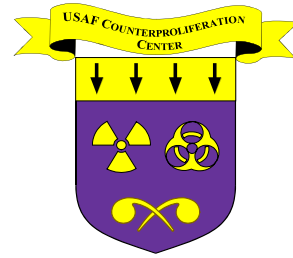


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U.N. Inspection Team 'Ready To Go' By Oct. 15

By Nicholas Kralev, The Washington Times

VIENNA, Austria — The U.N. inspection team that dismantled most of Iraq's nuclear-weapons program in the 1990s said yesterday it was ready to resume its work under the old conditions and, barring a red light from the Security Council, planned to return to Baghdad as early as Oct. 15.

Officials at the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which created its Iraq Action Team after the 1991 Gulf war, said the numerous existing U.N. resolutions demanding Baghdad's cooperation provided it with sufficient mandate to send the inspectors back without a new resolution.

"We have an existing mandate to do inspections, which were interrupted in 1998, but Iraq's recent invitation has opened the door to go back in, and we are planning to do so," one senior IAEA official said. "We can resume under the existing resolutions or under the terms of a new one; either way, we are ready to go."

The Bush administration, however, has made it clear that it strongly objects to the inspectors' return unless the Security Council adopts a new, toughly worded resolution whose requirements most likely would be difficult for Iraq to satisfy. The council is expected to discuss the draft document this week.

The Oct. 15 date appeared last week in an internal U.N. timeline circulated by Hans Blix, chief of the organization's arm in charge of Iraq's biological, chemical and missile capabilities. An IAEA advance party would arrive in Baghdad that day for "preparatory work," but "some early inspections" are also likely, the document said.

"We are going in well-prepared, with a plan, and we never take anything at face value," said Jacques Baute, the Iraq Action Team's leader. "We are thorough and suspicious. We expect that the Iraqis have learned lessons from the 1990s and will do things differently. But we will try a few new things as well."

Mark Gwozdecky, the IAEA's chief spokesman, said the first group to return to Baghdad would include a half-dozen Iraq Action Team members and about a dozen representatives from Mr. Blix's commission in New York. The two groups would fly to Bahrain separately and then take a charter flight to Iraq together. It could take up to six weeks for full inspections to begin, he said.

"We could be learning things from day one, and the level of cooperation the Iraqis give us on logistical and other practical matters would be an important factor," Mr. Gwozdecky said. "We have new technology that would allow us, for example, to sniff around metals and find out whether they have been involved in nuclear applications." But the plans to proceed with the October trip would be jeopardized if Iraqi officials, during a planned meeting in Vienna on Monday, do not "demonstrate that they will provide enough information" to the inspectors.

The IAEA team was forced to leave Baghdad in December 1998, along with members of the U.N. Special Commission for disarming Iraq, known as Unsc, the predecessor of Mr. Blix's organization. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein expelled the inspectors just before joint U.S.-British military strikes.

Former Unsc members, including its chairman, Richard Butler, repeatedly complained about a lack of full access to various facilities and ill relations with the Iraqis. Baghdad, in turn, accused the commission of spying for the United States.

Things were much different for the IAEA team, which never faced espionage charges, Mr. Gwozdecky said. By 1995, the nuclear specialists achieved "better cooperation" with Baghdad and maintained it until late 1998, he said. He explained that the team would inform the Iraqis the night before an inspection but would keep the location secret until vehicles headed to a specific site.

"That allowed us to neutralize Iraq's nuclear-weapons capabilities, and we were confident we hadn't missed any major component of the program," he said. "Of course, you can't eliminate hundreds of Iraqi scientists and their skills."

Since the inspectors were satisfied with the working conditions and their accomplishments, they were happy to continue from where they stopped nearly four years ago, Mr. Gwozdecky said. He dismissed regular claims in the West that all inspections in Iraq so far have proved ineffective.

"At the end of the day, we obtained good results in terms of disarming their nuclear program. That message somehow got lost amid the constant refrain about the ineffectiveness of inspections," he said.

In contrast to the Bush administration's assertion that sending the inspectors back to Iraq would achieve little and only waste precious time, IAEA officials say their specialists would be able to detect traces of nuclear activity.

They also noted that in any future inspections they would "jealously guard" the agency's reputation and independence — a hint it would object to any attempts to politicize its work.

"We are a technical organization, and we are trying to provide authoritative and substantive information to the United Nations," Mr. Gwozdecky said. "We are a neutral third party."
President Bush and other U.S. officials have cited two IAEA reports as evidence of Saddam's continued efforts to develop weapons of mass destruction: one based on satellite images showing new buildings and another stating that the Iraqi leader is six months away from acquiring a nuclear weapon.
Mr. Gwozdecky said such reports do not exist. The IAEA's specialists have seen new buildings, including at sites previously used by Iraq for nuclear activities, but there is "no solid evidence of what's happening in those buildings," he said.
"We use commercially available technology," he said, "and even the best technology doesn't tell you what's underneath that roof."
<http://www.washtimes.com/world/20020924-26803496.htm>

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Christian Science Monitor
September 24, 2002
Pg. 1

Iraq Inspections Face High Hurdles

The US and Britain are crafting a UN Security Council resolution against Iraq to be presented as soon as Wednesday.

By Peter Ford, Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

PARIS - United Nations weapons inspectors face all but insurmountable problems as they prepare a new mission to hunt down Saddam Hussein's alleged nuclear, chemical, and biological arsenal, according to former inspectors. The gravest obstacle is that neither of the principal antagonists appears keen that the inspections – whose success is all that could forestall war – should work. Iraq has a long record of seeking to deceive inspectors by concealing its weapons programs; the United States is adamant that its policy is Hussein's removal, not simply his disarmament. The inspectors are likely to be given new orders by the UN Security Council in a resolution to be presented within the next few days by Britain or the US. The British government is due to release a dossier Tuesday containing evidence of Iraq's biological and chemical arsenal.

In Washington's eyes "inspections were a tool for containment," says Charles Duelfer, former deputy chief of the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) that ran inspections in Iraq between 1991 and 1998. "Now they are a tool for replacement of the regime."

Iraq, while inviting inspectors back, has shown no signs of new honesty in explaining unresolved questions about its biological weapons program in particular. In a speech read to the UN General Assembly last week, Saddam Hussein denied his country has weapons of mass destruction.

Hans Blix, the head of the UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC), will meet Iraqi officials in Vienna on Sept. 30th to discuss practical arrangements for renewed inspections. The last team of UN inspectors withdrew from Iraq in 1998 after accusing Baghdad of non-cooperation.

More important, however, is whether the Iraqi government intends to resume its past practice of hiding weapons programs until inspectors' detective work reveals them. Iraq announced Saturday it would not allow inspectors unfettered access to presidential compounds.

An echo of old words

President Bush made his conditions clear in his recent speech to the UN General Assembly, when he said that "if the Iraqi regime wishes peace, it will immediately and unconditionally forswear, disclose and remove or destroy all weapons of mass destruction, long-range missiles, and related material."

That language echoed the original UN Security Council resolutions in 1991, following Iraq's surrender at the end of the Gulf War. Over the following seven years, as Baghdad repeatedly sidestepped those resolutions, international concern focused more on how far the Iraqi authorities were cooperating with the inspectors than on their failure to disarm.

If UNMOVIC begins work in Iraq, "the proof of the pudding will be in the eating, it's up to Iraq," says Ewen Buchanan, spokesman for the inspection team. "Blix has said that he does not think the Security Council will accept going back to cat-and-mouse games."

"The inspectors need an honest declaration by the Iraqis of what they have now and what they did in the past," says Gary Milhollin, an Iraq expert at the Wisconsin Project on Nuclear Disarmament in Washington. "They have never received such a document."

If one is forthcoming now, it would likely take inspectors about a year to verify, says Mr. Milhollin. But "if Iraq doesn't come through, sending inspectors is probably a waste of time," he adds. "If Iraq is still concealing things, the chances of uncovering them are fairly small."

That view is widely shared among former inspectors such as Tim Trevan, who was political adviser to UNSCOM from 1992 to 1995. "I'm very pessimistic," he says. "I think the inspectors will have an impossible task ... if Iraq goes back to the old game of cheat and retreat."

Challenging task

Though some senior US officials deride any inspection regime as worthless, UNSCOM did discover and destroy all Iraq's Scud missiles, its nuclear weapons program, and most of its chemical and biological arms. An independent panel set up in 1999 by the UN Security Council to evaluate the results of inspections found that "the bulk of Iraq's proscribed weapons programs has been eliminated."

But UNMOVIC will have great difficulty in tracking down what remains hidden, and finding whatever the Iraqis may have rebuilt in the four years since inspectors withdrew, according to former inspectors and other experts. Iraqi scientists have improved their methods of hiding laboratories, making them mobile, dividing production work among a number of small, hard-to-find labs, and lining underground facilities with lead to shield radiological signatures from nuclear work.

Iraqi security is expected to try just as hard to infiltrate UNMOVIC as it did – successfully – to penetrate UNSCOM, giving Baghdad advance warning of where inspections are planned. Although UNSCOM carried out hundreds of "no-notice" inspections, only a few were genuine surprises, according to Mr. Duelfer.

At the same time, some observers fear that UNMOVIC rules designed to prevent governments from using its work as cover for espionage may limit its ability to find and interpret evidence.

The US, British, and other national intelligence agencies used to give intelligence to UNSCOM inspectors whom they trusted – often their own military or security personnel on loan to the inspectorate. In return, those inspectors would run their findings by the agencies who had helped them. This sparked Iraqi accusations of espionage by inspectors.

UNMOVIC rules say only one official will be authorized to receive outside secret intelligence and that "the flow of intelligence must be one way only."

"This will limit what governments are prepared to give, and what the UN understands of what it gets" argues Milhollin. "They are turning down a tremendous intelligence analytical opportunity."

Both enthusiasts and skeptics agree, however, that inspectors should go to Iraq. For Scott Ritter, a former UNSCOM inspector who believes Iraq is largely disarmed and that Washington is seeking a pretext to invade, "inspectors have to go in, if for no other reason than to delay a war."

"If there is any value to sending inspectors it is to go through the paces for the international community," says Mr. Trevan. "The Americans must give a nod of respect to the UN and the world order, so as to be able to say that they tried existing mechanisms."

Some observers expect the Iraqis to be cooperative with inspectors, in a bid to forestall an American attack. By inviting the inspectors back "Iraq has decided to try to divide the international community, and to a certain extent they may cooperate for a while" in order to seek international sympathy, suggests Duelfer.

"If the Security Council does not remain resilient and united in backing the inspection process and compelling Iraq to meet its obligations, all the efforts of UNMOVIC and the IAEA, no matter how imaginative they might be, will come to naught," warned Terry Taylor, a former UNSCOM inspector, at a recent Carnegie Endowment discussion of inspections.

In the meantime, Blix and his team stand between war and peace in Iraq. "The trigger is going to be in Blix's hand, and by extension in the hand of every inspector," says Duelfer. "It's a horrible position to be in."

Who's doing the inspections?

The UN Monitoring, Verification, and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) at a glance:

Mandate: To seek out chemical, nuclear, and biological weapons, as well as missiles with a range of over 90 miles.

Head: Hans Blix, former Swedish foreign minister, who came out of retirement to lead the commission.

Founding: In December 1999, a year after the previous Iraq inspectorate, the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM), was accused of spying, and withdrawn.

Staff: 63 biochemical experts of 27 nationalities in New York, 16 nuclear experts in Vienna, and about 230 outside experts it can call on.

Power: Reports to the UN Security Council. While UNSCOM was allowed to gather and act on intelligence information – according to The New York Times, it flew a U-2 spy plane over one site it was to inspect and photographed Iraqi vehicles carting off nuclear material – UNMOVIC won't be able to do that kind of surveillance. Partner: The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, which monitors Iraq to see if it is developing weapons of mass destruction.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2002/0924/p01s04-wogi.html>

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(Editor's Note: Hyperlink to referenced clinic guide follows article.)

New York Times

September 24, 2002

New Plan for Smallpox Attack

By Sheryl Gay Stolberg With Lawrence K. Altman

WASHINGTON, Sept. 23 — Federal health officials today instructed states to prepare to vaccinate every American in the event of a biological attack using smallpox, and issued a detailed plan showing how each state could quickly inoculate as many as one million people in the first 10 days.

In releasing their most comprehensive smallpox preparedness plan to date, officials at the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said publicly for the first time that even one case of smallpox might result in a nationwide program of voluntary vaccinations. That is in part because even a single case could be a harbinger of a larger outbreak and in part because even one case would undoubtedly spark panic and a clamor for vaccine.

"We want to step up preparedness," Julie Gerberding, the director of the disease control agency, said in an interview. "If there is actually exposure and risk, we want to be able to vaccinate quickly. If there is anxiety, we also want to do it quickly."

But the new guidance for states is far from encyclopedic, and experts complained that the center's 48-page document failed to answer questions about the timing, cost and logistical hurdles of preparing thousands of health professionals and volunteers to conduct mass vaccinations while keeping the public calm. Critics said a superficial plan could sap public confidence, worsening the effects of a smallpox crisis.

"It's putting a lot of responsibility in a short time on local clinics, which will be untested," said Caroline B. Hall, a professor of infectious diseases at the University of Rochester's School of Medicine. "The quilt is only as good as the stitches. One tiny thread breaks, and the whole thing unravels."

Smallpox, which was eradicated worldwide two decades ago, is highly contagious and kills roughly a third of its victims, making it a potentially fearsome biological weapon. Officially, the virus is supposed to exist only in repositories in Moscow and the disease control center's headquarters in Atlanta, but experts have long suspected that some nations harbor secret stocks of smallpox to use as a biological weapon.

Today's release of the "Smallpox Vaccination Clinic Guide" comes as the United States is mobilizing for a possible attack on one of those nations, Iraq. Dr. Gerberding described this as "an unfortunate coincidence of timing," and said the guide was simply an update of a preparedness plan first issued two years ago, before the attacks on New York and the Pentagon and the subsequent anthrax attacks.

Bioterrorism experts said the administration's timing could not be ignored.

"They know the best time for Saddam to hit us, if he has the smallpox weapon, would be before we go in so he can terrify the American people," said an adviser to the Bush administration on smallpox policy. "In that case, it is definitely good to have these guidelines out there."

The plan does not specify what kind of attack would spur a mass vaccination campaign, or who would make the decision to initiate one. Agency officials said that absent a declaration of a national emergency by the president they would make the decision in consultation with state health officials.

The vaccine is one of the few that can work even if a person is already infected, and experts say it can protect people if given within four days of exposure to the virus.

The guide says up to 75 million doses of the nation's vaccine stockpile could be shipped in a single day and 280 million doses, enough to cover every American, in five to seven days.

The guidelines call for states to run 20 clinics 16 hours a day, an effort that the government estimates would require 4,680 public health workers and volunteers. Depending on the size and severity of the outbreak and where it is, the guidelines said more or fewer participating clinics could be needed. In state capitols around the country, health commissioners said they welcomed the advice but fretted about whether they would be able to carry it out.

In Maryland, Dr. Georges Benjamin, secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, said he had already told his staff to integrate the document into the existing bioterrorism preparedness plan.

"What is astounding is the number of people it would take to actually make this thing happen," Dr. Benjamin said. Asked if he could conduct a mass vaccination right away, he said, "We would do what we had to do, but it would be tough. I would hate to try to do this tomorrow."

There is no set timetable by which states must comply, Dr. Gerberding said, adding that the disease control agency hoped that states would conduct preparedness exercises as they develop their own plans.

Replete with flowcharts and checklists, the center's guide covers things like many security officers would be needed for each clinic to contain an unruly crowd (two per clinic per day) and how many minutes it would take people to fill out the medical history screening forms (two to three).

It deals with how clinics should handle people who refuse to be vaccinated and reminds states that they must plan for huge numbers of fatalities. "Plan for vaccinating mortuary personnel and their families," the guide says.

But the plan does not address the vexing, and politically delicate, issue of whether to vaccinate public health workers and emergency personnel before a terrorist attack.

The White House is weighing whether to permit such vaccinations. Tommy G. Thompson, the secretary of health and human services, has said a decision is expected by the end of this month.

Many public health experts say the precautionary vaccinations are necessary. "These people need to be protected," said Dr. Mohammed Akhter, the executive director of the American Public Health Association. "If we do not do that, and we just go to this plan, then these workers will be standing in line to get their vaccination rather than helping us" vaccinate others.

But the issue is complicated because the vaccine, made from a live virus, carries risks to patients with skin disorders and immune system deficiencies, including people with AIDS. And those who are vulnerable are endangered not only by being inoculated, but also by contact with others who have been inoculated.

"It's very hard to say without a clear threat who should and who shouldn't be vaccinated," said Tara O'Toole, director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Civilian Biodefense Strategies. "Some analyses suggest that if you have ever had eczema or live with someone who has, you shouldn't get vaccinated, and by some estimates that eliminates 30 million Americans."

Dr. O'Toole said she thought the plan "makes great good sense," because it assumes that the nation must be ready to vaccinate a large number of people on short notice.

The center's previous smallpox preparedness plan revolved around a strategy in which public health workers would track down and vaccinate infected people and those who came into contact with them, working in concentric circles until the outbreak was contained.

The new document does not supplant the "ring vaccination" plan, Dr. Gerberding said. But Dr. Bill Bicknell, a professor of international health at Boston University critical of that strategy, said the guide was undoubtedly influenced by recent studies showing that ring vaccination would not contain a large outbreak. He said studies had found that if 1,000 people were infected in a large city like New York and ring vaccination were used, within three months there would be 300,000 cases of smallpox and 100,000 deaths and the epidemic would not be contained. But mass vaccination, he said, would contain such an epidemic in 40 to 45 days, with 1,500 cases and 500 deaths.

"If they do it correctly, with the proper planning, you can vaccinate millions and millions of people in a very short time," Dr. Bicknell said.

And he noted that until recently, a mass vaccination policy would have been implausible, because the nation did not have a big enough vaccine stockpile to carry it out.

Federal officials began building a smallpox vaccine stockpile after last year's anthrax attacks. Mr. Thompson, the health secretary, signed contracts with two companies to buy 209 million doses to add to the existing stockpile of vaccine, some of which dates to the 1950's. In the interim, studies have shown that the existing stockpile could be diluted.

Government officials have offered differing assessments of whether there is now enough vaccine for every American. In a recent interview, Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, director of the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said there was, adding, "If we had an emergency tomorrow, we'd be good to go."

During a briefing today to discuss the state guidance, Dr. Joseph Henderson, the center's associate director for terrorism preparedness, said, "On an emergency basis, if we saw smallpox tomorrow and felt the need to do mass vaccination, we could vaccinate 155 million individuals."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2002/09/24/national/24SMAL.html>

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Smallpox Vaccination Clinic Guide

Logistical Considerations and Guidance for State and Local Planning for Emergency, Large-scale, Voluntary Administration of Smallpox Vaccine in Response to a Smallpox Outbreak

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/smallpox/vaccination/pdf/smallpox-vax-clinic-guide.pdf>

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St. Louis Post-Dispatch
September 23, 2002

Food Security Is On Front Line Of Terror War

The idea of terrorists contaminating the U.S. food supply has farmers, retailers and others in the industry changing procedures and keeping a sharp lookout for potential troubles.

By Thomas Lee Of The Post-Dispatch

When Schnuck Markets Inc. hired Dianna Pasley more than a year ago, the idea was to have Pasley, a former Jefferson County health inspector, be the company's go-to person on food safety -- someone who could educate consumers and employees about proper food storage and preparation.

Then hijackers crashed planes into the World Trade Center and Pentagon. Now, as Schnuck's director of food safety, her responsibilities are more daunting: prevent terrorists from poisoning food or, at the very least, limit the damage.

"We are asking questions like 'What are we doing?' and 'Is it enough?'" Pasley said. "I don't think anyone can answer that question. We can only do our best."

For the U.S. food industry, everything changed after Sept. 11, 2001.

To be sure, retailers and manufacturers always had been wary of unsafe, contaminated foods that could lead to expensive product recalls. And farmers always worried about diseases that could devastate livestock, such as the mad cow and foot-and-mouth disease outbreaks in Europe.

But the idea of terrorists deciding to create food-related threats has left the industry with some serious concerns.

The concept of food safety has evolved into food security, said Phil Lempert, editor of Supermarketguru.com, a Web site that tracks food and grocery trends.

"Since 9-11, both retailers and manufacturers have made food security their top priority," Lempert said.

Each segment of the food industry, from farmers to retailers, has boosted security, although threats still remain.

Farmers On Alert

The most likely terrorist method of striking the U.S. food supply would be the deliberate introduction of livestock diseases, such as mad cow and foot-and-mouth, several experts said. Such diseases have decimated the European beef industry, causing widespread economic damage.

The United States successfully prevented the diseases from entering the country, thanks to an effective monitoring/detection/control system set up by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, said George Saperstein, an associate dean of research at Tufts University's School of Veterinary Science. No animals have been infected with foot-and-mouth disease in the United States for 72 years.

What happened in Europe was an accident. For terrorists, infecting American livestock would not be terribly expensive or technically difficult, experts said.

The sheer size of the American livestock and agriculture industry also makes it hard to defend against such low-tech weapons. And American farms are so consolidated that a disease could spread rapidly. Missouri, where livestock accounts for 60 percent of the state's net farm income, would be especially hard hit.

"The rules of the game have changed," said Saperstein. "Certainly, such a scenario is possible. It wouldn't be tough to smuggle (in) an infectious agent and infect our livestock."

In January, President George W. Bush signed into law a defense appropriations bill that included \$328 million in emergency funding for the USDA to boost security. Among other things, that entails hiring additional inspectors and veterinarians and expanding its ability to test meat and poultry for bacterial and chemical agents.

The USDA also created a Homeland Security Council to coordinate with the Office of Homeland Security. The council includes a new Food Biosecurity Action Team to manage security, counter-terrorism and emergency-preparedness programs.

However, it's up to farmers to be alert and quickly report any incident, Saperstein said. "Those who sit in government offices don't sit on farms," he said. "We shouldn't sit and wait for the government to do our job for us." Indeed, much of Missouri's efforts over the last year to protect against agroterrorism have gone toward training farmers to detect suspicious behavior, especially near large feed lots, said Lowell Mohler, the state's agriculture director.

"The system is in place," Saperstein said. "It's up to us to raise the red flag."

Take Nothing For Granted

Since Sept. 11, 2001, food companies have spent hundreds of millions of dollars to upgrade security, including extensive employee background checks and installation of lights and video cameras.

"So far, so good," said Gene Grabowski, vice-president of communications for the Grocery Manufacturers of America, or GMA. "But we can't take anything for granted."

Large food manufacturers and processors "always had good security in place," said Mike Doyle, director of the University of Georgia's Center for Food Safety.

Still, the terrorist attacks a year ago have manufacturers on edge. The GMA has met several times with officials from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Food and Drug Administration to identify security gaps and potential threats, Grabowski said.

Companies have kept a closer eye on their employees, restricting access to sensitive areas throughout manufacturing facilities. For instance, the Central States Coca-Cola Bottling Co. recently installed a scanner that requires an electronic swipe card to enter a room in its Maryland Heights plant where a select group of highly trained workers mix the Coke syrup concentrate with water.

Preventing Tampering

Like manufacturers, food retailers also worry about product tampering. To better compete against restaurants and mega-retailers, such as Wal-Mart Stores Inc., supermarkets today offer ready-to-eat meals to consumers as well as delis and salad bars.

With much of that food prepared within the store, supermarkets increasingly are vulnerable to a terrorist attack, experts say. In 1984, a religious cult in Oregon sprayed salmonella on a salad bar to prevent people from voting in an election, the only confirmed case of food terrorism in the United States.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, consumers worry about such attacks, especially the use of anthrax, said Pasley of Schnuck. To prevent tampering, supermarkets rely on video cameras to monitor specific areas, including salad bars and produce sections. Employees are trained to watch for suspicious behavior, a tough job given supermarkets' high turnover rate, Pasley said.

The Food Marketing Institute, the supermarkets' trade association, recently formed a task force to study security. Supermarkets are further restricting access to backrooms, including freezers, and are moving bathrooms to the front of stores, Lempert said. Some supermarkets also own and operate their own manufacturing plants, such as Schnuck's Mid States Dairy plant in Hazelwood.

Another idea gaining greater attention is the use of tamper-resistant, sometimes called tamper-evident, packaging. Jeff Earnhart, executive vice-president of St. Louis-based Bunzl Distribution Inc., which sells supplies to supermarkets, said food retailers are increasingly interested in products such as secure lids and tamper-resistant containers. While such packaging is normally associated with over-the-counter drugs like aspirin, supermarkets now want to protect exposed foods.

But tamper-evident packaging can be expensive, Earnhart said. Supermarkets also must weigh the needs of consumers, he said.

"Consumers want to see and touch the product," Earnhart said.

These issues are not new to food retailers. However, the terrorist attacks have changed the way supermarkets view food safety, said Ken Jacobsmeyer, Schnuck's director of loss prevention.

"Food safety has always been a priority issue," he said. "But since 9-11, most of the focus has been on food security . . . Prior to Sept. 11, you just didn't hear that terminology."

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(Editor's Note: Hyperlink to referenced report follows article.)

Washington Post

September 25, 2002

Pg. 1

Blair: Iraq Can Deploy Quickly

Report Presents New Details on Banned Arms

By Glenn Frankel, Washington Post Foreign Service

LONDON, Sept. 24 – Iraq could deploy nerve gas and anthrax weapons within 45 minutes of an order from President Saddam Hussein or his son, and it has been seeking to purchase uranium from Africa on the black market to build a nuclear bomb, according to a British intelligence dossier released today by Prime Minister Tony Blair. The 50-page report contends that Iraq has produced germ warfare agents in mobile laboratories and restarted its nuclear weapons program after U.N. inspectors left the country in 1998.

It states that U.N. sanctions are hindering Iraq's efforts to obtain enriched uranium needed to build a nuclear weapon. But if U.N. sanctions were broken, the report says, it would take Iraq between one and two years to build a bomb if it obtained fissile material and other essential components from foreign sources, and at least five years to produce enough fissile material of its own.

That assessment is more conservative than some U.S. analyses of Iraq's nuclear program. President Bush, for instance, has said that Iraq could build a bomb within a year if it acquired fissile material.

Britain is the closest U.S. ally in the confrontation with Iraq, and Blair has frequently acted as the two countries' international voice. He took today's dossier to a contentious special session of Parliament, but the televised speech also served as an appeal to the world at large.

Produced by Britain's top-secret Joint Intelligence Committee, the dossier contains no dramatic revelations, experts said, but gives new intriguing details about the Iraqi weapons programs, such as the 45-minute window. It generally does not disclose sources. But Blair's attribution to the committee is unprecedented, officials said.

Though the report documents Iraq's continuing efforts, analysts said, it suggests that Baghdad would find it difficult to wage sustained, large-scale war with weapons of mass destruction.

The report "doesn't try to make the case that Iraq is on the verge of acquiring nuclear weapons or long-range missiles," said Gary Samore, an American weapons expert and the editor of a report issued earlier this month by the International Institute for Strategic Studies. "But when you put the whole together, it does provide convincing information to support the argument that Iraq is pursuing weapons of mass destruction and the long-range missiles to deliver them."

A senior Iraqi official called the dossier "scaremongering, exaggeration and lies." At a news conference in Baghdad, presidential adviser Amir al-Saadi said that U.N. weapons inspectors, whom Iraq has invited to return, would have "unfettered access" to establish the truth.

Blair opened the all-day debate in the House of Commons by declaring that Hussein's program for developing weapons of mass destruction was "active, detailed and growing. It is not shut down. It is up and running now." He said Britain was committed to disarming Iraq "one way or another."

"Read it all, and again I defy anyone to say that this cruel and sadistic dictator should be allowed to get his hands on nuclear, chemical or biological weapons," said Blair, who faces strong opposition at home on his Iraq stance, including from within his ruling Labor Party.

The report says Iraq has retained as many as 20 al-Hussein missiles with a range of up to about 400 miles in violation of U.N. sanctions. It also says the Iraqis have started to deploy the al-Samoud liquid-propellant missile and have used the absence of inspectors to work on improving its range to at least 125 miles, which is beyond the 94-mile limit imposed by the United Nations.

Such missiles could deliver chemical or biological warheads to countries as far away as Israel and Greece.

The dossier also says that although Iraq's main chemical weapons facility was destroyed by U.N. inspectors, Hussein's government has rebuilt other "dual use" plants that could make both civilian and military products. Iraq could produce significant quantities of mustard gas "within weeks," and nerve agent "within months," according to the report.

Citing intelligence from "reliable sources," the report says that Hussein regards these weapons as the basis of Iraq's regional power and that he is prepared to use them against his own population and not merely as a last resort.

As for nuclear weapons development, which experts say is the most difficult to assess, the report gives new details on Iraq's alleged efforts to acquire dual-use technology and materials with nuclear applications, including pumps, magnets, gases and aluminum tubes needed to build gas centrifuges used to enrich uranium.

In another new accusation, the report states that "there is intelligence that Iraq has sought the supply of significant quantities of uranium from Africa." It does not specify from which country or when. It also says Iraq has begun plans to conceal evidence of its weapons from U.N. inspectors if they return to the country.

In Parliament this afternoon, Blair was challenged by a wide spectrum of opponents, from traditional leftists who oppose military action against Iraq under any circumstances to moderates who expressed concerns about the effect

of a war on Iraqi civilians, Middle East stability and hopes for a settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Many lawmakers also expressed the fear that the United States would attack Iraq without U.N. support.

"Those of us who have never subscribed to British unilateralism are not about to sign up for American unilateralism either," said Charles Kennedy, leader of the small but influential Liberal Democrat party. He added that "it is vital that the British government maintains its moral authority, the authority of this House and the United Nations in the weeks and months ahead."

In making his case, Blair offered two distinctions between his approach and that of the Bush administration. He said that although he would welcome an end to Hussein's rule, Britain's goal was to eliminate Iraq's weapons programs, not "regime change." And he called for a new diplomatic effort to restart the Middle East peace process "based on the twin principles of a secure Israel and a viable Palestinian state."

Blair's government ducked a vote on British policy tonight by refusing to allow opponents to introduce a motion. But opinion polls suggest he faces an uphill battle to convince the British public.

"Do you actually support regime change without U.N. authorization? Yes or no?" demanded Paul Marsden, a Liberal Democrat.

Blair replied that the fate of the current Iraqi government would depend on whether Hussein complied with U.N. demands. He added: "The one thing I find odd are people who can find the notion of regime change in Iraq somehow distasteful. Regime change in Iraq would be a wonderful thing."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A62641-2002Sep24.html>

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IRAQ'S WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION THE ASSESSMENT OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT

<http://www.number-10.gov.uk/files/pdf/iraqdossier.pdf>

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Christian Science Monitor
September 25, 2002

Two Big Challenges Complicate Iraq Attack

US military gears up to disarm weapons of mass destruction – and sow disloyalty in Iraqi ranks.

By Ann Scott Tyson, Special correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor

WASHINGTON - As American forces gear up for a possible invasion of Iraq, two wild cards are deeply troubling to senior US defense and military officials: President Saddam Hussein's potential to stage a counterattack with biological or chemical weapons, as well as his ability to retain the loyalty of the Iraqi Army and civilian population. Indeed, two central elements driving US war-planning strategy appear to be how to neutralize the risk of a chemical or biological strike on US forces or neighboring states, while also quickly paralyzing the core Iraqi leadership and encouraging widespread defections by Iraqi troops and commanders, official statements suggest.

As a result, a US campaign would likely be one of "rapid decisive operations." It would combine intense, focused airstrikes to eliminate Iraqi air defenses and other critical military targets, along with swift insertion of US and allied Special Operations Forces. Elite forces spearheading the ground operation would play a crucial role in hunting down Iraqi leaders, working with internal opposition, and finding the arsenal and delivery systems for weapons of mass destruction (WMD). They would be followed by a medium-sized invasion force of some 100,000 US troops, analysts and officials say.

Initial airstrikes would aim to destroy the air defenses Iraq has modernized in recent years with fiber optics. Already, US and British warplanes are launching frequent strikes to degrade higher-value, fixed Iraqi air defenses in a tactical shift ordered in recent months by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

Strikes are also likely on Mr. Hussein's headquarters, including presidential palaces, and on communications nodes that could allow the Iraqi leader to rally forces, according to former military commanders.

At the same time, airstrikes – likely assisted early on by US commandos on the ground – would seek to thwart a possible WMD attack by targeting delivery systems such as Scud-type missiles and other short-range missiles and related infrastructure.

"The first thing you would do is try to attack whatever infrastructure associated with WMD you could," Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Richard Myers told a Senate committee last Thursday, adding that "weapons of mass destruction would be a horrible thing to have on the battlefield."

Attacking delivery systems is crucial, Pentagon officials and experts say, because once a chemical or biological weapon is launched – likely in baseball-sized bombs either on a missile or aboard an aircraft or low-flying unmanned drone – shooting it down is highly problematic. If hit, the bombs are likely to disperse their lethal contents on troops or populations below, especially if intercepted at lower altitudes with an insufficient blast, says James Carafano, a senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments here.

Another risk is that an Iraqi WMD attack on a nearby country such as Israel would widen the conflict, a scenario the Pentagon is strenuously seeking to avoid. "It would be overwhelmingly in Israel's interest to stay out in the event that a conflict were to occur," Mr. Rumsfeld said.

Still, Israeli officials have indicated they would not show the same restraint they did during the 1991 Gulf War when Iraq fired dozens of Scud missiles at Israel.

Yet the military admits that it faces a major challenge in rapidly locating Iraq's chemical and biological arsenals and its mobile delivery systems.

"They've gone underground, they've gone mobile, they combine their biological and chemical weapons production with legitimate facilities," General Myers told a House committee last week. "It's going to make this problem of discovery just very, very difficult."

Once actual WMD stockpiles are found, they must be dealt with from the ground, Rumsfeld asserts. Bombing such materials poses risks because it could unleash a plume of deadly debris. Also, some storage facilities are so heavily fortified deep underground that they could only be destroyed with weapons that, according to Rumsfeld "would not be pleasant to have to use," a possible reference to bunker-busting nuclear devices.

Another key goal, Pentagon officials suggest, would be to drive a wedge between Hussein and the Iraqi military, which has 23 ground divisions, including six Republican Guard divisions. Poor morale and low training standards are widespread in Iraqi ranks, which have been diminished by 50 to 60 percent since the Gulf War, they say. During that conflict, tens of thousands of Iraqi troops switched sides or surrendered within days to US forces, Pentagon officials say.

A major "psychological operations" campaign would urge Iraqi troops to surrender, while warning that anyone using WMD will be held accountable. "Wise Iraqis will not obey orders to use weapons of mass destruction," Rumsfeld said.

US Army Special Forces troops, trained linguists known as Green Berets, would help organize any breakaway Iraqi military units – and forge links with opposition groups. Trained linguists with cultural skills, Green Berets would play a vital role in organizing anti-Saddam groups, experts say.

Just as they did in Afghanistan, US Special Operations Forces assigned to Iraqi dissident groups would work closely with agents from the Central Intelligence Agency, says Michael Vickers, a military strategist and former Special Forces and CIA officer. "There is a blurring between the CIA and the military in this regard," he said.

Officials have voiced confidence that the US has ample resources to defeat Hussein. Forces prepositioned in the region include some 50,000 troops, equipment for four brigades, two aircraft carrier battle groups, and hundreds of aircraft.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2002/0925/p03s01-usmi.html>

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New York Times
September 25, 2002

Iraq Promises Access For Arms Inspectors

By Reuters

BAGHDAD, Iraq, Sept. 24 — A senior Iraqi official said today that United Nations arms inspectors, scheduled to return to Iraq in mid-October after four years, would have "unfettered access" to establish the truth.

The official, Amir al-Saadi, a presidential adviser, told reporters at a news conference here that weapons inspectors would be allowed to go "wherever they want."

Iraq says it has no weapons of mass destruction. After Baghdad's defeat in the 1991 Persian Gulf war, United Nations inspectors spent seven years in Iraq seeking out and destroying weapons stocks. But the United States and Britain say that they did not find them all and that Iraq has acquired new ones.

This month, Iraq said it would permit the unconditional return of the arms inspectors, who left the country in 1998. Washington and London want a tough resolution to make Iraq honor that pledge. China said today that it would consider the proposed resolution. In Moscow, the British ambassador, Sir Roderic Lyne, said he saw signs of movement toward the British position. President Jacques Chirac of France questioned whether a new resolution was essential, but said France would not oppose one that reiterated conditions on the return of inspectors.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2002/09/25/international/middleeast/25IRAQ.html>

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London Times
September 25, 2002

Saddam's Nuclear Shopping Tour

By Michael Evans and Richard Beeston

IRAQI agents have been scouring countries across Africa for uranium to help Saddam Hussein to build nuclear weapons, The Times has learnt.

The dossier released by the Government yesterday noted in passing that Baghdad had recently tried to acquire "significant quantities of uranium from Africa". But what it left out was evidence supplied to the Cabinet Office's Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC) showing that Saddam's agents have secretly visited a number of African countries, 13 of which have uranium as a natural resource.

Uranium, once enriched, could form the core of a nuclear bomb, but there is no evidence yet that Saddam has succeeded in acquiring it. "If Iraq had succeeded in buying uranium from Africa, the dossier would have said so," one Whitehall source said.

The Iraqis are known to have targeted the war-ravaged Democratic Republic of Congo, though no uranium has been extracted there for several years. The mine that produced the uranium used in the American bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 is in an area controlled by Zimbabwean troops.

The dossier draws on top secret intelligence, and refers only generally to "Africa" as a potential source of uranium, possibly because of the fear that too detailed an insight might expose the sources. The Prime Minister has said that although an unprecedented amount of intelligence material published in the document, some of the most sensitive information has been excluded.

The dossier states that Iraq is producing biological and chemical weapons that can be deployed in 45 minutes, that it is developing missiles with a range of 1000km (600 miles), and that Saddam may have given his son Qusay the power to order the use of such weapons.

What the document does not do is link Saddam to Osama bin Laden, al-Qaeda and the September 11 attacks. The intelligence committee has concluded that Saddam has no sympathy for Islamic fundamentalism.

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2-426418,00.html>

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Bloomberg.com
September 24, 2002

U.S. Seeks Biological, Chemical Attack Cleanup Foam

By Tony Capaccio

Washington -- The U.S. Central Command has made "an urgent request" for a new foam that removes chemical and biological agents from tanks, trucks, armored personnel carriers and sensitive electronics, officials say.

The non-toxic foam developed by the Energy Department's Sandia National Laboratories and made by two private companies would replace the decontaminant "DS2" -- a corrosive liquid proven harmful to soldiers and only marginally effective against biological agents, officials said.

"We are pursuing an urgent request from CENTCOM to see if we can supply some of the Sandia foam," Dr. Anna Johnson-Winegar, deputy assistant secretary for chemical and biological defense, said. CENTCOM would run any military operation against Iraq.

Iraq has chemical and biological weapons and "you'd have to assume they'd be used" against attacking U.S. troops, General Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told the U.S. Congress last week. The U.S. is now inoculating its forces against the deadly toxin anthrax, he said.

Iraq is believed to have aerial bombs, rockets, artillery and aerosols that can dispense pathogens such as anthrax and botulism. It also has plans to deploy chemical and biological weapons using ballistic missiles, the U.K. said today. Myers said the U.S. since the 1991 Persian Gulf War has improved its protective suits, gas masks and sensors that detect toxic chemicals or biological agents. "We also have decontamination sets today that are new since a decade ago," he told the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Hosed On

The new foam's primary use is to wash weapons, armored vehicles, large containers and even airfields. It's proven effective against all known chemical and biological agents, said Mark Tucker, a Sandia researcher who helped develop the foam.

The sudsy foam is hosed on by soldiers in protective gear and can break down the agents within 30 minutes into harmless compounds, Tucker said.

CENTCOM's "urgent request" for the new foam was approved Aug. 13 by the Pentagon and will be given "the most expeditious" treatment, Johnson-Winegar's office said in a statement. The Joint Chiefs of Staff are "coordinating an effort to meet this urgent requirement," the statement said.

The foam was licensed to two small, privately held companies in 2000: Modec Inc. in Denver and Enviro Foam Technologies Inc. in Huntsville, Alabama. The Pentagon said it hasn't determined how much foam it will need. "We need to be prepared for any contingency," the Central Command said in a statement.

Electronics at Risk

The military's increasing dependence on electronics has highlighted the dangers of DS2, a corrosive.

"We need to take care of everything from sensitive electronic equipment -- you can't spray DS2 on that -- to people with open wounds that might be contaminated with chemical or biological agents, and large areas like an airfield," Johnson-Winegar said.

"What would the Army do if they started rolling tanks in Iraq" and were attacked with chemical and biological weapons, said Peter Beucher, chief executive of Enviro Foam Technologies. "What would they have to keep them rolling -- nothing."

"We've got a lot of inquiries from commanders in the region," Beucher said. "The military has got to get off the dime. It's a big decision that impacts training, logistics, doctrine."

Modec Chief Executive Brian Kalamanka said the company has 100,000 gallons of foam on hand, enough for about 3,000 vehicles.

Modec has sold its foam to the FBI, New York City and the Air Force for use to decontaminate Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany, the service's primary base in Europe.

Franks Briefed on Foam

President George W. Bush is asking Congress and the United Nations for resolutions requiring that Iraq be disarmed and rid of all weapons of mass destruction.

CENTCOM is responsible for U.S. military operations in the Middle East and Central Asia. It directed the Afghan war, monitors the no-fly zones over Iraq and is planning for a potential attack on Iraq.

CENTCOM commander Army General Tommy Franks was briefed Aug. 13 by Modec's Kalamanka.

Franks "and the staff learned about the capabilities of the decon foam and application system," and Franks observed "the latest generation of decontamination systems," CENTCOM said in a statement.

DS2's Flaws

DS2, which has been in Army stocks since the 1950s, is only marginally effective against biological agents, said Mark Cantrell, a chemist with the U.S. Army's Soldier, Biological, and Chemical Command.

"It was designed to be effective against chemicals," Cantrell said. "If there's any effectiveness against biological agents, it's serendipitous. It wasn't designed for it."

The U.S. General Accounting Office in an April 1990 report recommended the Pentagon remove DS2 from the inventory because "tests have shown it can severely damage some of the Army's equipment, including major systems such as the M1A1 tank."

"For example, DS2 can cause the M1 tank's electronics and optical equipment to become inoperable," GAO wrote in recommending purging the inventory.

Thousands of gallons of DS2 were shipped to the Saudi Arabia during the six-month buildup before the Persian Gulf War. None of the decontaminant was used because Iraq didn't fire chemical or biological agents against U.S. troops.

"The Air Force and Navy have since acknowledged that persistent chemical agents could shut down their air bases and ports," author Albert Mauroni wrote in 1998 in "Chemical- Biological Defense, U.S. Military Policies and Decisions in the Gulf War. "Persistence" refers to the duration a chemical or biological agent remains effective.

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Qaida tested chemical weapons in Iraq

By [Ze'ev Schiff](#)

A group of Qaida activists conducted experiments with chemical weapons a few months ago in Iraq. The experiments were conducted in northern Kurdish Iraq, in an area controlled de facto by a extremist Islamic group known as Ansar al Islam.

It is doubtful that Saddam Hussein knew in advance about the experiments, but due to Ansar al Islam's close ties to conservative elements in Iran, Iraqi intelligence is making special efforts to penetrate the organization. While Iraqi agents may not have known of the experiments before they took place, they most certainly knew of it after the fact.

Halbaja, the Kurdish town where Saddam Hussein's troops used chemical weapons to kill thousands because he believed they were helping Iran during the war between the two countries, is in the same area where Ansar al Islam maintains de facto control.

It is not known if the experiments a few months ago included tests on living subjects whether human or animal. Until the end of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, Qaida experimented with chemical weapons in Afghanistan. The U.S. assault, however, scattered its experts, who were forced to find refuge in various places.

In addition to the problem of where to conduct their experiments, the organization now faces a problem where to store various chemicals. Qaida's efforts to acquire chemical munitions is part of its plan to surprise several targets and cause as many casualties as possible.

Iraq is perceived by them as a convenient place to work. Saddam's government is not in full control of the entire territory.

In the northern area, defined as Kurdish, Ansar al Islam has taken control over some sections of the territory.

Ansar al Islam is known to have close ties with Qaida, as well as ties with the Iranians who agreed to provide shelter to Qaida operatives, including those responsible for the terrorist attack on the synagogue in Jerba, Tunisia, last April.

Meanwhile, Qaida transferred various chemical materials through Turkey, that were meant for use against American targets in Turkey or were on their way to Chechnya to attack Russian targets.

<http://www.haaretzdaily.com/hasen/pages/ShArt.jhtml?itemNo=211373&contrassID=2&subContrassID=1&sbSubContrassID=0&listSrc=Y>

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New York Times
September 26, 2002
Pg. 1

In Policy Shift, U.S. Will Talk To North Korea

By David E. Sanger

WASHINGTON, Sept. 25 — President Bush will send a senior American diplomat to North Korea early next month, the White House said today, ending 20 months of internal debate on whether to open talks with a country that Mr. Bush lumped with Iran and Iraq as part of an "axis of evil."

The announcement, which came only days after a visit to North Korea by Japan's prime minister, Junichiro Koizumi, was a significant change of strategy for the administration, which had ended similar negotiations pursued with North Korea by President Clinton shortly before he left office.

The administration has for months been signaling a readiness to reopen talks at a senior level; the official traveling to the North will be James A. Kelly, an assistant secretary of state with long experience in Asia. But the trip was delayed after a North Korean incursion into South Korean waters in June.

Administration officials say they intend to have a wide-ranging discussion with North Korea that will cover its missile production and exports, its huge array of conventional weapons within reach of South Korea and its history of repression. There will undoubtedly be revived talk about its nuclear program, which has been frozen since 1994 under an agreement with the United States.

The timing of the White House announcement was significant, because the stance on North Korea contrasts so sharply with Mr. Bush's approach to Iraq. Administration officials have gone to some lengths in recent weeks to explain why they think diplomacy can work with Kim Jong Il of North Korea but not with Saddam Hussein. Like Iraq, North Korea has an extensive nuclear program, chemical weapons, links to terrorism and a history of shell games with nuclear inspectors.

Moreover, the Central Intelligence Agency has estimated that North Korea has produced enough fissile material to produce at least two nuclear weapons; so far the agency has concluded that Iraq does not have the material to produce a nuclear device but could obtain it in coming years.

The White House made the announcement after Mr. Bush talked by telephone to President Kim Dae Jung of South Korea, who had urged the United States to make such a move more than a year ago.

Mr. Bush rebuffed President Kim at the time, saying he did not trust the North Korean leader. The rebuff was an early victory for hawks in the administration, who argued that North Korea would never fulfill its commitments. It was also an early defeat for Secretary of State Colin L. Powell, who argued that there was little risk in picking up where Mr. Clinton had left off.

Now, 20 months into his presidency, Mr. Bush appears to be doing exactly that, although the White House insists that the talks will be on a much wider range of issues than Mr. Clinton was attempting.

"The two leaders agreed that real progress with the North depends on full resolution of the security issues on the Korean Peninsula," Ari Fleischer, the White House press secretary, told reporters today. The State Department said lower-level meetings with North Korean officials at the United Nations this week had paved the way for the trip. A meeting at this moment may well serve the needs of both Mr. Bush and the reclusive North Korean leader — who, eight years after the death of his father, is suddenly trying to take the country in new directions.

Mr. Bush can use the Korea diplomacy, even if it fails, as evidence of willingness to negotiate with governments he detests — excepting Iraq. "We are determined," one senior administration official said, "to make it clear we don't think one size fits all. We're not looking for confrontation."

Kim Jong Il, Korea experts note, sees the United States as the key to his hopes for economic reform, which are pinned on a new capitalist trade and investment zone he says he wants to create. South Korea, Japan, Russia and China would be the main trading partners and investors in this zone — planned for northwestern North Korea. But the success of any such venture ultimately rests on a gradual improvement in relations with the United States.

Mr. Kim stepped in that direction last week by telling Mr. Koizumi that he was extending the moratorium on missile testing, and by apologizing for the North Korean intelligence services' abduction of Japanese citizens decades ago.

"This is a start," said Leonard S. Spector, director of the Washington office of the Center for Nonproliferation Studies of the Monterey Institute of International Studies and a longtime observer of North Korea. "But the reality is that we lost a year and a half when there might have been progress."

Secretary Powell had sought that progress from the start, after the departing Clinton administration briefed him and other Bush administration officials on the talks concerning a comprehensive missile deal. Kim Jong Il had said that North Korea would freeze development, production, deployment and testing of missiles that could fly more than 300 miles in return for the free launching of several civilian satellites every year. He had also agreed to halt missile and missile-related exports — in particular to Iran, a major customer — in exchange for some kind of compensation, which was never fully negotiated.

But several issues remained to be resolved, including North Korea's refusal to eliminate its existing missile forces, and how to establish a system for independent verification.

"I don't think the Clinton team was as close to a deal as they might lead you to think," one of Mr. Bush's senior national security advisers said last month. "We have a lot of work to do to expand the agenda — and that means talking about all their conventional weapons within reach of Seoul."

Any negotiations are bound to be long and difficult. It is far from clear that the administration is willing to compensate North Korea for giving up missile exports. Nor is it clear that the North would be willing to pull back

from the demilitarized zone; with its economy in a shambles, the North's ability to wipe out Seoul with a devastating attack is about the only card it still has to play.

Mr. Fleischer suggested today that North Korea could expect some discussion of the need to change its way of governance — not a subject its leaders have entertained so far.

"Their current system is a failure, and it has failed its own people more than anybody else," he said.

http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story2&cid=68&ncid=716&e=13&u=/nyt/20020926/ts_nyt/in_policy_shift_u_s_will_talk_to_north_korea

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USA Today
September 26, 2002
Pg. 1

In Iraq's Arsenal: Nature's Deadliest Poison

Botulinum toxin might be the most diabolical of Saddam Hussein's terror tools, but the U.S. is far from ready to protect its troops -- the only remedy is antitoxin made from horse serum

By Kevin Moloney for USA Today

In the year since an unknown bioterrorist stuffed envelopes with anthrax and mailed them, the government has stockpiled anthrax vaccine and antibiotics, planned mass vaccination campaigns and ordered 209 million fresh doses of smallpox vaccine.

Yet the United States is still unprepared to contend with other agents on its A-list of potential biowarfare threats, especially botulinum toxin, an experimental terror tool of Saddam Hussein's.

Botulinum toxin, the most poisonous substance known, is about 100,000 times deadlier than the neurotoxin Sarin, which was used in an attack on Tokyo subways in 1995 that killed 10 and sent 5,000 people streaming into hospitals. During the Gulf War in 1991, Iraq reportedly stockpiled thousands of liters of the botulinum toxin and funneled some into bombs.

Today, as the United States edges closer to another war with Iraq, U.S. troops would be just as vulnerable to botulinum toxin as they were a decade ago. There's still no government-approved vaccine, and the only antitoxin is made by extracting antibodies from the blood of vaccinated horses using decades-old technology.

Antitoxin, which clears toxin from the blood, is so scarce that there isn't enough to safeguard thousands of troops from a botulinum attack. There are other major problems: Antitoxin is too difficult to administer on the battlefield, and it can have life-threatening side effects.

Although a 21st-century biotech version is in laboratory trials, it will be years before the experimental antitoxin reaches battlefield or civilian stockpiles.

"Unfortunately, there's nothing really available for people yet, other than horse serum," says George Lewis, a retired Army veterinary microbiologist who oversaw the program that developed the equine antitoxin shipped to Saudi Arabia during the Gulf War.

When botulism strikes, it strikes hard. The toxin destroys the nerves that enable people to breathe and swallow. Until the nerves regenerate, which takes weeks or months, paralysis sets in. Without ventilators and mechanical life support, victims virtually always die.

Botulinum toxin's availability and lethality make it a potentially fearsome weapon. It is difficult to defend against on the battlefield or in the hands of urban bioterrorists, who wouldn't have to kill millions or even thousands to have a considerable impact.

The toxin was so popular among Iraqi bioweapons scientists that they claimed to have produced botulinum toxin on an industrial scale. After the Gulf War, Iraq told U.N. weapons inspectors that it had stockpiled nearly 20,000 liters of toxin in solution in anticipation of a U.S. attack. Some of it, Iraq said, had been loaded into more than 100 solution-filled "wet bombs," which were never used.

Security analysts believe Iraq's bioweapons arsenal is much larger than Iraqi leaders acknowledge. Even the experts can only guess at what Iraqi biologists have cooked up since 1998, when U.N. inspections ended.

"The biological program is a black hole," says Avigdor Haselkorn, a Defense Department adviser with the Geopolitical Forum, a consulting group, and author of *The Continuing Storm: Iraq, Poisonous Weapons, and Deterrence*, an analysis of the Iraqi program.

If Saddam had chosen to use botulinum in 1991, he would have caught the U.S. military with its guard down. At the start of the Gulf War, the U.S. stockpile of equine antitoxin totaled roughly 2,600 doses. During the war, the Army bought a herd of horses, vaccinated them and began extracting their antibodies for antitoxin. But three years after the war, the funding died and the effort ended.

Military experts concede that biohazard suits and a costly, crude vaccine remain the best defense against a battlefield botulinum attack. Antitoxin won't help much on the battlefield, they say, because it must be given via a prolonged intravenous drip right after exposure.

"If there was a massive exposure on the battlefield, there aren't enough medical assets to give antitoxin to enough people," says Col. David Danley of the Army's Joint Program Office for Biological Defense.

The toxin is made by a microscopic bacterium, *Clostridium botulinum*. Most people think of botulism as a scary byproduct of careless home and commercial canning, because the bacterium grows — and produces toxin — only in airless environments such as vacuum-packed jars and cans.

Adults get botulism from direct exposure to the toxin in food or dirty hypodermic needles, where spores can germinate in leftover liquid. But adults represent just one-third of the roughly 100 cases that occur in the USA each year. The rest are infants who are infected with spores traveling on dust motes in air or who are unwittingly fed spore-carrying honey. The spores germinate in the oxygen-free darkness of the infants' intestines, producing toxin from within.

Microscopic *C. Botulinum* spores, which are found in backyards everywhere, are easily accessible to those with the know-how to extract and grow them. In the hands of an urban terrorist, experts say, the toxin could wreak havoc.

"More people have died from West Nile virus than died from the anthrax letters, but the chaos and terror and economic impact of anthrax were incalculable. You could do that with botulinum toxin," says Stephen Arnon of the California Department of Health, who led the effort to develop a human version of antitoxin to treat infants. "With the simplest of lab equipment, for \$1,000, you could make enough toxin to kill hundreds of people."

If a bioterrorist were to release a cloud of botulinum in a major city, 50,000 people would get sick, and 30,000 of them would die without antitoxin treatment, according to a report released this year by the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine, a think-tank financed partly by Congress.

Because 80% to 90% of the beds in any intensive care unit in any given city are usually full — and because most cities have just a few hundred intensive care beds — fewer than 100 cases of botulism could lock up every intensive care ward in a city like San Francisco for weeks, says James Marks of the University of California-San Francisco, an author of the report.

The gridlock would displace cancer patients, heart patients and candidates for elective surgery, Marks says, depriving them of life support and turning them into "collateral damage."

The religious sect Aum Shinryko attempted to weaponize botulinum toxin before its attack on the Tokyo subway system. Aum Shinryko's attempt failed because the botulinum variant members used turned out to be non-lethal. Sarin was the group's second choice.

"Botulinum toxin is a very scary agent," says Arturo Casadevall, an infectious-disease specialist at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York. "We wouldn't know we were attacked until we had an epidemic of paralyzed people with no explanation."

Casadevall notes that ordinary medicines wouldn't help the victims. "One of my fears," he says, "is that if we get hit we wouldn't have enough respirators in New York City. If you had an attack that involved thousands of people, you couldn't put them in the (intensive care unit)."

Quick access to antitoxin would shorten the course of the illness. If a bioterrorist were to release a cloud of botulinum toxin in a big city, antitoxin could save about half of the lives that would be lost.

But antitoxin is in perilously short supply. After the Gulf War, the Army stockpiled 5,000 doses of finished antitoxin from its herd of horses. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention stored some of what remains in freezers, but officials will not disclose exactly how much they have on hand. The Army put 45,000 unprocessed doses into the deep freeze.

In 1999, the Army abandoned the program and donated 53 horses to the Air Force Academy stables. Some were auctioned or sold, stable manager Billy Jack Barrett says; others are kept at the stables for cadets and others to ride. The story of the Army's botulinum antitoxin program provides a compelling example of the nation's once-ambivalent commitment to biodefense, experts say.

Before the Gulf War, most military analysts were more concerned about nuclear and chemical weapons than they were about biological agents. In 1972, 140 countries — including Iraq — renounced offensive biowarfare by signing the Biological Weapons Convention. But the treaty didn't deter Iraq from launching a covert bioweapons program. CIA bioweapons analyst Kimberly Stergulz says bioterrorism offers rogue nations like Iraq — and "non-state actors" like al-Qaeda — cheap access to weapons of mass destruction. A rogue nation can launch an extensive biowarfare program for about \$10 million, compared with the \$2 billion needed to build nuclear arms.

Analysts estimate that by the time Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990, Baghdad had spent \$100 million on biowarfare delivery devices and agents. Besides botulism, the Iraqis brewed up vast amounts of anthrax; ricin, a castor-bean toxin that blocks breathing and circulation; and *Clostridium perfringens*, which causes gangrene.

No one knows how effective Iraq's arsenal would have been had Saddam elected to drop those bombs. Some animal research suggests that botulinum is 40 to 80 times more lethal when it is consumed in food than when it is inhaled into the lungs.

Before the United States abandoned offensive bioweapons research in 1969, tests on Horn Island, near Pascagoula, Miss., suggested botulinum isn't effective when it's dropped in a small bomb.

"It just didn't kill guinea pigs downrange," says David Franz, former commander of the U.S. Army Research Institute for Infectious Diseases.

But a British intelligence report released Tuesday says Iraq is "judged to be self-sufficient" in the technology needed to improve its bioweapons, including fermenters, centrifuges and spray dryers. The L-29 drone aircraft developed by Iraqi engineers are basically high-tech crop-dusters capable of unleashing up to 80 gallons of toxin or other agents in a deadly mist.

In the wake of Sept. 11 and the anthrax attacks, the government has developed a renewed interest in the botulism antitoxin, says Nicholas Pomato, vice president of research at Intracell, the Gaithersburg, Md., biotech firm that made the antitoxin during the Gulf War.

Intracell has begun negotiating to finish the job of processing the Army's stored horse serum, Pomato says, at a cost of \$15 million to \$20 million — about \$500 a dose.

"Double that cost if you start making the material from scratch again from horses," Pomato says.

But he adds that it will take time to outfit a processing facility and begin the work. New supplies, he says, won't be tested and ready for use until next year.

Since the Army has decided not to stockpile antitoxin because it would be unwieldy to use on the battlefield, Pomato says, the CDC plans to take over the serum for use in the event of a bioterror attack against civilians.

But horse antitoxin isn't without drawbacks. The human body might recognize it as foreign and reject it, much as it would a transplanted organ. Doctors who administer antitoxin must keep drugs on hand to counter allergic reactions and rejection.

Ironically, because botulism is such a rare disease, drug companies have elected to invest in more profitable products — such as the toxin itself. A purified form of botulinum toxin, sold as Botox, is used to treat a long list of ailments, including eye-muscle spasms, post-stroke spasticity, migraine headaches and cerebral palsy. Botox's popularity as a wrinkle relaxer also promises to turn it into a billion-dollar cosmetic drug.

The anthrax attacks, impending war with Iraq and an imminent flood of government research money could provoke new interest in treating the botulism itself. Marks, at the University of California-San Francisco, and his colleagues at the Army's infectious-diseases research institute already have begun exploiting the new tools of biotechnology to develop an alternative to equine antitoxin.

In late August, they reported success in developing a trio of genetically engineered human antibodies. Given together in animal tests, the three antibodies inactivated botulinum toxin type A, the most lethal toxin and the one preferred by Saddam. Biotech antitoxin, Marks says, could "deweaponize" botulinum toxin.

Because the antibodies persist in the body for months, troops going into battle could be immunized; protection would last six months. The antibodies are 100 times stronger than the human antibodies used to treat infants, but the experimental antibodies will take years to develop.

Human clinical trials have not yet begun. Moreover, type A botulinum toxin is only one of seven types; different antibody cocktails must be identified for each one.

Marks says vast amounts could be made cheaply in high-production fermenters to treat civilians stricken in a bioterror attack. "One kilogram could treat 10,000 people," he says, and an industrial fermenter could crank out 120 kilograms a month.

The challenge now, Marks says, is to "make them, get them into humans and see if they work."

The Army has a vaccine, developed years ago, that primes the immune system to make its own anti-botulinum antibodies. It is rarely used because so few people run the risk of exposure to the toxin. The vaccine has never gotten government approval because the Army has never been able to mount a large-scale study showing that the vaccine

works. As a result, the vaccine can be used only under a special exemption from FDA rules. Newer vaccines are also in the works, but they are years from winning approval.

In an odd twist, vaccinating soldiers or civilians also would immunize them against Botox, the only potential bioterror agent approved for use as a drug.

Botox, which is made by Allergan, poses a dilemma to health officials and bioterror strategists. Vaccinating soldiers and the public would protect against exposure to the toxin, but it also would deprive people of Botox's benefit — and knock a blockbuster product with estimated sales of \$430 million this year off the market.

Former FDA commissioner Donald Kennedy, a Stanford University neurobiologist who has used the toxin for years in research, says the risk of leaving the public unprotected is just too great.

"Who would have imagined a world in which terror weapons are used as beauty aids?" Kennedy wrote in a recent issue of the journal *Science*

Kennedy, the journal's editor, worries that mass producing Botox, and trying to improve it, will ultimately make it a bigger threat. "I think we should develop a vaccine," he says.

Allergan vice president Mitchell Brin, a Botox pioneer, says his firm has chosen to stay out of the vaccine debate. Brin says the company has assured the government that it will keep its Botox operation secret to preserve national security. "We don't talk about our manufacturing facilities," he says. "We've agreed to keep a low profile."

<http://www.usatoday.com/usatoday/20020926/4483176s.htm>

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Washington Post
September 26, 2002
Pg. 29

Bush Asserts That Al Qaeda Has Links to Iraq's Hussein **President Cites Potential Cooperation as Concern**

By Mike Allen, Washington Post Staff Writer

President Bush asserted a link yesterday between Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein and the al Qaeda terrorist network, saying he fears they will join forces and are already virtually indistinguishable.

"The danger is, is that they work in concert," Bush said. "The danger is, is that al Qaeda becomes an extension of Saddam's madness and his hatred and his capacity to extend weapons of mass destruction around the world."

The administration had begun deemphasizing claims of links between Hussein and global terrorism. Senior intelligence officials told *The Washington Post* this month that the CIA had not found convincing proof, despite efforts that included surveillance photos and communications intercepts.

U.S. officials have continued to hint at connections, however. Evidence linking Hussein to the Sept. 11 attacks could help erode reservations on Capitol Hill and among world powers about the justification for a U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.

A few hours before Bush's remarks, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld was asked by reporters traveling with him in Warsaw if there are linkages between al Qaeda and Iraq. "I have no desire to go beyond saying the answer is yes," he replied. Rumsfeld had just appeared before NATO defense ministers with CIA Deputy Director John McLaughlin to give an intelligence briefing on the Iraqi threat. Rumsfeld said McLaughlin told them about linkages between Hussein and al Qaeda.

White House press secretary Ari Fleischer tried to play down the specificity of Bush's charge, saying the president was talking about what he feared could occur. Fleischer repeated the administration position that it would be a mistake to wait for a smoking gun. "Clearly, al Qaeda is operating inside Iraq," he said. "In the shadowy world of terrorism, sometimes there is no precise way to have definitive information until it is too late."

Bush was in the Oval Office with President Alvaro Uribe of Colombia when he was asked whether Hussein was a bigger threat to the United States than al Qaeda. "That is an interesting question," Bush began. "I'm trying to think of something humorous to say."

"But I can't when I think about al Qaeda and Saddam Hussein," the president continued. "They're both risks. They're both dangerous. The difference, of course, is that al Qaeda likes to hijack governments. Saddam Hussein is a dictator of a government."

Bush then drew another distinction that differs from longtime reports from the country. "Al Qaeda hides, Saddam doesn't," Bush said. In fact, military planners fear finding Hussein could be a challenge if Bush decides to depose him, because the Iraqi leader often works and sleeps at different palaces and other sites.

"The war on terror, you can't distinguish between al Qaeda and Saddam when you talk about the war on terror," he said. "They're both equally as bad, and equally as evil, and equally as destructive."

Bush praised Uribe, the Colombian president, who took office on Aug. 7 amid guerilla attacks, for his vision for the long process toward a peaceful and prosperous Colombia. "He's a man who told the people of his country that he would work to eradicate terrorism, narco-trafficking," Bush said. "The Colombian people believe him, and so do I." The two discussed ways Colombia can secure international aid to fight drugs and terrorism, and Bush said the United States is "certainly willing to help the government and the Colombian people realize a prosperous future." Fleischer said Bush told Uribe that the United States will press the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and other organizations "to assure an increased flow of financial and development assistance."

Bush made a connection between terrorism and drug trafficking when he cited the unsealing of federal charges Tuesday against Carlos Castano, head of a violent right-wing Colombian paramilitary group, who is accused of bringing 17 tons of cocaine into the United States and Europe since 1997.

"The guy who got indicted yesterday made a decision to be a terrorist," Bush said. "We made a decision to hold him to account, and we will continue to do that."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A3206-2002Sep25.html>

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Washington Times
September 26, 2002
Pg. 18

Rice Accuses Saddam

By John J. Lumpkin, Associated Press

Condoleezza Rice, President Bush's national security adviser, yesterday accused Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's regime of sheltering members of the al Qaeda terrorist network in Baghdad and helping Osama bin Laden's operatives in developing chemical weapons.

Miss Rice's comments — by far the strongest statements yet from the U.S. government claiming al Qaeda contacts with the Iraqi government — were aired yesterday on PBS' "The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer."

"We clearly know that there were in the past and have been contacts between senior Iraqi officials and members of al Qaeda going back for actually quite a long time," Miss Rice said. "We know too that several of the [al Qaeda] detainees, in particular some high-ranking detainees, have said that Iraq provided some training to al Qaeda in chemical weapons development."

Until now, the widely held official view has been that while Saddam and bin Laden both oppose the United States, their motivations are too different for them to work together. Saddam seeks secular power; bin Laden's drive comes from religious motivations and his opposition to the U.S. military presence in Saudi Arabia and the Arab world. Previously, U.S. intelligence officials have said that some al Qaeda members have been detected in Iraq, but that they appeared to simply be crossing the country after fleeing Afghanistan for their native countries on the Arabian peninsula or in North Africa.

Administration officials, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said Miss Rice's disclosure was significant because it marked the first time that the White House claimed that al Qaeda operated in Saddam-controlled Baghdad. It was an effort to counter suggestions that al Qaeda operatives were solely in the Kurdish area of northern Iraq, which he doesn't control.

The disclosure is part of an effort to strengthen the case against Saddam, the officials said.

<http://www.washtimes.com/world/20020926-1048748.htm>

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Moscow Times
September 26, 2002
Pg. 4

Nuke Imports

MOSCOW (AP) -- A former top Russian nuclear safety official on Wednesday urged the government to suspend imports of spent nuclear fuel from abroad, saying the nation must handle its own nuclear waste first.

Viktor Kuznetsov, who served as the country's top nuclear safety inspector in the early 1990s, also said the authorities must concentrate on improving safeguards at nuclear facilities to prevent the theft of radioactive materials.

"Russia needs a moratorium on imports of spent nuclear fuel from abroad," Kuznetsov, who currently coordinates nuclear and radiation safety programs for the Russian Green Cross, an environmental advocacy group, said at a news conference.

Nuclear officials are planning to build a new storage facility in the Siberian city of Zheleznogorsk that would be capable of storing 33,000 tons of radioactive waste, the Interfax-Military News Agency reported Wednesday. The existing Zheleznogorsk waste depot can hold 6,000 tons of nuclear waste and is already more than half full, Kuznetsov said.

He said the construction of new processing and storage facilities would take many years, during which the existing storage space would be filled and unable to incorporate Russia's own waste.

<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/stories/2002/09/26/031.html>

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Korea Times
September 26, 2002

Kim Calls On NK To Give Up WMD

By Oh Young-jin, Staff Reporter

President Kim Dae-jung yesterday stressed a "positive and active" response to the challenge facing the country at a critical juncture on the road to national unification.

At Seoul Airport, upon returning from his four-day trip to the 4th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) in Copenhagen, Denmark, Kim said, "The Korean peninsula stands at a critical juncture on the road to inter-Korean reconciliation and cooperation, and eventually to becoming one again."

"We need to meet these changes positively and actively," Kim told the nation.

He also reconfirmed his intention to adequately consult U.S. President Bush to encourage him to talk to the North positively.

During his stopover in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, before heading to the Danish capital, Kim told Korean residents there that he planned to persuade Bush to join Seoul and Tokyo's effort to engage Pyongyang.

Kim didn't, however, specify whether he intended to seek a summit with Bush prior to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum to be held in Mexico next month.

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, as well as other leaders participating in the 25-member ASEM, also joined Kim in urging Bush to talk to Pyongyang as soon as possible.

Bush maintains a hard-line policy against "rogue" states in general and particularly the three - Iraq, Iran and North Korea - which he said formed an "axis of evil."

Regarding the North, Kim said that Pyongyang should give up its weapons of mass destruction, a primary concern of the United States, and continue to pursue the path of reform and international cooperation, which is pivotal to an epochal breakthrough in regional peace and better inter-Korean relations.

Kim accented the importance of the Seoul-Washington alliance and close coordination among Korea, the U.S. and Japan for helping the North to open up and reform its economy.

Kim called on the nation to show its enthusiasm for the upcoming Busan Asian Games, which is about to start its two-week run, as it did during the World Cup finals, pointing out the attention the world is paying to the quadrennial games. This is the biggest such event ever, drawing 44 member countries of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA), including North Korea.

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