

## **U.N. Orders Iraq to Disarm**

### **BACKGROUND:**

Iraq has a population of more than 23 million people, living in an area slightly more than twice the size of Idaho. The population is 75-80 percent Arab, 15-20 percent Kurdish, and 5 percent Turkoman, Assyrian or other. Approximately 60-65 percent of the people are Shi'ite Muslims and 32-37 percent Sunni Muslims. Christians and others constitute 3 percent of the population.

The Iraqi Army, according to Jane's World Armies in 1996, is estimated to consist of two or three armored divisions, three mechanized divisions, and 15 to 17 infantry divisions. The Republican Guard is estimated to have eight divisions: three armoured divisions, one mechanised division and four infantry divisions. These units probably have a maximum of 8,000 soldiers each. The Air Force, according to Pentagon estimates in 1992, comprised about 350 aircraft with operational capabilities, although only about 150 were thought to be airworthy at that time. The Pentagon has estimated that Iraq has approximately 2,000 tanks.

While Iraq is not known to possess nuclear weapons now, two recent studies say it is close to having the ability to build them. "With sufficient black-market uranium or plutonium, Iraq probably could fabricate a nuclear weapon," reports the Center for Nonproliferation Studies. Iraq's ability to use weapons of massive destruction against its enemies is even more uncertain.

Suspicious that Iraq might have supplied the anthrax spores mailed to Capitol Hill and the news media come from the 1999 final report from UNSCOM, the United Nations group that conducted inspections of Iraqi facilities after the Gulf War. The report expressed "serious doubts" that Iraq had terminated its offensive biological weapons program.

Following the Gulf War of 1991, the victorious coalition established two "no-fly" zones in northern and southern Iraq that were declared off-limits to Iraqi military aircraft. The purpose of the zones is to prevent Iraq's from threatening its neighbors or attacking rival factions within Iraq. The area covered by the northern no-fly zone is known as Iraqi Kurdistan. It is autonomous administered by two Kurdish political parties, the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

The State Department has designated Iraq as a sponsor of terrorism. In its latest report on "state-sponsored terrorism" the Department noted that Iraq has "continued to provide training and political encouragement to numerous terrorist groups, although its main focus was on dissident Iraqi activity overseas.

However, there is little evidence that they were involved in the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks as some suspected. The U.S. government initially gave credence to a report that hijack ringleader Mohamed Atta had met with an Iraqi intelligence officer in Prague in June 2000. Iraqi officials denied the report. U.S. intelligence sources later concluded that the alleged meeting never took place.

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### **STORY:**

The U.N. Security Council unanimously approved a tough new disarmament mandate for Iraq last week, warning President Saddam Hussein he must scrap his weapons programs or face "serious consequences" that almost certainly would be a U.S.-led war against his government.

The 15 to 0 vote represented a significant achievement for the Bush administration. It has spent nearly eight weeks working to satisfy the



demands of Russia, France and other nations in pursuit of an acceptable-to-everyone Iraqi policy, even as it refused to abandon its ultimate goal of confronting Hussein -- through force if necessary.

The resolution was endorsed not only by Russia and France but also by Syria, a council member that until the final minutes had said it would oppose the measure directed against its neighbor and fellow Arab state. Syria's deputy U.N. representative said his government agreed to support the resolution only after receiving "high level" assurances from Washington, London, Paris and Moscow "that this resolution would not be used as a pretext to strike Iraq."

### **SIGNIFICANCE:**

Speaking in the Rose Garden minutes after the vote, President Bush renewed his warning -- set out in his Sept. 12 speech to the U.N. General Assembly -- that Iraq must dismantle chemical, biological and nuclear weapons programs or face the prospect of war.

"With the resolution just passed, the United Nations Security Council has met important responsibilities, upheld its principles and given clear and fair notice that Saddam Hussein must fully disclose and destroy his weapons of mass destruction," Bush said. "His cooperation must be prompt and unconditional or he will face the severest consequences."

The adoption of Resolution 1441 set the stage for the return of an advance team of U.N. weapons inspectors to Baghdad on Nov. 18, resuming a disarmament process that ended in late 1998 when inspectors withdrew shortly before the United States and Britain launched air strikes against Iraq to protest Hussein's intransigence.

A Pentagon plan for invading Iraq, should the new U.N. arms inspection effort fail, calls for a land, sea and air force of 200,000 to 250,000 troops, officials said Saturday.

President Bush, who has publicly acknowledged having received a war plan without mentioning details, approved it prior to the U.N. Security Council's vote Friday to force Iraq to disarm, The New York Times reported Saturday.

The president has not, however, ordered the Pentagon to carry out the plan. He will wait to see whether Iraq accepts and abides by the terms of the U.N. resolution. If arms inspections go forward without interference, a decision to go to war could be put off for several months, officials have said. War planning goes on, however, to ensure that the military is ready to act if commanded to do so by Bush.

Several White House officials reached declined to comment on the Times report that Bush has approved the plan, or on other details.

Bush said Friday he prefers a peaceful approach to disarming Iraq but if that proves futile the military is prepared to "move swiftly with force" to ensure the regime of Saddam Hussein is stripped of its weapons of mass destruction and its ability to produce more in the future.

The Times report said Pentagon officials are still working on some details of the war plan, but the basic approach is to begin with an air campaign, then quickly seize bases in northern, western and southern Iraq from which U.S. and allied forces could operate. A key early objective would be to cut off the Iraqi leadership in Baghdad in hopes of a rapid collapse of the government.

A major uncertainty, however, is whether Saddam would order the early use of the chemical and biological weapons that American intelligence believes he retains in defiance of previous U.N. disarmament demands.

Iraqis reacted with apprehension, anger and defiance on Saturday to a new U.N. resolution to disarm Baghdad or face yet another war.

Many said they wanted peace, but feared war was inevitable. Ordinary Iraqis seemed to agree that the unanimous vote by the 15-member Security Council shattered their faith in the world body which they said was a tool of Washington. Many said the vote was a "preamble for war" because it set conditions they saw as impossible for Iraq to comply with. Others saw it as a license for the U.S. to wage war under U.N. cover.

## **Election Coverage: The Results Are In!**

--Midterm elections end well for the GOP.--

### **BACKGROUND:**

More than 39 percent (up from 37.6 percent in the 1998 elections, the lowest turnout since 1942) of voting-age citizens turned up for this year's midterm election causing more than a few surprises. Last week we discussed the top ten election races to watch. Here are the results.

### **MINNESOTA SENATE**

Norm Coleman defeated Democrat Walter Mondale who had replaced Sen. Paul Wellstone on the ballot after Wellstone died in a plane crash a month before the election.

### **COLORADO SENATE**

The rematch between Republican Sen. Wayne Allard, a veterinarian seeking his second term, and Democrat Tom Strickland, a former federal prosecutor, was decided with Wayne Allard winning 51 percent of the vote.

### **NEW HAMPSHIRE SENATE**

A state where Republicans used their big guns with campaign visits from both President Bush and first lady Laura Bush to emerge victorious as Republican John E. Sununu defeats Democratic Gov. Jeanne Shaheen. Originally a done deal for the Republicans, in the week before the election the race was within a point.

### **NORTH CAROLINA SENATE**

In a clear victory over ex-Clinton White House Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles Labor, Secretary Elizabeth Dole takes Sen. Jesse Helms' seat in the Senate.

### **LOUISIANA SENATE**

The secretary of state had described the Senate race in Louisiana as "bland," and was almost certain that nobody will win this contest outright Tuesday night. He was right. Democratic

Sen. Mary Landrieu received 19 percent more votes than any of her eight challengers, but did not get a 50 percent majority. A December 7th runoff will decide the outcome.

### **SOUTH DAKOTA SENATE**

After a neck to neck race, Democratic Sen. Tim Johnson emerges one point ahead of Republican challenger Rep. John Thune. In this case, separate last-minute campaign stops by President Bush and his wife were not effective.

### **MISSOURI SENATE**

Incumbent Sen. Jean Carnahan, a Democrat, loses to Republican challenger Jim Talent. Since vote fraud was an issue in 2000, when Carnahan's husband was elected posthumously, resulting in her being appointed to the seat, all results were closely scrutinized.

### **GEORGIA SENATE**

Republican challenger Rep. Saxby Chambliss managed to take away Democratic Sen. Max Cleland's lead to win the Georgia Senate seat by seven percentage points.

### **FLORIDA GOVERNOR**

One of the more personal proxy fights between the two parties, Governor Jeb Bush, retains his position as governor of Florida. It was hotly contested by both Bush and Clinton partially in retaliation for the 2000 presidential race in which Jeb's older brother captured Florida's Electoral College votes to eke out a presidential victory over Gore.

### **MARYLAND GOVERNOR**

Once considered a shoo-in by virtue of her famous name and job as lieutenant governor, Democrat Kathleen Kennedy Townsend watched her lead in the polls become a deficit as she trailed Republican Bob Ehrlich on the day of the election and lost the election that night.

These victories led to a decisive overall victory for the Republicans as they took control of the Senate as well as retained control of the House.

**House of Representatives**

| <u>Party</u> | <u>Seats</u> | <u>Change</u> |
|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Republicans  | 228          | 5             |
| Democrats    | 205          | -6            |
| Independents | 1            | 0             |

**Senate**

| <u>Party</u> | <u>Seats</u> | <u>Change</u> |
|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Republicans  | 51           | 2             |
| Democrats    | 47           | -2            |
| Independents | 1            | 0             |

**Governor**

| <u>Party</u> | <u>Seats</u> | <u>Change</u> |
|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Republicans  | 24           | 0             |
| Democrats    | 20           | 2             |
| Independents | 0            | -1            |

When given a list of factors in the election and asked which were major reasons for the GOP's success, those questioned in a Newsweek poll were most likely to point to the president's popularity and his handling of possible military action in Iraq. Other top reasons were more faith in Republicans to handle the campaign against terrorism, Democrats' failure to offer a clear alternative position on Iraq, to the tax cut and to Bush's economic policies.

**STORY:**

President Bush and his party savored sweeping midterm election victories Wednesday and began sketching an agenda for a new, Republican-controlled Congress.

"I'm excited to be able to be on offense," said Republican Sen. Trent Lott of Mississippi, the once and future Senate majority leader. He said GOP priorities will include a new Homeland Security Department as well as targeted tax cuts to help the economy. He added that Bush's judicial nominees could expect speedier review.

Bush made no public remarks during the day, and aides said he wanted to avoid giving the

appearance of gloating. "There's a lot more to do and the president looks forward to working with Democrats and Republicans to do it," said his spokesman, Ari Fleischer. The elections marked a remarkable triumph for Republicans, who bucked history to gain seats in a midterm election in which they held the White House.

Democratic chairman Terry McAuliffe looked for a bright side to the elections. "It was an extraordinary night for Democratic gubernatorial candidates. Fifty-five percent of Americans woke up today having a Democratic governor," he said.

**SIGNIFICANCE**

"Since Bill Clinton left, we don't know who we are," Democratic consultant Dane Strother said. Democrats assessed their political prospects Wednesday after midterm elections.

Now Democrats are trying to assess blame for their lack of an effective political message, wondering where they'll find their next messenger and worrying about the loss of so-called soft money political contributions--an important part of Democrats' financial base in recent years.

Senior aides, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Gephardt intended to declare on Thursday that he would not seek a fifth term as House Democratic leader. The 61-year-old Missouri lawmaker is a potential challenger for the White House in 2004, but it was not known whether he would discuss his presidential ambitions when he made his announcement.

His decision not to seek a new term in leadership came at the end of a day in which some members urged him to step aside. And it triggered a race between the second-ranking and third-ranking members of the leadership, Reps. Nancy Pelosi of California and Martin Frost of Texas.

Gephardt was elected to a 14th term in the House on Tuesday, and is expected to remain in Congress even though he will no longer be leader of his party.

**THIS DAY IN HISTORY:****November 12, 1982**

## Vietnam Veterans Memorial Dedicated

Near the end of a weeklong national salute to Americans who served in the Vietnam War, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is dedicated in Washington after a march to its site by thousands of veterans of the conflict. The long-awaited memorial was a simple V-shaped black-granite wall inscribed with the names of the 57,939 Americans who died or were missing in conflict from 1959 to 1975, arranged in order of death, not rank, as was common in other memorials.



The designer of the memorial was Maya Lin, a Yale University architecture student who entered a nationwide competition to create a design for the monument. Lin, born in Ohio in 1959, was the daughter of Chinese immigrants. Many veterans' groups were opposed to Lin's winning design, which lacked a standard memorial's heroic statues and stirring words. However, a remarkable shift in public opinion occurred in the months after the memorial's dedication. Veterans and families of the dead walked the black reflective wall, seeking the names of their loved ones killed in the conflict. Once the name was located, visitors often made an etching or left a private offering, from notes and flowers to dog tags and cans of beer.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial soon became one of the most visited memorials in the nation's capital. "The Wall" drew together both those who fought and those who marched against the war and served to promote national healing a decade after the divisive conflict's end.

The 58,229 names are being read aloud over the four day weekend to help mark the memorial's twentieth anniversary.

**THIS WEEK IN HISTORY:**

## *Senator Trent Lott*

**U.S. Senator Trent Lott** of Mississippi is the new Senate Majority (Republican) Leader. He was born October 9, 1941, in Grenada County,



Mississippi, the son of a sharecropper farmer turned shipyard worker and a school teacher. He received his Bachelor of Science in Public Administration degree in 1963 and his Juris Doctorate in 1967 from the University of

Mississippi in Oxford. He is married to Patricia (Tricia) Thompson Lott, originally of Pascagoula, Mississippi. Senator and Mrs. Lott are the parents of son, Chet, and daughter, Tyler.

Senator Lott began his political career in 1968 as Administrative Assistant to U.S. Representative William Colmer, D-Mississippi. He was elected to the House of Representatives in 1972 and served until 1988 when he was elected to the Senate. He was re-elected to a second term in 1994 and a third term in 2000.

In 1979, he was elected Chairman of the House Republican Research Committee, the fifth ranking Republican leadership position in the House. In 1980 he was elected Republican Whip, the second ranking Republican leadership position and was re-elected to the post three times.

In the Senate, Senator Lott continued as Secretary of the Senate Republican Conference. In 1995, he was elected Senate Majority Whip. Senator Lott is the first person to be elected to the position of Whip in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. He will again work as Senate Whip after the Republican gained the majority in last week's election.

In the Senate, Lott also serves on the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Rules Committee.

**ENTERTAINMENT:****Police to Reunite for Hall Induction**

The Police may get together again — at least for one night, and possibly two.

Former Police drummer Stewart Copeland told reporters Friday in Milan that the band would play March 10, 2003 in New

York when it is inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the ANSA news agency said.

The Police fused punk with reggae grooves and intricate arrangements to gain global popularity in the late 1970s and early 1980s. In addition to Copeland on drums, the lineup included Sting as the lead vocalist and bassist, with Andy Summers on guitar.

The Police's rise culminated with the 1983 album "Synchronicity," which featured the hit song "Every Breath You Take." The trio broke up in 1985.

The Police have also been asked to perform at a future concert honoring South Africa's Nelson Mandela, ANSA said.

There's just one hitch. "Sting still hasn't said yes," ANSA quoted Copeland as saying, referring to the Mandela concert only. "In fact, me and (guitarist) Andy Summers were thinking of asking Bono to sing with us," he said, referring to U2's lead singer.

The concert is called "Sending Out an S.O.S" — lyrics from the Police hit "Message in a Bottle," which the band has been asked to perform, ANSA said.

Three British exports of rock's "new wave" of the 1970s — The Police, The Clash and Elvis Costello and the Attractions — will join the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame on March 10 along with the Righteous Brothers and Australian hard rockers AC/DC

**SPORTS:****Texas A&M 30  
No. 1 Oklahoma 26**

Oklahoma were winners at Kyle Field two years ago, clearing the way for the national title.

They couldn't pull off another victory against Texas A&M on Saturday, and now the

Sooners might not get another shot to win it all.

"I never talked about it when we had a BCS future. I don't know that we have one now and don't really care," coach Bob Stoops said after his top-ranked Sooners lost 30-26.

The Sooners (8-1, 4-1 Big 12) certainly will drop from the No. 1 position in both the Associated Press poll and the Bowl Championship Series standings. Second-ranked Miami had an easy 26-3 win at Tennessee on Saturday.

The Aggies (6-4, 3-3) beat a No. 1 team for the first in school history behind freshman quarterback Reggie McNeal, who came off the bench to throw for 191 yards and four touchdowns.

The Associated Press Top 25 college football poll, with number of first-place votes and record in parentheses, total points and previous ranking:

Records through November 10, 2002)

| <b><u>TEAM</u></b> | <b><u>RECORD</u></b> |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. MIAMI FLA       | (9-0)                |
| 2. OHIO ST         | (11-0)               |
| 3. WASHINGTON ST   | (9-1)                |
| 4. (tie) OKLAHOMA  | (8-1)                |
| 4. (tie) TEXAS     | (9-1)                |
| 6. IOWA            | (10-1)               |
| 7. GEORGIA         | (9-1)                |
| 8. USC             | (7-2)                |
| 9. NOTRE DAME      | (9-1)                |
| 10. ALABAMA        | (8-2)                |

## FEATURE:

## U.N. Finds Novel Way to Keep an Eye on Afghans

United Nations officials grappling with a flood of refugees returning to Afghanistan have found a new way of keeping tabs on them -- by taking photographs of their eyes.

They are using the snapshots to build a database which enables them to prevent refugees from fraudulently claiming more than one U.N. aid package per person as they cross the border from Pakistan into Afghanistan.

Iris recognition, as the technique is known, may sound like the stuff of science fiction -- it featured prominently in the futuristic film "Minority Report" starring Tom Cruise.

But organizers say it is more effective than traditional methods like finger-printing and has been well received -- even by Afghan women, some of whom still wear the traditional veil and seldom show their faces in public. "Cultural acceptance has been very high," said Machiel van der Harst, chief operating officer of BioID Technologies, a Swiss-based company which has pioneered the technique and is working alongside the United Nations on the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

"We did everything we could to make people feel comfortable, even in difficult circumstances," he said at a technology conference in London. "We used female staff and we tried to give the families privacy by dividing the enrolment centers, so a man from one family could not see a woman from another just at the moment she lifted her veil."

The U.N. High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) is using the technique at its Voluntary Repatriation Center at the Peshawar border

crossing, the main gateway for Afghan refugees trudging home from Pakistan.

Every refugee who crosses the border is entitled to an aid package which includes money and tools. The U.N. wants to stop refugees from coming back to make a second claim. The method has been used on about 12,500 people since it was launched on October 1 and, if deemed successful, may be employed elsewhere in the world.

Iris recognition relies on the fact that no two irises are identical -- even when they belong to the same person. "There are six billion people in this world and therefore 12 billion different irises," Van der Harst said. "For consistency, we always use the right eye for testing."

UNHCR officials shine a special red light into the refugee's eye and take photos with a narrow-angle lens. The image is fed into a computer which processes the information in the iris and converts it into a randomly generated number, which is assigned to that refugee.

"The computer measures the specific structure of nerves and muscles, all the things you can see in the eye," Van der Harst said. "The iris is very rich in texture and very stable over time, so it's an ideal means of identification."

The project inevitably ran into problems like cataracts and eye diseases, which prevented officials taking clear pictures. But Van der Harst said it worked on about 99 percent of applicants and, when they ran a test by asking people to come back and try to claim a second time, the success rate was again about 99 percent.

In a region as politically sensitive as the Afghan border, refugees are often more willing to have their eyes photographed than their entire face, he said.

"The face constitutes an identity in the way that a close-up of an eye does not," Van der Harst said. Nevertheless, many refugees found the experience bewildering.

*Written with the help of Reuters*

*Quote of the Week:*

The Silence that is in the starry sky.  
-William Wordsworth

*Fact of the Week:*

38% of Americans say they enjoy watching football on TV; only 16% like baseball.

*Word of the Week:*

GOP (G \* O \* P) n. Grand Old Party, referring to the Republican Party.

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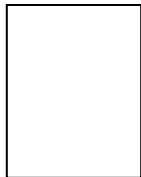
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