debonair. French for "good air." In the Middle Ages people's health was judged by how they smelled. A person who gave off "good air" was presumed healthier and happier.

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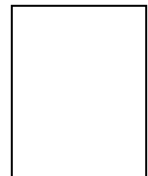
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