

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

Editorial Reaction to Secretary Powell's Presentation to the United Nations February 6, 2003

USA Today "Powell lays out convincing evidence of Iraq defiance": "Eight days after President Bush promised to present the world with compelling evidence of Iraq's illegal weapons programs, Secretary of State Colin Powell delivered—and then some. As he methodically documented Iraq's continuing deception, Powell also illustrated the futility of indefinite weapons inspections advocated by critics at home and abroad."

The Washington Post "Irrefutable": "Mr. Powell left no room to argue seriously that Iraq has accepted the Security Council's offer of a 'final opportunity' to disarm. And he offered a powerful new case that Saddam Hussein's regime is cooperating with a branch of the al Qaeda organization that is trying to acquire chemical weapons and stage attacks in Europe."

The New York Times "The Case Against Iraq": "It may not have produced a 'smoking gun,' but it left little question that Mr. Hussein had tried hard to conceal one."

The Wall Street Journal "Powell's Smoking Gun": "The Powell evidence will be persuasive to anyone who is still persuadable. ... The only question remaining is whether the U.N. is going to have the courage of Mr. Powell's convictions."

The Los Angeles Times "U.N. -- Time for a Deadline": "The United Nations risks irrelevance unless it promptly sets a date on which it will use military force against Iraq if that nation does not disarm. Piling fact upon fact, photo upon photo Wednesday, Secretary of State Colin L. Powell methodically demonstrated why Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein remains dangerous to his own people, Iraq's neighbors and, potentially, the Western world."

Arizona Republic: "On Wednesday, America's most reluctant warrior, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, presented succinct and damning evidence of Saddam's enormous threat to world peace."

Austin American-Statesman: "After Wednesday's presentation and response, Americans must wonder what it would take for the United Nations to actually act against Iraq."

Birmingham (AL) News: "The United Nations can choose to be irrelevant, or it can join the United States and deliver those 'serious consequences.'"

Charleston (WV) Daily Mail: "The threat is real and at our door. Sept. 11, 2001, stripped away the belief that the United States can peacefully coexist with evil. Prove it, they said. Powell has. Now the United States and the more than 40 nations standing behind it await the rest of the nations of the free world to show where they stand."

Charlotte (NC) Observer: "Secretary of State Colin Powell laid out a powerful argument before the United Nations Wednesday that Iraq is systematically resisting the U.N. resolution requiring it to disarm. ... This conflict is not simply between the United States and Iraq. There is a growing international consensus that if Saddam Hussein continues to resist disarmament, he can expect war. The choice is up to him."

Chicago Sun-Times: "We are a country always loath to fight unless provoked. The reluctance of Americans to initiate a war needlessly does the nation credit. But this is not a needless war, nor is it unprovoked. Powell laid out the need, and explained the provocation, in step-by-step fashion that cannot be refuted without resorting to fantasy."