



Bush: Saddam has 48 hours to leave Iraq

Iraqi foreign minister: President won't flee

WASHINGTON (CNN) --Saying the "danger was clear" that the Iraqi regime would provide terrorists with biological, chemical or nuclear weapons, President Bush announced the end of "peaceful efforts" to disarm Iraq in a televised address to the nation Monday night.

Bush gave Iraqi President Saddam Hussein 48 hours for him, his immediate family and other key leaders to leave Iraq before military action began "at a time of our choosing."

Bush spelled out 12 years of failed diplomatic attempts to disarm Iraq after the Persian Gulf War.

"[Iraq] has uniformly defied Security Council resolutions demanding full disarmament," Bush said "Over the years, U.N. weapons inspectors have been threatened by Iraqi officials, electronically bugged and systematically deceived. Peaceful efforts to disarm the Iraq regime have failed again and again because we are not dealing with peaceful men.

"Intelligence gathered by this and other governments leaves no doubt that the Iraq regime continues to possess and conceal some of the most lethal weapons ever devised. This regime has already used weapons of mass destruction against Iraq's neighbors and against Iraq's people," Bush said

Regime 'has a deep hatred of America'

"The regime has a history of reckless aggression in the Middle East. It has a deep hatred of America and our friends, and it has aided, trained and harbored terrorists, including operatives of al Qaeda," he continued.

"The danger is clear: Using chemical, biological or, one day, nuclear weapons obtained with the help of Iraq, the terrorists could fulfill their stated ambitions and kill thousands or hundreds of thousands of innocent people in our country or any other," Bush said.

Earlier Monday, Iraqi Foreign Minister Naji Sabri ruled out the possibility of Saddam relinquishing his power and leaving Iraq. Sabri called Bush a "crazy man" and suggested that Bush step down instead to let the world live in peace. ([Full story](#))

In other developments:

- Turkey's Cabinet will discuss on Tuesday a proposal to let U.S. troops attack Iraq from Turkish soil in the event of war, and will present the matter to Parliament for a vote Wednesday, Deputy Prime Minister Abdullatif Sener told reporters. Lawmakers rejected a measure this month that would have let the United States base 62,000 troops in Turkey.


- British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said late Monday that Parliament will debate British participation in military action against Iraq on Tuesday. Earlier Monday, Robin Cook, a senior Cabinet member, resigned in protest. Clare Short, another Cabinet member, has threatened to resign.
- During a session of Canada's Parliament on Monday, Prime Minister Jean Chretien said, "If military action [in Iraq] is launched without a new [U.N.] resolution, Canada will not participate."
- Australia is expected to accept Bush's invitation to be part of a "coalition of the willing" in any military action against Iraq. Prime Minister John Howard will make an announcement after he meets with his Cabinet on Tuesday. Although Australia has deployed 2,000 troops to the Middle East, a poll shows 71 percent of Australian voters oppose sending troops to Iraq.
- U.N. personnel, including about 60 weapons inspectors, 75 support staff and nearly 200 humanitarian workers, will be evacuated from Iraq as soon as Tuesday.
- Saddam, in a statement read by an anchor on Iraqi television, reiterated his stance that Iraq has destroyed all of its weapons of mass destruction. ([Full story](#))
- U.S. officials said Monday that there is "recent" and "fresh" evidence that Iraq is planning to use chemical weapons, perhaps against U.S. forces or Iraqi citizens. Officials said they have information that Republican Guard units south of Baghdad have been issued chemical munitions but have no direct evidence. There is also growing concern that some Iraqi artillery units near the Kuwaiti border can fire shells filled with chemical weapons. ([Full story](#))
- Israel's Homefront Command told Israelis on Monday to make sure sealed safe rooms in their homes are ready. During the Persian Gulf War, Iraq launched a number of Scud missiles at Israel. Israeli officials have said that the nation is better prepared to defend itself and its citizens against missile attacks.
- An Arab League ambassador said, "It's a very grave day. This is the day that international law has been shoved away. War will not solve this problem. Unfortunately those who are going to war will find it will be very difficult to get out of it."
- U.N. Security Council members France, Russia, China and Germany are among the nations that insist Iraq can be disarmed peacefully. French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin, speaking to Europe 1 radio, said "One country can win a war, but it takes more than one country to win peace." ([Full story](#)) Russian President Vladimir Putin said a possible war in Iraq would be "A mistake fraught with the gravest consequences which may result in casualties and destabilize the international situation in general." Li Zhaoxing, the Chinese foreign minister, said, "We appeal for a political settlement to the Iraq question within the framework of the United Nations and urge all efforts to avoid war."
- U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan reiterated his stance that, should military action occur in the region without the blessing of the world body, "Its legitimacy would be questioned."
- The 15-member U.N. Security Council met Monday behind closed doors, after which council President Mamady Traore said they decided to return Wednesday morning to discuss the weapons inspectors' work program, even though Annan said he had ordered that they be withdrawn from Iraq. ([Full story](#))
- John Negroponte, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said he thought the Security Council vote "would have been close," and said France's threatened veto was the reason it was not brought to a vote. "We regret that in the face of an explicit threat to veto, the vote-counting became a secondary consideration," Negroponte said. French Ambassador Jean-Marc de La Sabliere said "The majority of the council confirmed they do not want a use of force." De La Sabliere said the council also discussed a joint declaration on Iraq by France, Russia and Germany proposing a ministerial-level meeting be held "as soon as possible."
- A senior Pentagon official reports that Iraq has enough explosives in its oil fields to set them afire, but there is no evidence any wells have been wired with explosives.

- The U.S. State Department urged Americans to leave Kuwait immediately because of the threat of war.
- Bush administration officials are working to ensure that humanitarian aid to Iraqis is "ready to go into action on very short notice," as one official put it.

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