Oasis International School Model United Nations

Historical Security Council

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Topic 2: The United Nations Security Council on “operation Iraqi freedom” leading to the destabilization of Iraq 2003

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I. Introduction



Following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990, the United States as well as the United Nations became increasingly concerned with the country's military capabilities and its alleged development of weapons of mass destruction. The United Nations subsequently imposed extensive economic sanctions and established an international weapons-inspection regime under the framework of [1]Security Council Resolution 687. Throughout the 1990s and early 2000s, tensions between Iraq and the USA continued to intensify as concerns grew regarding Iraq's possible possession of prohibited weapons and missiles. By 2002, the administration of the United States had asserted that Iraq's alleged weapons of mass destruction posed a serious threat to international peace and security. At the same time, the government of President Saddam Hussein was accused of failing to cooperate fully with United Nations weapons inspectors, creating an increasingly urgent international crisis.

[1] https://docs.un.org/en/S/RES/687(1991)

In response, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted



Iraq

Iraq: November 8-December 19

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1441 Affords Iraq a "Final Opportunity" to Comply with Disarmament Obligations

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1441, November 8, 2002[1]

The Security Council,

Recalling all its previous relevant resolutions, in particular its resolutions 661 (1990) of 6 August 1990, 678 (1990) of 29 November 1990, 686 (1991) of 2 March 1991, 687 (1991) of 3 April 1991, 688 (1991) of 5 April 1991, 707 (1991) of 15 August 1991, 715 (1991) of 11 October 1991, 986 (1995) of 14 April 1995, and 1284 (1999) of 17 December 1999, and all the relevant statements of its President,

Recalling also its resolution 1382 (2001) of 29 November 2001 and its intention to implement it fully,

Recognizing the threat Iraq's non-compliance with Council resolutions and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and long-range missiles poses to international peace and security,

Recalling that its resolution 678 (1990) authorized Member States to use all necessary means to uphold and implement its resolution 660 (1990) of 2 August 1990 and all relevant resolutions subsequent to resolution 660 (1990) and to restore international peace and security in the area,

Further recalling that its resolution 687 (1991) imposed obligations on Iraq as a necessary step for achievement of its stated objective of restoring international peace and security in the area,

Deploring the fact that Iraq has not provided an accurate, full, final, and complete disclosure, as required by resolution 687 (1991), of all aspects of its programmes to develop weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles with a range greater than one hundred and fifty kilometres, and of all holdings of such weapons, their components and production facilities and locations, as well as all other nuclear programmes, including any which it claims are for purposes not related to nuclear-weapons-usable material,

Deploring further that Iraq repeatedly obstructed immediate, unconditional, and unrestricted access to sites designated by the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), failed to cooperate fully and unconditionally with UNSCOM and IAEA weapons inspectors, as required by resolution 687 (1991), and ultimately ceased all cooperation with UNSCOM and the IAEA in 1998,

Deploring the absence, since December 1998, in Iraq of international monitoring, inspection, and verification, as required by relevant resolutions, of weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles, in spite of the Council's repeated demands that Iraq provide immediate, unconditional, and unrestricted access to the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC), established in resolution 1284 (1999) as the successor organization to UNSCOM, and the IAEA, and regretting the consequent prolonging of the crisis in the region and the suffering of the Iraqi people,

Deploring also that the Government of Iraq has failed to comply with its commitments pursuant to resolution 687 (1991) with regard to terrorism, pursuant to resolution 688 (1991) to end repression of its civilian population and to provide access by international humanitarian organizations to all those in need of assistance in Iraq, and pursuant to resolutions 686 (1991), 687 (1991), and 1284 (1999) to return or cooperate in accounting for Kuwaiti and third country nationals wrongfully detained by Iraq, or to return Kuwaiti property wrongfully seized by Iraq,

Recalling that in its resolution 687 (1991) the Council declared that a ceasefire would be based on acceptance by Iraq of the provisions of that resolution, including the obligations on Iraq contained therein,

Determined to ensure full and immediate compliance by Iraq without conditions or restrictions with its obligations under resolution 687 (1991) and other relevant resolutions and recalling that the resolutions of the Council constitute the governing standard of Iraqi compliance,

Recalling that the effective operation of UNMOVIC, as the successor organization to the Special Commission, and the IAEA is essential for the implementation of resolution 687 (1991) and other relevant resolutions,

Noting that the letter dated 16 September 2002 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General is a necessary first step toward rectifying Iraq's continued failure to comply with relevant Council resolutions,

Noting further the letter dated 8 October 2002 from the Executive Chairman of UNMOVIC and the Director-General of the IAEA to General Al-Saadi of the Gov-

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[2]Resolution 1441 in November 2002, which determined that Iraq remained in material breach of its obligations and offered the Iraqi government a final opportunity to comply with its disarmament requirements. The resolution warned Iraq that further false statements, omissions, or failures to cooperate would constitute an additional material breach and threatened "serious consequences." However, significant disagreement remained among members of the Security Council such as France regarding the meaning of this phrase, and whether Resolution 1441 authorized the use of military force. While the United States and its allies argued that Iraq's continued non-compliance constituted a sufficient threat to justify military action, states including France maintained that a further Security Council resolution would be necessary before the use of force could be authorized.

By early 2003, the central issue facing the international community was therefore whether Iraq's alleged failure to comply with the inspection regime

[2] https://docs.un.org/en/S/RES/1441(2002)

justified immediate military intervention, or whether diplomatic pressure and United Nations inspections should continue. The United States argued that Saddam Hussein's regime posed an unacceptable threat to international security, whereas several members of the Security Council expressed concern that military action without a clear new mandate could undermine international law and the authority of the United Nations. On 19 March 2003, following the collapse of diplomatic efforts to reach further agreement, the United States and a coalition of allied states initiated Operation "Iraqi Freedom", beginning a major military campaign intended to remove Saddam Hussein's government, liberate the Iraqi people of what they deemed to be a tyrannical government, and address the threat posed by Iraq's alleged prohibited weapons.



II. Background of the topic

In order to understand the immense amount of tensions and fragility of the conflict between Iraq, the United States, and the UN in 2002, one must first understand what took place between Iraq and Kuwait during 1990-1991.

In August of 1990, Iraq under Saddam Hussein's leadership invaded Kuwait. The UN immediately condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, and the Security Council adopted several resolutions demanding Iraqi withdrawal. Faced with Saddam Hussein's refusal, an international coalition was formed under a UN mandate. The United States led the coalition, but more than thirty states participated including France, the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt. The



operation was named “Operation Desert Storm", which aimed at liberating Kuwait from Iraq's invasion. It commenced on February 24, 1991. After several weeks of airstrikes followed by a ground offensive launched from Saudi Arabia towards occupied Kuwait. In four days, the Iraqi forces were repelled after several weeks of airstrikes followed by a ground offensive launched from Saudi Arabia towards occupied Kuwait. In four days, the Iraqi forces were repelled.

On February 28, 1991, US President George H.W. Bush announced the end of hostilities. Iraq claimed annexation; the coalition asserted it was defending the sovereignty of a state recognized by the international community. The conflict thus became a pivotal moment: it marked the desire of the major powers to establish a new international order after the Cold War, based on the protection of borders and the legal legitimacy of states. The coalition acted in the name of a specific principle: no state can absorb another by force.

After the resolution of the Iraqi invasion of kuwait, the USA emerged as a much more powerful country, able to assemble and lead an international alliance for a noble cause, meanwhile Iraq had been deemed a dangerous country by all, hence amplifying tensions between Iraq and surrounding countries Later on, it was said that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction, however these were merely allegations made by Colin Powell in February 2003 during the UN assembly and later certified by George Bush in march.


WEST END FINAL

Evening Standard

45 MINUTES FROM ATTACK

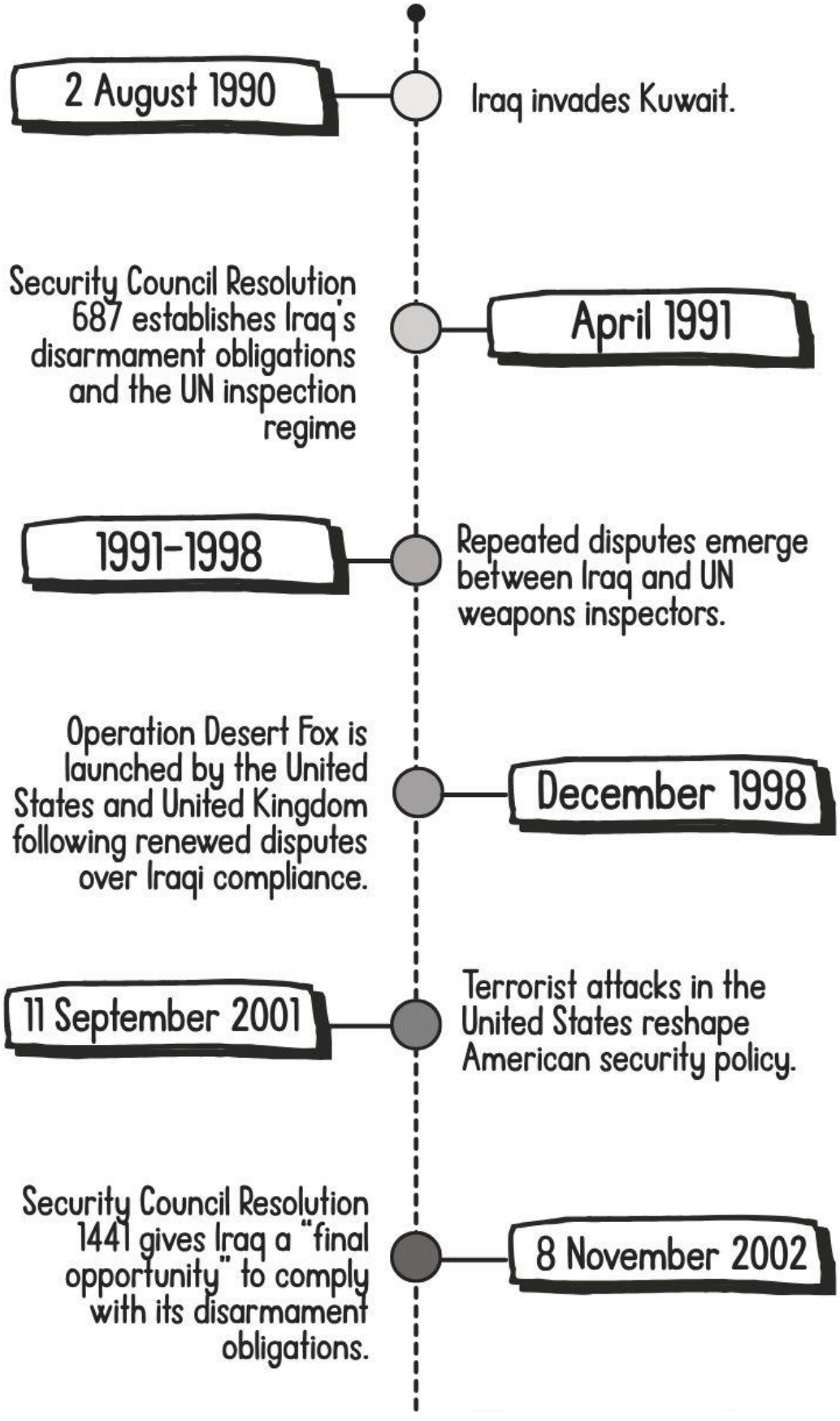
Dossier reveals Saddam is ready to launch chemical war strikes

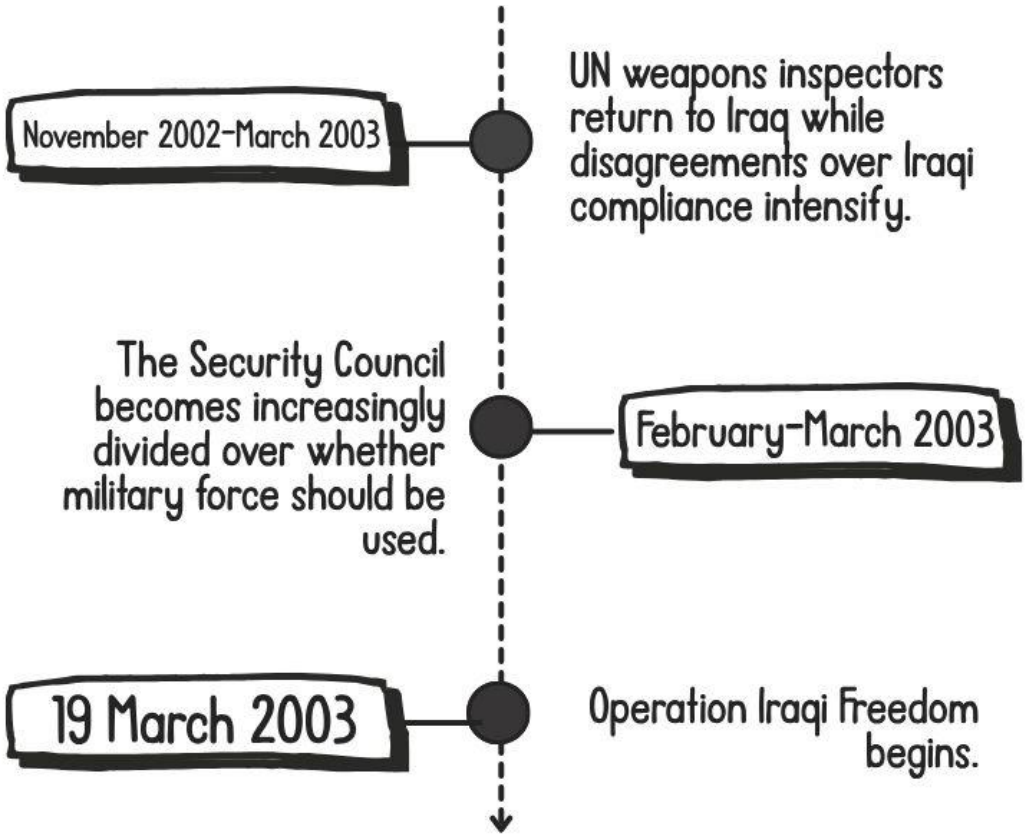


After a multitude of negotiations, resolutions and pleas with Saddam Hussein to allow the United Nations intervention and inspection regarding the weapons of mass destruction, the United States invaded Iraq in 2002, seeing as there was to be no diplomatic way to solve the issue, an issue that could become an international threat and danger to all. The USA's invasion of Iraq soon led to many unprecedented consequences and a complete destabilization of the country.

It is now easy to understand why any remotely suspicious movement or actions taken such as the alleged possession of weapons of mass destruction by Iraq would lead to such large reprimands, seeing as just a couple of years ago they had been invading a country and forcing international alliances and intervention.

III. Causes of the crisis






Morning News
Iraqi troops invade, seize parts of Kuwait

The events leading to the 2003 invasion are gradual, a linear escalation rather than an immediate confrontation. It was Iraq's invasion of Kuwait (2 August 1990) that first evoked the long-term American pattern of international containment, leading to the establishment of Resolution 687 requiring the elimination of any chemical and biological weapons and factories, and the acceptance of international verification. That was then followed by the disarmament requirements imposed upon Iraq after the Gulf War that created the ongoing degree of friction and tensions seen between Baghdad and the United Nations. The repeated disagreements during the 1990s over the

validity of UN inspections started to trigger the belief that Iraq is not willing to comply with diplomatic requests. Whilst taking into account the sequential build-up of tensions, the terrorist attack of 11 September 2001 caused a fundamental change within the United States' policy and their approach to national security. It was emphasized by the Bush administration that there was a more amplified need of preventive action taken against any government that posed a potential threat to international security.



In 2002, the issue was brought back to the Security Council through Resolution 1441 after the United Kingdom and United States' pressure on Iraq started to increase once more. Both states stood by the belief that Saddam Hussein was a continuous threat and that he possessed prohibited weapons. This resolution was meant to provide Iraq a "final opportunity" to comply with the inspections and imposed regulations. Throughout the late years of 2000 until early 2003, the inspections resumed by UNMOVIC inspectors. Although inspectors had reported multiple areas in which Iraq was cooperative, it was believed that there had still been vital answers concerning Iraq's weapons declaration unanswered. Thus, the U.S. insisted that Iraq was failing to meet its obligations yet again. The failure to reach an agreed upon position within the council ultimately



led to the launch of operation Iraqi Freedom on the 19th of March, 2003 by the United States and its coalition partners. The invasion removed Saddam Hussein' but the breakdown of state institutions
created a prolonged instability.



Iraq: November 8-December 19

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The Security Council,

Recalling all its previous relevant resolutions, in particular its resolutions 661 develop weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles with a range greater than one hundred and fifty kilometres, and of all holdings of such weapons, their components and production facilities and locations, as well as all other nuclear programmes, including any which it claims are for purposes not related to nuclear- lution 688 (1991) to end repression of its civilian population and to provide access by international humanitarian organizations to all those in need of assistance in Iraq, and pursuant to resolutions 686 (1991), 687 (1991), and 1284 (1999) to return or cooperate in accounting for Kuwaiti and third country nationals

IV. Importance of the topic

The 2003 Iraq crisis is important because it became a major test of the United Nations Security Council's authority and ability to maintain international

peace and security. The crisis was not simply about Iraq's alleged weapons of mass destruction; it also concerned whether military force could legally be used without a new Security Council authorization. This created a major disagreement between states that supported military intervention and those that believed inspections and diplomacy should continue.

The crisis also demonstrates the consequences of disagreement between major powers. Resolution 1441, adopted unanimously on 8 November 2002, gave Iraq a "final opportunity" to comply with its disarmament obligations. However, Security Council members disagreed over whether its reference to "serious consequences" authorized military force.

This disagreement became particularly important in February and March 2003. On 5 February 2003, US Secretary of State Colin Powell presented the American case against Iraq to the Security Council. Meanwhile, UNMOVIC and the IAEA continued reporting on their inspections. On 7 March 2003, Hans Blix reported on Iraq's cooperation, while Mohamed ElBaradei reported on the IAEA's investigation into Iraq's nuclear capabilities.



The topic is therefore important because it highlights the difficulties of maintaining international stability when major powers disagree over how to respond to a crisis. The events surrounding the 2003 invasion also show how decisions made during an

international conflict can have consequences that continue long after the fighting itself, shaping Iraq's political stability and affecting the wider security of the Middle East.

V. Key terms

1. **Coalition:** a group formed of different organizations or people who agree to act together, usually temporarily, to achieve something.
2. **Embargo:** an order of a government prohibiting the departure of commercial ships from its ports or a legal prohibition of commerce.

3. **Economic sanctions:** are commercial and financial penalties applied by states or institutions against states, groups, or individuals
4. **WMD/ Weapons of Mass Destruction:** a biological, chemical, radiological, nuclear, or any other weapon that can kill or significantly harm many people or cause great damage to artificial structures, natural structures, or the biosphere.
5. **Unilateral:** (of an action or decision) performed by or affecting only one person, group, or country involved in a situation, without the agreement of another or the others.
6. **Material Breach**: A significant failure by a state to fulfil obligations established under an international agreement or Security Council resolution.
7. **Disarmament:** The process of reducing or eliminating a state's weapons, military capabilities, or prohibited weapons programmes.
8. **International Verification:** The process through which international bodies inspect and assess whether a state is complying with its obligations.
9. **Prohibited Weapons:** Weapons or military capabilities that a state is internationally required to eliminate or refrain from possessing.
10. **Collective Security:** A system in which states cooperate to respond collectively when international peace and security are threatened.
11. **State Sovereignty:** The authority of a state to govern its territory and conduct its internal affairs without external interference.
12. **Preventive Action:** Measures taken to address a perceived threat before it develops into an immediate attack or larger security crisis.

13. **Military Intervention:** The use of a state's armed forces within the affairs or territory of another state.
14. **International Legitimacy:** The recognition that an action is justified or accepted under international law and by the international community.
15. **Authorization of Force:** Formal approval by a competent international body, particularly the Security Council, allowing states to use military force under specified circumstances.
16. **Diplomatic Resolution:** The settlement of an international dispute through negotiation, dialogue, mediation, or other peaceful means rather than military action.
17. **Multilateralism:** Cooperation between multiple states in addressing international issues through shared decision-making and collective action.
18. **Regime Change:** The removal or replacement of a government or political leadership, particularly through external intervention or force.

VI. The United Nations involvement

The United Nations got involved in the conflict in Iraq a multitude of times, in order to limit the dangers that the country presented. First of all, following the 1990 invasion of Kuwait by Iraq, the United Nations placed economic sanctions on Iraq. This embargo prohibited all imports and all exports with Iraq, with only the narrowest exemptions for medicine. These sanctions were placed under the UNSC resolution 660, which demanded an immediate withdrawal of Iraqi forces

from Kuwait. Following the failure of Iraq to comply with the demand, the UN Security Council imposed comprehensive sanctions on Iraq on 6 August 1990 (UNSCR 661). The comprehensive ban on the import or export of all commodities, products, and financial and economic resources to or from Iraq and Kuwait was later supplemented by an aviation ban (UNSCR 670 of 25 September 1990) and restrictions on the import and export of arms and weapons of mass destruction to and from Iraq (UNSCR 687 of 3 April 1991). UNSCR 687 also created a fund to compensate for claims that resulted from Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

They had put in place these sanctions in fear that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction, which would constitute an international security threat. However in order to confirm, the United Nations required further investigation. Nonetheless, the president of Iraq Saddam Hussein showed no signs of cooperation and did not allow any investigations from the UN’s part, claiming that Iraq claimed no WMDs.

As a result, a meeting was held by the United Nations Security Council in order to discuss the matter and take decisions as to what measures would be taken next. This meeting resulted in the resolution 1441. It stated that Iraq was in material breach of the (previous) 687 resolution, due to their now confirmed by the UN collection of Weapons of Mass Destructions and the construction of prohibited missiles. It also stated that "false statements or omissions in the declarations submitted by Iraq pursuant to this resolution and failure by Iraq at any time to comply with, and cooperate fully in the implementation of, this resolution shall constitute a further material breach of Iraq's obligations." Meaning that if the president continued to resist the UN’s investigations would cause an enlargement of the matter. However, during the meeting multiple countries still felt that it was unclear what action would be taken in response to a

further material breach. France questioned the phrase "serious consequences" and stated repeatedly that any "material breach" found by the inspectors should not automatically lead to war; instead the UN should pass another resolution deciding on the course of action. Nevertheless, no clarification was given as to what the necessary protocol would be taken if the president continued not to comply, the meeting had simply made it clear that this continuation would have legal repercussions.

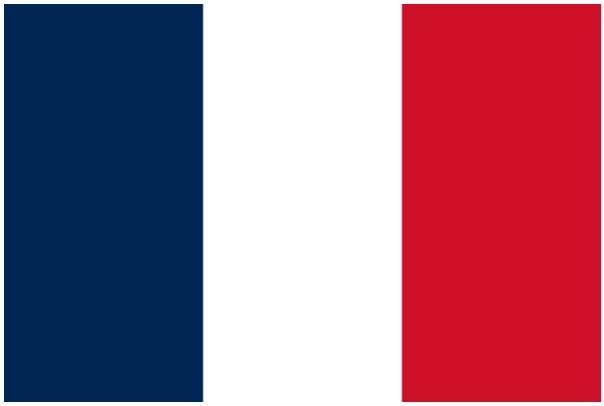
Finally, Saddam Hussein's continuous lack of cooperation even after the 1441 resolution, on 19th of march 2003 the USA invaded Iraq to eliminate sadam Hussein's regime and the menace he posed to security.

VII. Major countries and organizations involved

Major countries involved:

REPUBLIC OF IRAQ	Iraq was the central state in the crisis because its disarmament obligations and alleged WMD programmes were

	the main reason for international pressure. Following the 1991 Gulf War, Resolution 687 required Iraq to eliminate its prohibited weapons programmes and accept international inspections. Iraq's cooperation with inspectors repeatedly became a source of tension. Inspections stopped in December 1998, before resuming on 27 November 2002 following Resolution 1441. On 7 December 2002, Iraq submitted its declaration of its weapons programmes as required by Resolution 1441. The accuracy and completeness of this declaration then became an important part of the Security Council's debate.
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 	The United States was the principal country pushing for military action against Iraq and ultimately led Operation Iraqi Freedom. The US argued that Saddam Hussein's government posed a serious threat because of its alleged WMD programmes and failure to fully comply with UN requirements. A major turning point came on 5 February 2003, when Secretary of State Colin Powell addressed the Security Council and presented American intelligence that he argued demonstrated Iraqi concealment of prohibited weapons. The United States subsequently concluded that diplomatic efforts had failed and launched Operation Iraqi Freedom on

	19 March 2003 with coalition partners.
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN ISLAND 	The United Kingdom was the main US ally within the Security Council and strongly supported the argument that Iraq was failing to comply with Resolution 1441. The UK participated in diplomatic efforts to obtain stronger Security Council action and later joined the US-led invasion. On 24 February 2003, the UK, US and Spain introduced a draft resolution stating that Iraq had failed to take the "final opportunity" provided by Resolution 1441. The draft became part of the final diplomatic struggle over whether military force should be authorized.
THE FRENCH REPUBLIC 	France was one of the most important countries opposing immediate military intervention. As a permanent member of the Security Council, France possessed veto power, giving it significant influence over any attempt to authorize the use of force. France supported continued weapons inspections and argued that a finding of material breach should not automatically lead to war. On 24 February 2003, France and Russia submitted a memorandum supporting further inspections and arguing that military force should be treated as a last resort.

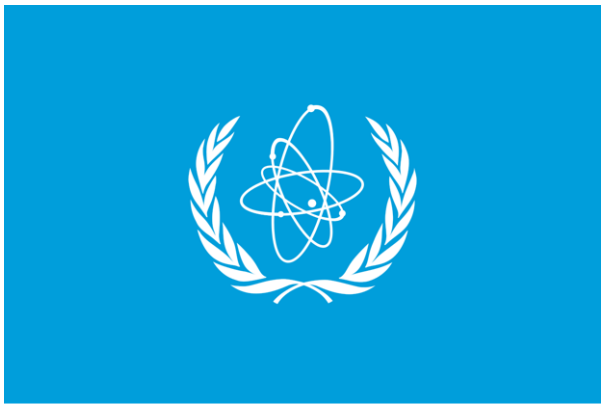
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION 	Russia was another permanent member of the Security Council that opposed immediate military action. Russia supported continuing inspections and argued that the existing evidence did not justify moving directly to war. On 24 February 2003, Russia joined France in submitting a memorandum supporting continued inspections and diplomacy. Its position was particularly important because, as a permanent member, Russia could use its veto power to prevent a new authorization for military action.
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA 	China was important because it was the fifth permanent member of the Security Council and therefore possessed veto power. Its position contributed to the difficulty of obtaining a unified Council position on military intervention. During the February 2003 debates, China supported the continuation of inspections and diplomatic efforts rather than immediately moving toward war. This placed China among the major powers that resisted the US-led push for immediate military action.
THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY	Germany played an important diplomatic role despite not being a permanent member of the Security Council. It strongly supported continued inspections and worked closely with France and Russia to

	oppose immediate military intervention. Germany's position was particularly significant because it demonstrated that opposition to military action was not limited to Iraq or individual Security Council members. Germany instead supported resolving the crisis through inspections, diplomacy and multilateral decision-making.
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC 	Syria was particularly important because it provided a regional Arab perspective within the Security Council. It opposed the move toward military intervention and supported diplomatic efforts to resolve the crisis. Syria's involvement was significant because the crisis concerned an Arab state in the Middle East, meaning that military intervention in Iraq could have consequences for neighbouring states and wider regional stability.

Major organizations involved:

LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES (ARAB LEAGUE)	The Arab League was important because Iraq was an Arab state, meaning that the crisis directly affected the wider Arab region. The

	organization represented the collective interests of Arab states and was involved in diplomatic efforts surrounding Iraq. Its importance came from concerns over Iraq's sovereignty, military intervention and the potential destabilization of the wider Middle East. The Arab League therefore provided a regional perspective alongside the positions of the major international powers.
UNITED NATIONS MONITORING, VERIFICATION AND INSPECTION COMMISSION (UNMOVIC) 	UNMOVIC was one of the most important organizations directly involved in the crisis because it was responsible for inspecting Iraq's weapons programmes and determining whether Iraq was complying with its disarmament obligations. Following Resolution 1441 on 8 November 2002, inspections resumed in November 2002 under UNMOVIC. Its Executive Chairman, Hans Blix, repeatedly briefed the Security Council, including on 27 January, 14 February and 7 March 2003. These reports were central to the debate because they provided the Council with information about Iraq's cooperation and the evidence found during inspections.
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)	The IAEA was responsible for investigating Iraq's nuclear capabilities and possible nuclear weapons programme. Alongside UNMOVIC, it

	participated in the strengthened inspection system established after Resolution 1441. On 7 March 2003, IAEA Director-General Mohamed ElBaradei reported to the Security Council on the agency's investigation into Iraq's nuclear activities. Its findings were particularly important to countries arguing that inspections should continue rather than immediately resorting to military intervention.

VIII. Useful links

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IX. Possible solutions

1. **Calls upon** the Government of Iraq to provide full, immediate and unconditional cooperation with the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), including unrestricted access to all facilities, personnel and documentation relevant to the inspection process;

2. **Requests** that UNMOVIC and the IAEA intensify their inspections throughout Iraq and submit regular reports to the Security Council detailing Iraq's level of cooperation, any unresolved questions, and any evidence concerning prohibited weapons programmes;
3. **Calls upon** Iraq to submit a complete and updated declaration of its weapons programmes, military capabilities and related facilities, with any false statements, omissions or inconsistencies to be immediately communicated to the Security Council;
4. **Calls upon** all Member States to refrain from unilateral military action against Iraq while United Nations inspectors continue their mandated work, allowing the Security Council to collectively determine the appropriate response to any verified material breach;
5. **Requests** that the Security Council convene immediately following any finding of a further material breach by Iraq in order to determine an appropriate course of action, including diplomatic, economic or, if deemed necessary by the Council, further measures consistent with the Charter of the United Nations;
6. **Encourages** the establishment of a strengthened diplomatic framework between Iraq and the members of the Security Council, through which concerns regarding Iraqi compliance may be addressed directly and outstanding disarmament issues may be resolved without immediate resort to military force;
7. **Requests** the Secretary-General to provide the Security Council with regular assessments of the humanitarian, political and security consequences of continued sanctions and military tensions in Iraq, ensuring that any measures adopted by the Council do not unnecessarily worsen the humanitarian situation of the Iraqi population;
8. **Encourages** the establishment of a clear timetable for Iraq's compliance with its disarmament obligations, with specific benchmarks for cooperation

and inspection, allowing the Security Council to objectively assess Iraqi compliance rather than relying solely on competing claims by individual Member States;

9. **Calls upon** all members of the Security Council to pursue a unified diplomatic position regarding Iraq, with any disagreement concerning the interpretation or implementation of Resolution 1441 to be addressed through the Council rather than through unilateral military action;

10. **Requests that**, should Iraq fail to meet the established compliance benchmarks, the Security Council shall consider additional measures through a separate decision, thereby ensuring that the determination of a material breach does not automatically constitute authorization for the use of military force.

X. Guiding questions

To understand the crisis, ask yourself...

1. Why did Iraq's alleged possession of weapons of mass destruction become a major threat to international peace and security?

2. How did Iraq's previous obligations under Resolution 687 and its relationship with UN weapons inspectors contribute to the growing tensions?
3. Why did the United States and its allies believe that Iraq's alleged WMD programme required immediate international action?
4. Why did Iraq's level of cooperation with UN inspectors become a central point of disagreement within the Security Council?
5. How did the differing interpretations of Iraq's "material breach" under Resolution 1441 escalate the situation toward military confrontation?

To delve deeper into the Security Council's role, you should know…

1. Did Resolution 1441 authorize the use of military force against Iraq, or did it require the Security Council to adopt a further resolution before military action could be taken?
2. What authority does the Security Council have to respond when a Member State is found to be in material breach of its international obligations?
3. Should the Security Council support continued UN inspections, impose further measures, or consider authorizing military force against Iraq?
4. How should the Security Council balance Iraq's national sovereignty with its responsibility to maintain international peace and security?
5. How should the Security Council respond when its permanent members fundamentally disagree over whether military intervention is justified?

To help de-escalate in a diplomatic manner, ask yourself...

1. How can the United Nations ensure that Iraq fully cooperates with weapons inspections without immediately resorting to military force?
2. Should the Security Council establish clear deadlines and benchmarks for Iraqi compliance before considering further action?
3. What consequences should follow if Iraq fails to meet the requirements of Resolution 1441, and who should have the authority to determine those consequences?
4. How can the Security Council address the security concerns of the United States and its allies while preventing unilateral military action?

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