

# Bush rejects U.N.-Iraq inspection deal

Brian Whitmore  
and Anne E. Kornblut  
The Boston Globe (U-WIRE)

VIENNA, Austria — The United Nations reached a deal Tuesday with Iraq on terms for the resumption of weapons inspections for the first time since 1998 — except at Saddam Hussein's presidential palaces — but the Bush administration immediately rejected the arrangement and demanded a stronger U.N. resolution before the inspectors' return. The agreement announced Tuesday by Hans Blix, the chief U.N. weapons inspector, who concluded two days of negotiations here with

Iraqi officials, calls for the return of the first inspection team as early as Oct. 19. But Secretary of State Colin Powell said the administration would oppose any inspections that take place under the old rules and urged the U.N. Security Council to pass a tough new resolution before the inspectors enter Baghdad.

"Let there be no doubt in anyone's mind that the United States will continue to pursue a new U.N. resolution with the Security Council," Powell said in Washington. "We do not believe that (the inspections teams) should go back in under the old set of resolutions and under the old inspec-

tion regime. And therefore, we do not believe they should go in until they have new instructions in the form of a new resolution."

Increasing the pressure on Iraq further still, White House press secretary Ari Fleischer all but dared the Iraqi opposition to assassinate Hussein or expel him from the country. Asked at a news conference about the cost of a U.S. invasion, Fleischer noted that Bush has not decided on such an action.

However, Fleischer added: "I can only say that the cost of a one-way ticket is substantially less than (a U.S. invasion). The cost of one bullet, if

the Iraqi people take it on themselves, is substantially less than that. The cost of war is more than that. But there are many options that the president hopes the world and people of Iraq will exercise themselves of that gets rid of the threat."

Asked to clarify whether the U.S. advocated Hussein's assassination, Fleischer replied, "Regime change is welcome in whatever form that it takes."

The deal with Iraq and Washington's response touched off fresh debate Tuesday over a proposed U.N. Security Council resolution that was being circulated at U.N. headquarters

in New York. A meeting Tuesday of the five permanent council members to discuss terms for a new Iraq resolution ended without agreement.

The U.S.-drafted resolution would, among other things, delay entry of inspections teams until Iraq has provided a full accounting of its weapons of mass destruction — presumably postponing the inspectors' return. It would also authorize any member nations to "use all necessary means" if Baghdad fails to comply with any of the resolution's demands.

Blix is expected to report Thursday to the Security Council on the new agreement reached with Iraq.

# White House may intervene in port impasse

George Raine  
San Francisco Chronicle (U-WIRE)

President Bush is concerned that a prolonged shutdown of West Coast ports would harm the nation's beleaguered economy and might step in to prevent it, a White House spokesman warned Monday.

"If it goes on for even a short period of time, it's a problem for the economy. We're monitoring it carefully," spokesman Ari Fleischer told reporters in Washington as longshore workers were locked out of their jobs Monday

for the second time in four days.

Contract negotiations resumed in San Francisco on Monday afternoon. But the two sides adjourned after two hours, agreeing to meet Wednesday. The only movement in the impasse may have come when James Spinosa, president of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, said for the first time he might be willing to accept federal mediation.

Seventy cargo ships were docked at ports from San Diego to Seattle wait-

ing to be loaded or unloaded. Another 30 have dropped anchor outside the ports of Oakland, Los Angeles and Long Beach and other major West Coast ports as longshore workers were barred from doing their work.

Their employers, American and foreign flag shippers represented by San Francisco's Pacific Maritime Association, allege that ILWU workers have engaged in a work slowdown that has reduced productivity by 54 percent at West Coast ports, which process some \$300 billion in cargo

annually. The union contract expired Sept. 1. ILWU officials have said they have not engaged in a work slowdown.

A lockout was ordered from Friday at 6 p.m. to Sunday at 8 a.m. Crews began working the Sunday morning shift but the PMA, believing slowdowns were again occurring, shut down the ports again and said later Sunday the terminals will reopen only when the union signs an extension of the current contract or a new contract.

Bush could intervene to force a return to work, but such an order could be politically difficult before the Nov. 5 election as Republicans are trying to woo the labor vote in several key states. Moreover, the administration was pressured heavily by members of Congress not to intervene because a task force may consider options if the labor negotiations worsened.

Chronicle staff writers Edward Epstein and Henry K. Lee contributed to this report.

# Pipeline project inflames protesters in Ecuador

Frances Robles  
Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)

BELLAVISTA, Ecuador — The buzzing of bulldozers pierces this cloud forest's cold misty air.

Long a bird-watcher's paradise, the Northwestern Ecuadorean Forest is home to 320 bird species, 38 different kinds of hummingbirds — and now, a \$1.3 billion oil pipeline the government expects will be a boon to the Ecuadorean economy.

But construction is forging ahead, despite the protesters in the middle of the pipeline's path.

"This is all we have," said Molly Brown, an environmental activist who owns an orchid garden and a small hotel in nearby Mindo. "The government decided it was the cheapest and best route, and we need to let them know that can't happen. They need to take their construction, and take it someplace else."

Ecuador agreed two years ago to allow a multinational pipeline consortium, OCP Ecuador, led by Canada's Alberta Energy and Argentine-Spanish giant Repsol-YPF, to build a 312-mile pipeline that would provide Ecuador with a cross-country route for heavy crude oil. With the capacity to pump 450,000 barrels of oil a day, the pipeline represents Ecuador's single largest foreign investment in a decade.

The project has been controversial from the start. A series of snags, from labor strikes to management changes, protests and vandalism, resulted in months-long delays and a \$2 million cost overrun.

Running from the Amazon to the Pacific port, the pipeline project cuts through 24 communities, including endangered bird habitats, water sources and protected forest. And although it's now more than

halfway completed, project managers have yet to resolve prickly environmental resistance from activists who vow to stop it, even as construction moves forward.

The pipeline was the subject of a protest this summer by internationally known activist Julia Butterfly, who was deported after rallying outside OCP's Quito headquarters. The loudest cries have come from Mindo, a town near Quito, the Ecuadorean capital.

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