

1998 February CONDEMNATION OF THE U.S. BOMBING OF IRAQ AND
THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT'S COMPLICITY

THE UNITED STATES MUST BE TAKEN IMMEDIATELY TO THE INTERNATIONAL
COURT OF JUSTICE.

The bombing of Iraq is a unilateral flagrant abuse of international law. The year 1999 is the culmination of the decade devoted to the furtherance of respect international law. The US has continually shown disregard of the international rule of law.

The US was one of the strongest opponents to the establishment of a International Criminal Court. This opposition was clearly to protect its own military against charges of international criminal acts.. This current unilateral act in Iraq is one more attempt to undermine the rule of international law and the United Nations.

The US continually with deep conviction proclaims its obligation not to international agreements for guaranteeing human rights, protecting and preserving the environment, and preventing war and conflict but to maintaining and furthering its military and corporate interests.

On December 16, 1998, Clinton revealed the US's commitment to furthering of its vital interests: "But once more, the United States has proven that although we are never eager to use force, when we must act in America's vital interests, we will do so"

The Global community must use the power of international law through the International Court of Justice to prevent the United States from continuing to further America's "vital interests":

Ironically, the U.S., which has demonstrated the most flagrant disregard for the United Nations, is, in the case of Iraq, the self appointed enforcer, along with England, of the Security Council resolution even in the face of the opposition of the other permanent members of the Security Council.

In 1945 the United Nations was formed to prevent "the scourge of war" and to "respect the rule of law" not force. In 1972, every member state of the UN made a commitment at the UN Conference on Humans and the Environment (UNCHE) to eliminate the production of weapons of mass destruction. Yet since that time in the past 25 years many member states of the United Nations have continued to produce weapons of mass destruction.

Now in 1998, to prevent the possibility of the scourge of war, the United Nations must appoint an international inspection team not from countries that themselves have weapons of mass destruction but from countries that have "clean hands". The United Nations must play a leading role in preventing the US from making further substantive strikes on Iraq, and must ensure that there is a serious inspection of all sites of weapons of mass destruction including those sites belonging to member states of the Security Council. Serious questions have arisen concerning the independence of Richard Butler, the chair of UNSCOM and about the questionable strategic information seeking of the US participants in UNSCOM.

For further information, please contact. Joan Russow, 1 250 598-0071 e-mail
jrussow@coastnet.com
