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# **Iraq in Crisis: A History from Desert Fox to June 1999**

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- 98-11-1: Iraq rejects the Security Council statement condemning its decision to halt cooperation with UN weapons inspectors, and says it would not back down.
- Iraq allows inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency, but other weapons inspections were stopped after Iraq broke off all cooperation, a UN spokeswoman said.
  - Iraq and Iran agree to set up committees to develop trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.
  - Russia states that it is concerned by Iraq's decision to halt cooperation with the UN and urges Iraq to reconsider its move.
  - Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz meets a Russian team headed by the ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy.
  - Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz says, "We are not gambling and we are not seeking confrontation... If the Security Council is serious about lifting the sanctions, if the Security Council is serious about restructuring UNSCOM and about creating a real international, cooperational, honest body to deal with the question of disarmament and to follow up the monitoring mission, OK. In principle we are not against implementing UN resolutions. We are not against working with the international body for the purpose of disarmament. If they change their position and they give Iraq its rights by reducing and lifting the sanctions we will immediately resume cooperation. (UNSCOM) "is a subsidiary organ of the Mossad and the CIA. UNSCOM is not an honest impartial professional international agency. It's an instrument in the hands of the CIA and the Mossad."
  - Butler says Aziz's contentions are 'nonsense' and that if Iraq were to fully cooperate, the weapons monitoring would quickly end. You are quite close to getting towards the end of most of the disarmament issues. Secondly you know exactly what we need: the truth. You own it. You can give it to us. We will be objective. We will get the job of verification done and get to the end of this if you cooperate. That's a true and clear promise. I have to respond I think to the point where the deputy prime minister says that my organization somehow works for the U.S. or Israeli intelligence. This is nonsense. If that's the seriously contended point, leading to restructuring of UNSCOM, then I fear the worst because it rests on contentions that are simply not true."
  - President Clinton says Iraq's decision to suspend cooperation with UN arms inspectors put it in "clear violation" of its commitments to the UN and of UN Security Council resolutions.
  - U.S. Secretary of Defense William Cohen warns Iraq that it could face military attack if Baghdad does not return to compliance with UN arms inspections. "I think everybody is getting weary of dealing with (Iraq President) Saddam Hussein," He says the U.S. prefers that any action against Iraq be taken in concert with the UN and allies, but that unilateral attack by U.S. forces "has always been an option that we could pursue."
  - 30 countries take part in the Baghdad International Fair that opened Sunday, billed as the largest in Iraq since the 1991 Gulf War.
- 98-11-2: Iraq allows teams from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to inspect sites for the second successive day.
- Iraq's parliament supports a decision to stop cooperating with a UN disarmament commission. The 250-member National Assembly votes to end cooperation until the sanctions are lifted and the UN commission is overhauled. The vote comes after Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz says Iraq won't back down from its decision to stop cooperating with the UN disarmament commission, even if threatened with military strikes. "We are not afraid of any reaction or threats. There is no situation worse than the present one."
  - Britain and Germany on Monday call on Iraq to comply with UN resolutions. The new German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder says, "I must underline that it is not a matter of a conflict between the U.S. and Iraq. Iraq is violating decisions of the international community, decisions of the Security

Council,” he said. That is the reason why Germany will support the decisions of the Security Council, the current ones and possible future ones.”

- Swiss officials s prolong a November 5 deadline for Barzan al-Tikriti, Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein’s half brother, to leave the country amid intense speculation on his future.
  - Iraq allows UN technicians to change video cassettes on a surveillance camera, although UN officials said it didn’t represent a significant change in Baghdad’s decision to stop cooperating with weapons inspectors.
  - Iraq announces it is considering asking the UN to extend the current oil-for-food plan until it reaches its \$5.25 billion target rather than re-negotiate the entire program. The program, which expires on Nov. 25, allows Baghdad to sell up to \$5.25 billion worth of oil over six months in order to buy food, medicine and other necessities. Low crude oil prices mean Iraq is only expected to sell about \$3 billion worth in the six months ending on Nov. 6.
  - Richard Butler calls the new standoff with Iraq the most serious confrontation with the UN to date, and says his teams could no longer carry out any meaningful operations in a letter to Security Council President Peter Burleigh of the United States. Butler reports Iraq had permitted inspectors from his UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) to maintain surveillance cameras by changing tapes. It also permitted maintenance work on the commission’s L-100 transport planes. but he says such activities are, “by themselves, minor in terms of providing credible monitoring. The commission is not in a position to provide the council with any level of assurances regarding Iraq’s compliance with its obligations not to re-establish proscribed activities.”
- 98-11-3 Nizar Hamdoon, Iraq’s ambassador to the UN, says he believes there is no support in the Gulf for military action against Baghdad in its latest standoff with the international community over weapons inspections.
- China urges Iraq to drop its opposition to UN weapons inspections and for a review of UN Security Council sanctions against Baghdad.
  - The UN Security Council’s 661 sanctions committee approves 36 more contracts for spare parts to repair Iraq’s sanctions-hit oil industry, a UN report said on Tuesday. Up to this time, 111 contracts worth \$88 million for spare parts for the oil industry had been approved. Another 78 contracts worth \$39 million were on hold or were sent back to suppliers for more information. Most of the contracts on hold are due to American objections. This committee now approves 36 new contracts for the supply of spare parts and equipment for Iraq’s oil industry,” it said. The value of these contracts is \$15, 468,813 bringing the total approvals for the oil sector to \$87.9 million. The contracts are with firms from China, Denmark, France, the Netherlands, United Arab Emirates, Turkey and Switzerland, Italy and Jordan. They range from pipeline to pump spare parts.
  - U.S. Defense Secretary William Cohen flies to London to discuss the Iraqi crisis with his counterparts Britain’s George Robertson and France’s Alain Richard. Cohen warns that “all options remain open” for ending the Iraqi blockade of arms inspections. A British Defense Ministry spokeswoman says that the defense ministers agreed that the decision by Iraq to end cooperation with the UN special commission on disarmament was “unacceptable” and breached his pledge at the beginning of the year to UN Secretary General Annan, and that Iraq “must comply with the agreement or face the consequences.” The spokeswoman says they agreed that they preferred a diplomatic solution “but we can’t rule out a military option. The international community’s patience with Saddam isn’t infinite.” They also said they “can’t look at lifting” trade sanctions in place against Iraq since the end of the Gulf War until Saddam complies fully with UN recommendations on disarmament and full cooperation with the inspectors.
  - British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook states it to Parliament that Iraq “appears to be gambling that the world will grow weary of his constant evasion and his repeated confrontation. ... We must remain ready and resolute to prove him wrong.” We want to find a diplomatic solution, but we have always made clear that all options remain open.

- A U.S. force of 21 warships and 174 aircraft is now in the Gulf region, and the U.S. says is sufficient for any military action against Iraq over UN arms inspections, the U.S. said Tuesday.
  - Secretary Cohen heads for the Gulf to discuss the crisis with the leaders of friendly states in the region. U.S. officials warn that the U.S. has no intention of continuing a costly cycle of building up, then drawing down, forces around Iraq with each new face-off, and that the large number of cruise missiles would suffice along with ability to quickly insert additional forces in a major emergency.
  - France recalls its representative in Baghdad for consultations, saying Iraq's decision to end cooperation with UN weapons inspectors would lead to its "total isolation." Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine writes to Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz and says Iraq's decision is "serious," and said it aggravates an already tense situation. "France does not understand this attitude which assuredly will not aid Iraq in getting sanctions lifted." He asks Iraq to reverse its position "without delay."
  - Saudi Arabia's King Fahd meets with Secretary Cohen in Riyadh. A Saudi official says that, "The Saudi leadership conveyed to Cohen its total refusal to have Saudi territory used as a springboard for striking Iraq."
- 98-11-4: Secretary Cohen arrives in Kuwait to discuss measures needed to force Iraq to meet UN arms inspection demands. Colonel Ahmed Rahnali, director of national guidance in the Kuwaiti army, says, "Kuwait is not a party to the dispute between the UN and Iraq, but it urges for peace on all international forums." Cohen goes on to Bahrain and Qatar
- Saudi Arabia's King Fahd told Cohen, during yesterday's meeting in Riyadh, that he won't let Saudi territory be used "as a springboard" for U.S. attacks on Iraq, Deutsche Press Agentur and the Associated Press reported, citing a Saudi official who spoke on condition of anonymity.
  - The Russian Foreign Ministry states it "will do everything it can do" to "prevent military action," and that "any unilateral moves" would only worsen the situation and would have "unpredictable consequences."
  - Russian Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov tells the Duma that, "I was in Iraq and I spoke to many specialists. They have no weapons of mass destruction. The (UN weapons inspection) commission is continuing only so as to carry out spying activities. They are breaking all norms of ethics and international law." The U.S. is behaving like a "Big Rambo, that can dictate to the world its norms of behavior. In real life it never turns out as well as it does in films."
  - French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine says that, "We can't see any country that understands what's going on or understands what the Baghdad regime is seeking, especially at a time when the Security Council had adopted a more open position. There is complete agreement in the Security Council—including us, of course, but also the Russians and the Chinese—to tell the Iraqis they're going in completely the wrong direction. It "is a decision that nobody can support...And just when the Security Council was moving a bit towards the French position, inexplicably, Iraqi authorities—at the highest level, I think—decide to break off that cooperation," he said.
  - European Union defense ministers warned Iraq that its refusal to cooperate is causing a "serious crisis" and may provoke "the most severe consequences." The first informal meeting of all 15 EU defense ministers to discuss defense cooperation outside of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization include traditionally neutral states such as Austria, Finland, Ireland and Sweden.
  - Kurdistan Democratic Party leader Massoud Barzani says Turkey has little to fear from attempts to create a Kurdish anti-Baghdad front in northern Iraq, and that it does not seek a Kurdish "statelet" that could encourage separatism in Turkey.
  - Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit states that Iraq's refusal to cooperate with the UN is a cause of concern to Ankara and the Kurds of northern Iraq.
  - Egyptian President Mubarak sends a message to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on the standoff between Iraq and the UN, but no details are reported about the message.

- 98-11-5: Iraqi newspapers attack on a draft UN resolution demanding that Baghdad stop blocking inspections by UN weapons experts, saying Iraq would not back down, and dismiss Secretary Cohen's visit to the Gulf as a failure.
- The Security Council condemns Iraq's decision to stop cooperating with UN inspections as a "flagrant violation" of its disarmament obligations and calls for an immediate and unconditional reversal. The vote on the British drafted resolution is a unanimous 15-0, with no abstentions, reinforcing the Council's message to Iraq. The text notes, "with alarm the decision of Iraq on 31 October 1998 to cease cooperation with the UN Special Commission, and its continued restrictions on the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)." It states the Security Council is determined, "to ensure immediate and full compliance by Iraq without conditions or restrictions with its obligations under resolution 687 (1991) of 3 April 1991 and the other relevant resolutions." It reaffirms its, "readiness to consider, in a comprehensive review, Iraq's compliance with its obligations under all relevant resolutions once Iraq has rescinded its above mentioned decision and its decision of 5 August 1998 and demonstrated that it is prepared to fulfill all its obligations, including in particular on disarmament issues, by resuming full cooperation with the Special Commission and the IAEA consistent with the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq and the Secretary-General on 23 February 1998 (S/1998/166), endorsed by the Council in resolution 1154 (1998)." The resolution, "condemns the decision by Iraq of 31 October 1998 to cease cooperation with the Special Commission as a flagrant violation of resolution 687 (1991) and other relevant resolutions; demands that Iraq rescind immediately and unconditionally the decision of 31 October 1998, as well as the decision of 5 August 1998, to suspend cooperation with the Special Commission and to maintain restrictions on the work of the IAEA, and that Iraq provide immediate, complete and unconditional cooperation with the Special Commission and the IAEA.
  - British UN Ambassador Sir Jeremy Greenstock says, "It is well established that the authorization to use force given by the Security Council in 1990 may be revived if the council decides that there has been a sufficiently serious breach of the conditions laid down by the council for the cease-fire. In the resolution we have just adopted, the council has condemned the Iraqi decision to cease all cooperation as a flagrant violation of its obligations "So Mr. President, this resolution sends a clear message to Iraq: resume cooperation now."
  - The Baath Party paper *al-Thawra* says, "Whatever the British draft resolution and whatever its final shape, Iraq will not retreat from its decision unless the Security Council responds to Iraq's legitimate rights.
  - President Clinton calls Iraq's latest defiance of UN resolutions "totally unacceptable" and warns that military force is an option.
  - Secretary Cohen says he found the Gulf Arab states "united in their condemnation" of Iraq's position, after visiting Britain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Jordan.
  - Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan tells U.S. Defense Secretary William Cohen that military strikes against Iraq could undermine regional stability.
  - UNSCOM announces it will withdraw 26 people from Iraq out of a permanent staff of about 120 people.
  - Japan warns Iraq that the international community will not lift sanctions on it unless Baghdad complies with UN inspections of suspected weapons sites.
- 98-11-6: Abdul-Ghani Abdul-Ghafur, a senior member of the regional command of the ruling Baath party, says Iraq will not rescind its decision unless the UN Security Council seriously examines the lifting of the trade sanctions in force since Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait. "America and Britain have imposed a new resolution in order to inflict more harm against the Iraqi people and to prolong the unjust embargo. Iraq will not retreat from its decision unless there is a clear response (from the Security Council) to Iraq's legitimate demand to lift the unjust embargo."

- Foreign Secretary Robin Cook says that Britain is working on measures to enforce UN economic sanctions more effectively by tackling oil smuggling by Baghdad to sustain Saddam's security forces and buy luxuries for its elite. Industry experts estimate Iraq exports up to 120,000 barrels a day, mainly of diesel oil, through Iran, Turkey and Jordan. It has also been discussing a route through Syria. The proceeds of the smuggling go directly to Saddam Hussein and his family, bypassing UN supervision, unlike the revenue from crude exported officially through an oil-for-food program to buy food and medicines for the civilian population. They may be worth up to \$250 million a year from the scam, about half of the highest Western government estimates. Turkey had imposed a \$79 per truck tax in July. Turkish officials estimated the number of vehicles crossing per day has fallen to an average of 500 from a peak of 1,500. Iraq also is smuggling of bunker fuel through Iranian territorial waters using barges that carry Iraqi diesel oil sailed down the Shatt al-Arab waterway, along Iranian coastal waters and across the Gulf to Dubai. About half of the illegal Iraqi exports got via the Iranian route.
  - Russia reaffirms its opposition to the use of force against Iraq.
  - The U.S. states that military means remained an option to make Baghdad comply with UN demands on arms inspections. National Security Council spokesman David Leavy said the U.S. believed it already had "all the necessary authority" under previous UN resolutions to launch military action if Clinton decided to do so.
  - British sources report that Foreign Secretary Robin Cook wants to continue to use diplomacy. "It is his view that there will be a couple of weeks at least of diplomatic activity. We seek a diplomatic solution." But we are not ruling out the use of force, if that is necessary to bring Saddam into compliance with UN Security Council resolutions."
- 98-11-7: U.S. warns its citizens in the Gulf against possible anti-American attacks as Western powers and regional allies weighed the option of military strikes against Iraq. "U.S. citizens traveling or residing abroad should be aware that tensions have increased."
- Eight Arab foreign ministers from the Southern Gulf states and Egypt warn Iraq that it does not have their support and must comply with the terms of the UN resolutions.
  - Trade Minister Mohammed Mehdi Saleh says Iraq is ready for any military confrontation with the US: "We do not fear any military strike. We are ready to confront any military strike."
  - Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov stresses Russia's desire to resolve the Iraqi crisis by diplomatic means in talks with a top Palestinian official and with Arab ambassadors
  - Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat sends a message urging Iraqi President Saddam Hussein not to give the U.S. an excuse for military strikes against Baghdad.
- 98-11-8: President Clinton meets with his top security advisers, but officials say no decision is made on whether to use military force against President Saddam Hussein.
- Secretary General Annan appeals to Iraq to rescind its decision to stop cooperating with UN inspectors.
  - The UN says fifteen arms monitors will leave Iraq on Monday and Wednesday.
  - Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal says his country wanted the crisis between Iraq and the UN settled by diplomacy not military action. "We prefer a diplomatic solution of the crisis. No one wishes evil on the Iraqi people. But, the responsibility in this issue falls completely on the Iraqi leadership. We think we express the wish of all Arab people which is that the Iraqi leadership bear its responsibilities and go back on its decision."
  - About 25,000 Turkish troops, supported by planes and helicopters, move into northern Iraq to fight Kurdish rebels in the PKK.
  - British Defense Secretary George Robertson flies into Kuwait and says the military capability is already in place for Western attacks on Iraq, and warns Saddam Hussein that the crisis would not be allowed to drift into 1999. "He (Saddam) would be very foolish to underestimate either our political will or our military capability."

- 98-11-9: Baghdad condemns Turkey for launching a new military operation into northern Iraq against Kurdish separatist guerrillas.
- The ruling Baath party newspaper *al-Thawra* says that, "Iraq will not lose anything if the American administration fulfills its (military) threats but America will be the loser. After this (U.S.) arrogance, oppression and tyranny, Iraq has no option but to re-assess all its relations with the Special Commission and the Security Council."
  - The CIA releases a report warning that, Iraq could rebuild its chemical and biological arsenals if international arms inspections ceased, the CIA said Monday as the Clinton administration prepared options on the latest standoff. It states that Iraq has "the capability to quickly resurrect weapons of mass destruction production absent UN sanctions."
  - Five teams of inspectors from International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) monitor Iraq's suspected nuclear weapons sites.
  - Twenty UNSCOM monitors have left Iraq since Baghdad's decision to halt cooperation, and 10 more are due to leave in the next few days.
- 98-11-10: President Clinton discusses military options with senior Defense Department officials. Among those at the meeting are Secretary of State William Cohen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Henry Shelton, and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.
- *Babel* accuses Turkey of pursuing territorial ambitions inside Iraq and following a hostile U.S. policy. "Instead of trying to help restore the central authority in the north of Iraq, they pursue a direction very near to that of American policy (against Iraq)...Turkey would be one of the tools that would be used against the Iraqi people, history and leadership."
- 98-11-11: Richard Butler orders the UNSCOM inspection staff out of Iraq. More than 100 inspectors and support personnel head for Bahrain. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) says it is removing its immediately as a precautionary measure. Several UN humanitarian staff operating Iraq's oil-for-food program leave Baghdad for Jordan.
- Iraq attacks the GCC states for allowing visits by the U.S. and British defense ministers, and a-Qadissiya has a front page editorial asking, "How is it that Arab states allow and provide entry visas to a Zionists like Cohen to issue threats against Iraq?"
  - Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Henry Shelton says, "As of today, no decision has been made... All options remain on the table...I would say that Saddam Hussein has been given adequate warning. He has in fact failed to live (up) to his commitments ... We have seen very strong resolve on the part of the UN. They are telling him that he needs to honor these commitments and I think that alone should serve as enough warning for Saddam Hussein... As we have said in the past, the ball is in Saddam's court. He is the one that made the commitments after he was defeated in the Gulf War in 1991 ... and we expect him to do that to honor his commitments."
  - The U.S. announces it will deploy additional warplanes, including F-117A stealth fighters, to the Gulf. The force will include Air Expeditionary Force of about 50 attack and support jets as well as several radar-avoiding stealth fighters.
  - Khalid Shahab al-Douri, head of the Arab and Foreign Relations at the Iraqi parliament, says that Iraq has not expelled the UN. "We have not expelled them and if they have left it is something left to them to decide. We hope that a strike will not take place, but if it happens we will defend ourselves and our country."
- 98-11-12: Eight Arab foreign ministers (Bahrain, Egypt, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and the UAE) declare that Iraq would be "held responsible for any consequences" from its stopping the work of UN inspectors. "The Iraqi government will be solely responsible for all repercussions resulting from its decision to block UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) from carrying out its inspections transparently." Tarqi Aziz replies that "Iraq is not the only country that is targeted. What threatens Iraq threatens the

whole Arab world. The threat today involves everybody...There isn't a single Arab country that will be spared.”

- German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder urges Iraq to allow UN inspectors to carry out their work in order to achieve a diplomatic solution to the conflict. “I most strongly urge the Iraqi leadership to fulfill comprehensively the resolutions of the UN Security Council. Only on this basis is a political solution of the conflict between Iraq and the international community possible.”
  - Britain tells its nationals to leave Baghdad as soon as possible and warns that President Saddam Hussein could make biological weapons within weeks. Prime Minister Tony Blair says, “The next step is action if he is not prepared to come back into compliance with his word. He has carried on fabricating evidence, telling lies about his program, attempting to prevent the inspectors doing their work...We cannot allow such a situation to happen.” Defense Secretary George Robertson returns from a tour of Kuwait and Bahrain to seek the support of Gulf Arab states, and says, “Saddam has no option left now but to comply. If he consistently refuses to comply, then military action will have to be the option to be considered. If he continues to defy world opinion, there will be an inevitability, a sad inevitability about force being used.”
  - Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz gives a press conference in which he says he sees “ We don't see any light at the end of the tunnel... There is a tunnel after the tunnel... diplomacy did not bring any results...The war has been waged on our people since 1991 and it has not stopped...sanctions (are) a war by itself and it is killing Iraqis... We welcome (Annan) if he would like to come here and we would not impose any preconditions on that but the main thing is the lifting of sanctions.”
  - U.S. State Department spokesman James Rubin says, “Clearly Iraq is desperately trying to shift responsibility for the crisis from its doorstep to the US. That effort is failing completely and totally.”
  - Secretary Cohen warns Iraq that it is risking “significant” air strikes in its continuing refusal to allow arms inspections. “They will be significant should they be carried out.”
  - Sen. Richard Lugar urges the Clinton administration to follow up any strikes on Iraq with a full-fledged military campaign to remove Saddam Hussein from power.
  - UN says that essential humanitarian missions under the oil-for- food program continue despite the withdrawal of most UN staff from Baghdad.
  - Secretary-General Annan returns and says he has no plans to go to Baghdad because of the Iraq crisis but needed to consult with the Security Council.
  - Jordan's Prime Minister Fayez al-Tarawnah cancels leave for ministers and warns that the government would not tolerate public protests against the threat of U.S. strikes against Iraq.
  - U.S. officials state that the U.S. wants Iraqi oil exports to continue under the UN's humanitarian “oil-for-food” program and is pushing for a smooth renewal of the scheme in two weeks, even if crisis appears headed toward a military conflict
  - The Tunisian government urges restraint from all parties and calls on UN Secretary-General Annan to continue his efforts toward a diplomatic solution.
- 98-11-13: Secretary-General Annan appealed to Iraq on Friday night to resume cooperating with UN weapons inspectors but said events on the ground “may be running away from us.”
- Saddam Hussein makes his first public statement since the latest dispute began and says that nothing less than a pledge to lift UN sanctions would end the current crisis. Saddam also insists, however, that he is not trying to create a crisis and would accept “positively any initiative” that would lift the sanctions.
  - President Clinton denounces Iraq's continued defiance of UN weapons inspections. He warns that Saddam Hussein can only avert a devastating attack by ending his ban on the searches. Clinton says, “the Security Council and the world have made it crystal clear now that this is unacceptable. None of us can tolerate an Iraq free to develop weapons of mass destruction with impunity.”

- USCENTCOM is given the order to prepare to launch strikes on Iraq on 98-11-13. President Clinton then orders U.S. military to launch air strike against Iraq on the 14th.
  - The Iraqi Foreign Ministry announces publicly that it is sending a favorable response to a letter from Secretary General Annan.
- 98-11-14: Iraq suddenly agrees to resume unconditional cooperation with UN weapons inspectors and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz's letter to UN Secretary-General Annan state that the Iraqi leadership has "decided to resume working with the Special Commission and the IAEA and to allow them to perform their normal duties... not out of fear of the aggressive American campaign and the threat to commit a new aggression against Iraq, but as an expression of our feeling of responsibility and in response to your appeal and those of our friends." He refers to a letter from Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov and positions taken by China, France and Brazil. The letter indicates that Iraq's goal in its decisions on August 5 and October 31 was not to sever relations with UNSCOM and IAEA.: "The objective of Iraq is to end the suffering of its embargoed people and to see the implementation of paragraph 22 of Security Council Resolution 687 as a first step for lifting the other sanctions." Aziz refers to an annex to the letter setting out Iraq's views on the proposed comprehensive review and UNSCOM: "If the review were not to be a mere formality...the adoption of the points we conveyed yesterday, 13/11/1998, to the Ambassadors of Russia, France and China, a copy of which I enclose herewith, will render the review serious, fair and fruitful." Iraq's position on the comprehensive review, as set out in the annex, also asks that, "the review to be carried out within a very short time (seven days for example) after the resumption" of UNSCOM work; Security Council be ready to implement paragraph 22 if the fulfillment of the requirements of section C of Security Council Resolution 687 is established; and if the Council feels more work needs to be done, a short period be set for that and in the meantime the Council takes "measures for lifting or reducing sanctions in proportion to what has been fulfilled of the requirements of paragraph 22." The annex also says, "the question of (UNSCOM chief Richard) Butler and the structure of UNSCOM and its practices are important matters. The Council is to consider them seriously in order to ensure a good relationship in the future. We hope that this will be done as soon as possible."
- Prakash Shah, the UN envoy to Baghdad, states that., "Iraq accepts to resume cooperation with UNSCOM and the IAEA inspectors in accordance with Security Council resolutions. No conditions have been mentioned in this (Iraqi) letter." In New York, Annan calls the letter "positive" and says he believes it met UN requirements for resolving the latest crisis.
  - Russia's deputy foreign minister Viktor Posuvalyuk praises Iraq's agreement to resume cooperation with UN weapons inspectors and said Russia played a decisive role in Baghdad's change in position. "We have read the message from Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz to Secretary-Genera Annan and we believe that it is clearly written that Iraq agrees to renew the normal work of the special commission. We believe that this opens a real path for political settlement and correspondingly eliminates the possibility of using military force."
  - Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Tang Guoqiang says that, "We hope the Iraqi side will honor its pledges and sincerely implement all relevant Security Council resolutions. We also call on all relevant parties to continue political and diplomatic efforts to resolve the weapons inspection crisis as soon as possible."
  - U.S. National Security Adviser Sandy Berger issues a statement that says, "The Iraqi letter ... is neither unequivocal nor unconditional. It is unacceptable." He makes it clear that the U.S. is still ready to make armed strikes against Baghdad. "We were poised to take military action and we remain poised to take military action." He warns that the U.S. demands an unequivocal response from Baghdad. "What we have instead is a letter and particularly an annex that's got more holes than Swiss cheese."
  - Clinton aborts strike at about 8 a.m. EST (1300 GMT). The President orders a pause in the strike, and requires the U.S. military to carry it out 24 hours later unless otherwise instructed.
  - Iraq gives the Security Council a two-page letter offering to allow UN inspectors to resume work along with a two-page annex that the U.S. judged laid down conditions.

- U.S. National Security Adviser Sandy Berger publicly rejects Iraqi offer shortly after 5 p.m. EST (2200 GMT).
  - White House receives second letter from Iraq to the Security Council saying its offer to resume working with UNSCOM was “unequivocal” at 7:20 p.m. EST (0020 GMT on Sunday).
  - White House receives a third document, a revised version Iraqi letter to Security Council, saying Baghdad has abandoned its Aug. 5 decision to stop UN field inspections and its Oct. 31 decision to halt all cooperation with UN inspectors at 9:06 p.m. EST (0206 GMT on Sunday).
  - Clinton has separate telephone consultations with Vice President Al Gore, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Defense Secretary William Cohen, Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director George Tenet and Gen. Henry Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Clinton also speaks to British Prime Minister Tony Blair and French President Jacques Chirac.
  - Iraq assures the Security Council that its letter saying UN weapons inspectors could return to Baghdad was “unconditional and unequivocal,” and quite separate from an accompanying annex setting out Iraqi wishes. The annex had become a major issue and the U.S. and Britain had said it set unacceptable conditions for the return of the UN weapons teams. Iraqi UN envoy Nizar Hamdoun said he first informed council president Peter Burleigh of the U.S. orally, and then in a letter, that the annex “contains the views and preferences of the government of Iraq” on a comprehensive review that the council had previously agreed to carry out on how far Baghdad had complied with UN resolutions.
  - The ruling Baath party newspaper, *al-Thawra*, says, “This leadership's decision pulled the rug from under the feet of the American administration, which has become used to distorting the facts relating to Iraq and engineering excuses to commit aggression against it. After this victory we should thank our steadfast people... Victory after victory until we overcome (the sanctions).”
- 98-11-15: U.S. National Security Adviser Sandy Berger consults with UN Secretary General Annan to make sure the White House and the UN have the same understanding of Iraq's promise to comply fully with the UN weapons inspections.
- Berger ends talks with Annan at 3 a.m. EST (0800 GMT).
  - Clinton decides to abort second military strike and leaves meeting in the White House West Wing at about 3:30 a.m. (0830 GMT).
  - Berger calls Shelton to tell him Clinton orders him to abort second strike at a time not disclosed by U.S. officials.
  - Prime Minister Tony Blair says that the crisis over UN weapons inspectors in Iraq is not over and that Britain remains ready, willing and able to strike if necessary. “This is not over until absolute and unconditional compliance is guaranteed and delivered. Until that we remain on alert.” Blair confirms that he and President Clinton had authorized the use of force against Baghdad on November 14, before Iraq sent its letter to the Security Council.
  - Pope John Paul II asks the world to pray for the key figures in the Iraq crisis, asking God to “illuminate their minds and hearts” so that they end the crisis peacefully.
  - President Clinton gives a TV address in which he announces that Iraq has agreed unconditionally to allow UN arms inspectors to resume their work in the country, and said the U.S. remained ready to act militarily pending full compliance. “Last night, Iraq agreed to meet the demands of the international community to cooperate fully with the UN weapons inspectors. Iraq committed to unconditional compliance. Iraq has backed down but that is not enough. Now Iraq must live up to its obligations... Until we see complete compliance we will remain vigilant, keep up the pressure and be ready to act.” The president says Iraq had clarified an earlier letter during the previous night. Clinton makes the U.S. conditions for halting the use of force clear: “As I have said since this crisis began, the return of the inspectors, if they can operate in an unfettered way, is the best outcome, because they have been and they remain the most effective tool to uncover, destroy and prevent Iraq from rebuilding its weapons of mass destruction and the missiles to deliver them. Now let me be clear. Iraq has backed down, but that is not

enough. Now Iraq must live up to its obligations. Iraq has committed to unconditionally resume cooperation with the weapons inspectors. What does that mean? First, Iraq must resolve all outstanding issues raised by UNSCOM and the IAEA. Second, it must give inspectors unfettered access to inspect and to monitor all sites they choose, with no restrictions or qualifications, consistent with the memorandum of understanding Iraq itself signed with Secretary-General Annan in February. Third, it must turn over all relevant documents. Fourth, it must accept all weapons of mass destruction-related resolutions. Fifth, it must not interfere with the independence or the professional expertise of the weapons inspectors." Clinton also calls for a new government in Iraq that was "committed to peace" and said the U.S. would intensify efforts toward that aim.

- Iraq welcomes a peaceful resolution to the crisis. Trade Minister Mohammed Mehdi Saleh says, "Any peaceful solution is good." However, Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan attacks the U.S. during his address to a celebration in Baghdad to mark the founding of the Iraqi capital. "The leadership of the (ruling Baath) party and the revolution...has decided to continue efforts with all means to confront the American threats (and) to lift the siege. We are certain that the complete victory will eventually be on the side of the people of our (Arab) nation."
  - Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz reiterates Iraq's commitment to cooperate with UN inspections. "We will cooperate. We have a commitment and we respect our commitments...They can perform their normal work according to the (UN) Security Council resolutions and memorandum of understanding. We will provide them with all the cooperation according to the Security Council resolutions and memorandum of understanding." He also says that, "I have to condemn, strongly, the statement of President Clinton regarding the plans of his government to overthrow the government of Iraq...This is a flagrant violation of the (UN) Security Council resolutions as well as international law." When he is asked if the crisis is over, he replies that, "I really don't know. I cannot be optimistic and say 'Yes' and I don't want to be pessimistic and say 'No.' The Security Council is still deliberating on the matter and I prefer to wait and see what results they will reach."
  - The Security Council calls on Iraq to cooperate with UN arms inspectors: "Council members underlined that their confidence in Iraq's intentions needs to be established by unconditional and sustained cooperation." The statement also say the Council would undertake a "comprehensive review" of Iraq's compliance with its resolutions once Secretary-General Annan confirms that "Iraq has returned to full cooperation." Baghdad has pushed for the review to begin quickly in hopes it would lead to an easing or lifting of sanctions. Immediately after the meeting ended chief weapons inspector Richard Butler said his staff of 103, now in Bahrain, would return to Baghdad on November 17. Benon Sevan, head of the UN humanitarian program in Iraq, said 151 international relief workers, in Amman, Jordan, would return on November 18.
- 98-11-16: Prime Minister Tony Blair speaks by telephone to President Clinton. A statement is issued saying that, "The prime minister and the president assessed the situation and agreed on the need to keep up the military presence and make sure agreements are now delivered." Blair then tells parliament that, "No warnings, no wrangling, no negotiations, no last minute letters. The next withdrawal of cooperation and he will be hit. If there is a next time, I will have no hesitation in ordering the use of force. President Clinton's position is the same. The U.S. and UK, with far greater international support than ever before, now have Saddam trapped. I hope other countries, more dubious about the use of force, can now see that Saddam is moved by a credible threat of force." Blair says Iraq retains the expertise and equipment to make more weapons of mass destruction and still possessed a large array of conventional weapons, and that there are unanswered questions about the purpose of 610 tons of chemicals that could be used in the production of the nerve gas VX, and of imports of products that could be used in the manufacture of anthrax bacteria. "Despite UNSCOM, Iraq still has weapons of mass destruction capability. We don't know precisely how much. They still have the skills, the engineers and the equipment to make more." He announces that he had given orders on the morning of November 14 to launch 12 British Royal Air Force Tornado jets stationed in Kuwait before Iraq backed down.

- President Bill Clinton warns Saddam Hussein he must comply fully with its promise to allow UN weapons inspectors unfettered access to do their job: "The burden of compliance is where it has always been, with Iraq. Our forces remain strong and ready if he does not."
- President Clinton says he'll spend the \$97.4 million Congress approved last month to increase the broadcasts of anti-Hussein Radio Free Iraq and to unite the Iraq's splintered opposition forces. State Department spokesman James P. Rubin follows up by saying, "We're not going to lose any sleep if Saddam Hussein suddenly isn't their leader, from whatever reason. No tears will be shed. What we're going to try to do is engage more deeply with opposition groups, work with the Congress on some of the ideas that they've had and try to step up our activity with them. Administration officials say the London-based Iraqi National Congress, an umbrella group for anti-Saddam factions, and two Kurdish groups in northern Iraq were the first organizations the government planned to work with. Congress had previously passed the Iraq Liberation Act of 1998 in October. The legislation states as U.S. policy the removal of Saddam's government and authorizes a first installment of up to \$97 million in overt military aid to opposition groups. The Administration and Department of Defense say they do not expect quick success. National Security Adviser Sandy Berger states, "This should not be seen as an overnight enterprise or a quick fix, but as a long-term effort to de-legitimize that regime and bring about change. At the State Department, Rubin was asked how the administration planned to bring about a post-Saddam regime. "We're not promising to bring it about. What we're saying is we're going to intensify our work. Right now, we're focused on providing political support for the opposition and Congress has given us the authority and funding to arm the opposition. We don't want any ill-prepared efforts to lead to a tragic or unnecessary loss of life. So what we're going to try to do is engage more deeply with opposition groups, work with the Congress on some of the ideas that they've had and try to step up our activity with them." U.S. Central Command commander Marine Gen. Anthony Zinni had warned in October that, "We have to be careful what we are doing...It should not be a case where the end result is just get rid of Saddam. It has to be done in such a way that the sovereignty and integrity of Iraq remains and that what follows Saddam is a decent government...A weakened, fragmented Iraq is more dangerous in the long run than a 'contained' Saddam, as he is now."
- Prime Minister tells parliament that the British government will work with the U.S. "to improve the possibility of removing Saddam Hussein altogether. We want to see Iraq governed by a regime other than that of Saddam Hussein."
- State Department spokesman James Rubin gives a briefing on the U.S. estimate of Iraq's holdings of weapons of mass destruction: "There is a large discrepancy between the amount of biological growth media — that's the culture in which you grow biological weapons — procured and the amount of agents that were or could have been produced." He states that Baghdad has not adequately explained where some 8,000 pounds (3,500 kg) of the material went out of some 68,000 pounds (31,000 kg) of biological growth media it imported. "Iraq's accounting of the amount of the agent it produced and the number of failed batches is seriously flawed and cannot be reconciled on the basis of this full disclosure Iraq has made. Iraq has reported making 8,800 pounds (four tons) of VX nerve gas, 220,000 pounds (100 tons) to 330,000 pounds (150 tons) of nerve agents such as Sarin and 1.1 million pounds (500 tons) to 1.32 million pounds (600 tons) of mustard gas. But Rubin says data from UN weapons inspectors indicates that Iraq may have produced an additional 1.32 million pounds (600-tons) of these agents, divided evenly among the three. "In other words, these are the differences between what they say they have and what we have reason to believe they have." Rubin provides an itemized list of Iraqi weapons already destroyed under UN supervision, including: 48 operational missiles; 14 conventional missile warheads; six operational mobile launchers; 28 operational fixed launch pads; 32 fixed launch pads; 30 missile chemical warheads; other missile support equipment and materials, and a variety of assembled and non-assembled supergun components. They also include 38,537 filled and empty chemical munitions; 90 metric tons of chemical weapons agent; more than 3,000 metric tons of precursor chemicals; 426 pieces of chemical weapons production equipment; 91 pieces of related analytical instruments; the entire al-Hakam biological weapons production facility and a variety of production equipment and materials.
- U.S. Defense Secretary William Cohen says, "I think everyone understands that this is the last go-round as far as Saddam is concerned. I think he has had more than sufficient warning. I don't believe any

- additional warning is required. A White House spokesman says, "We remain poised to act if there is any evidence that Iraq will not honor the unconditional commitments they made over the weekend. The reconfiguration of forces has enabled us to act quickly and decisively."
- Secretary Cohen announces that the U.S. has halted its force build-up: "We will keep the forces that are already there for the time being. Those forces that did not yet arrive, will in all probability be recycled back in the next several days." Several dozen F-16 and F-15 fighter planes, along with four F-117 Stealth fighters, halt in Europe instead of heading toward the Gulf as originally planned. The U.S. holds back a total of 91 of the 105 aircraft the Air Force planned to send to the Gulf. It deployed six F-117 stealth fighters to Kuwait from Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., instead of the planned 12. Seven of 12 B-52H model bombers arrived on the island of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean. The remaining five are now to stay in the U.S. Twenty-four F-16s and 12 F-15C fighters were diverted to England. Four of six B-1B bombers arrive in the Gulf. Two will remain in the U.S. Similarly, a Joint Stars surveillance aircraft deployed to the Gulf is returning home. The Army stops deployment of 3,600 troops from Fort Stewart, Georgia, and six to nine batteries of Patriot missiles from Fort Bliss, Texas. Each battery contains about four launchers and 32 missiles. A total of about 4,000 Army troops stand down. Cohen says these forces will "be ready to go at a moment's notice." When a second aircraft carrier USS Enterprise arrives in the Gulf, the one there — the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower — is expected to return home on schedule. The number of aircraft will be about half the 400 U.S. warplanes would be in the Gulf region the U.S. had planned. More than 170 U.S. aircraft, one aircraft carrier and about two dozen other ships — including eight vessels capable of launching Tomahawk cruise missiles — were already in the region, and a total of six F-117s Stealth fighters, six B-52 bombers, four B-1 bombers and some support aircraft, including AWACS surveillance planes, were added during the crisis.
  - The U.S. announces that its military operations in the Persian Gulf aimed at Iraq have cost almost \$6.9 billion since 1991. These costs don't include the latest deployment of additional bombers, fighters, and troops. Costs in fiscal 1998, which ended Sept. 30, are estimated to be \$2 billion --primarily because of the massive military buildup that started in January and lasted until May. The U.S. put two aircraft battle groups on station in January instead of one and increased troops, airmen, and sailors to 40,000 from about 20,000. The figures include costs for continual air patrols over Iraq to stop Iraqi military flights, Tomahawk cruise missile attacks launched twice in 1993 and once in 1996, and major military deployments of troops in October 1994 and this January. The annual costs include: \$346 million in fiscal 1991; \$106 million in fiscal 1992; \$838.5 million in 1993; \$421.8 million in 1994; \$864.3 billion in 1995; \$65.2 million in 1996; \$739 million in 1997; \$2 billion in fiscal 1998, and \$849 million so far in fiscal 1999.
  - French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine says he will Washington for an explanation of reports that Senator John McCain hinted Paris tipped off Iraq about impending American bombing. "The accusation is shameful and completely idiotic. It is especially outrageous coming from a senator and I will ask American authorities for explanations." Vedrine says Iraqi leaders did not need anyone to tip them off that they would be attacked if they failed to allow UN weapons inspectors back into the country. "All they had to do was read any newspaper or watch any television in the world...The U.S. knew that France is their friend and their ally though we do not automatically align ourselves on their positions." He adds that France had been in complete agreement with Washington during the last Iraq crisis.
  - Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan call on Monday for renewed diplomatic efforts to build on progress in resolving the dispute with Iraq over weapons inspections.
  - UN officials say 84 weapons inspectors, out of more than 100 evacuated last week during the U.S. military build-up, will return to Iraq on November 17, and the rest would follow on November 18.
  - The UN denies a report that Secretary-General Annan disregarded U.S. protests when he appealed last Friday to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to rescind his decision not to cooperate with UN weapons inspectors.

- The Lloyd's Register oil for food monitors return to Iraq — Syria condemns what it calls the U.S. double standard policy and military build-up against Iraq and calls for solving international problems through dialogue.
  - Saudi Arabia welcomes the easing of the Iraqi crisis. "The council (of ministers) expressed its satisfaction at the easing of the crisis between Iraq and the UN."
  - Former UNSCOM Chief Rolf Ekeus States. "One should be skeptical. It is always prudent to be skeptical. We have a history of Saddam Hussein making earlier promises... which he broke flatly and promptly."
  - The UN reports Iraq must step up its oil exports to meet its contractual commitments by November 25. Iraq must export at an average of 1.8 million barrels per day in the last 12 days of the program, well above the 1.49-million-bpd average for the week ending November 13. The four-week average of Iraqi exports is now 1.78 million bpd. The current six-month period of Iraq oil sales expires on November 25 and Baghdad has not indicated whether it will allow the uninterrupted flow of oil when the current six-month phase ends. UN officials on Monday said there may be a gap in oil exports of several weeks, but that the oil sale is expected to continue. The UN announces Iraq has shipped 286.8 million barrels in the limited oil sale's fourth six-month phase, and has commitments to ship another 21.655 million barrels in the 12 days from November 14 to November 25. Iraq began the program in December 1996. More than 7.5 million tons of food, about \$400 million of medicine and medical supplies, and more than \$200 million of agriculture, electricity, water, sanitation and education supplies and equipment have arrived in Iraq since "oil-for-food" shipments first arrived in March 1997. So far, \$2.81 billion of oil has been shipped in the oil sale's fourth phase. By November 25, this sales level is expected to be between \$3.0 billion and \$3.1 billion. This is far short of the \$5.256 billion Iraq is allowed to sell. The shortfall has been caused by Iraq's limited exporting capacity and low oil prices. Another possible problem in the waning days of the oil-for-food program's fourth phase is that more oil has been shipped from Mina al-Bakr, Iraq, than from Ceyhan, Turkey. The Security Council requires the majority of the oil must be shipped from Ceyhan. This is to allow Turkey to gain pipeline fees that it has lost since Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990 and the Kirkuk-to-Yumurtalik pipeline was shut. Through last Friday, Nov. 13, 153.705 million barrels had been shipped from the Turkish port and 154.750 million barrels had been shipped from Mina al-Bakr. Basrah Light crude is shipped from the Iraqi port and Kirkuk crude is shipped from the Turkish port. The UN's oil-sale overseers — the international oil marketing experts who advise the UN on the oil sale — said that by the time the fourth phase ends on Nov. 25, the volume of Kirkuk sales will be more than Basrah Light sales. "Just barely 50 percent," said a UN official, who wished to remain anonymous. In the past, the UN has allowed shortfalls of sales and other discrepancies to be adjusted in subsequent sales phases.
  - In June, the UN approved the sale of up to \$300 million in oil infrastructure equipment, so-called spare parts, to Iraq. This is funded through Iraqi oil sales. In the week ending Nov. 13, seven "spare parts" contracts were approved with the value of \$4.6 million. A passenger boat from Russia at \$2.5 million was the costliest item approved in the week. The UN has now received requests from Iraq for 324 "spare parts" contracts worth \$181.1 million. Of these, the UN Security Council's Iraq sanctions committee has approved 139 contracts worth \$97.5 million and withheld approval for 96 contracts worth \$44.9 million.
- 98-11-17: UN arms inspectors leave Bahrain for Baghdad after spending six days outside Iraq.
- Richard Butler tests Iraq's promises by asking it to turn over two documents, one dealing with chemical and the other with biological weapons. Amer al- Saadi, adviser to President Saddam Hussein, says Iraq is willing to discuss the weapons documents that chief UN arms inspector Richard Butler says he wants Baghdad to hand over. "We took copies of those documents with us to New York and we were ready to show them to fair-minded people."
  - *Babel* says U.S. threats to bomb Iraq over UN weapons inspections was part of a U.S. campaign to overthrow President Saddam Hussein's government. "As soon as Iraq foiled this plan, represented in preparations to launch a large scale savage attack on its people...the tyrant Clinton announced his full criminal plan to impose his will on the will of the Iraqi people."

- The Russian Foreign Ministry says U.S. statements calling for Saddam's overthrow, "are in direct contradiction to the norms and principles of international law. (UN) Security Council resolutions must be carried out, but it must not be forgotten that they speak of the need to respect Iraq's sovereignty and political independence. The Iraqi people must decide what government Iraq will have." The Ministry softens its statement by referring to "declarations coming out of Washington" and not mentioning Clinton by name.
  - Akram al Watri, a foreign ministry advisor, calls for Richard Butler to be reprimanded for acting without informing the UN Security Council: "Butler withdrew the disarmament experts from Iraq without reference to the (UN) Security Council, thus overstepping his mandate. He only asked the US' advice, without referring to the Security Council, and his behavior must be sanctioned'
  - The U.S. made clear Tuesday that economic sanctions against Iraq will not be lifted at the end of a review of Baghdad's compliance with UN resolutions. Deputy U.S. Ambassador to the UN, Peter Burleigh, says the U.S. government has always viewed the comprehensive review as just that — a review of Iraqi obligations and the many questions it hasn't answered. "We don't see the sanctions lifting as the end result of the comprehensive review." Burleigh dismisses Baghdad's suggestion that sanctions should be lifted incrementally in proportion to Baghdad's compliance." It's not allowed under the resolutions. And as far as I know, there's no member of the Council arguing for incremental lifting of sanctions." Burleigh says the while the Council has focused on resolutions demanding elimination of weapons, the U.S. demands Iraq's full compliance with resolutions calling for an accounting of missing Kuwaitis, and the return of looted Kuwaiti property and government archives. He says the fate of Kuwaiti prisoners is, "an extremely important issue."
  - Iraq's UN Ambassador Nizar Hamdoon said Tuesday night that Baghdad believes it will be able to convince the Security Council that it has meet "the bulk of the requirements" in the resolutions. "If the comprehensive review comes up with a conclusion that Iraq has done so, the sanctions obviously and logically should be lifted. The Council may well decide at the end of the comprehensive review to lift the sanctions partially." Hamdoon denies Iraq has any prisoners of war and said Iraq is cooperating on the matter.
- 98-11-18: The UNSCOM Baghdad Monitoring and Verification Center resumes its activities, and resumes inspections. UN weapons experts resumed inspections in Iraq for the first time in three months testing the Iraq government's promise of full cooperation.
- Foreign Office minister Derek Fatchett announces that he will meet with representatives of 15 Iraqi dissident groups against Saddam Hussein on Monday to urge a common line, but a British government official said ministers aren't planning at the moment to match money being put up by the U.S. which has pledged \$97 million for the opposition parties. A Foreign Office spokesman says Britain will encourage the opposition groups to combine and present proposals for a democratic alternative in Iraq. He said, "it's not a question of providing money or weapons at this stage."
  - Oil prices in London dropped to their lowest levels in a decade as traders judge no new Iraqi crisis is imminent. Brent oil for January delivery falls 30 cents, or 2.6 percent to \$11.43 a barrel. In New York, December delivery crude falls 37 cents to \$12.45 a barrel.
  - Richard Butler says that before the most recent crisis with Iraq, the country had moved close to complying with UN mandates on its chemical weapons and illegal missiles, but the area of biological weapons remained a "black hole." He says UNSCOM had destroyed a substantial portion of Iraq's chemical weapons and made a pretty good account of illegal missiles, but that the same could not be said of biological weapons. He said much more information was needed in the biological area, and he had asked Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz for a fresh start. "I wrote to him today, following last weekend's crisis ... saying 'Start again. Give us a whole new answer on biology. Break the habit of a lifetime and tell us the truth...But it's also, I think, been made very clear that if they lie to us again, if they seek to obstruct again, there may well be military action.'" Butler says a report a `concealment committee headed by Aziz, designed to cheat UN inspections is "substantially true" and he had asked Aziz for an explanation on his last trip to Baghdad and in a new letter. "Everyone's nightmare about this system is

the cheater... and the paradigm case of this is Saddam Hussein's Iraq. The UN asked Iraq to declare the truth to us about its weapons within 15 days; 2,600 days later, we still don't know the truth. Eight and one-half years later, it's still not over. I will probably go to my grave not understanding.”

98-11-19: Iraq protests to the UN against U.S. reconnaissance flights by U-2 aircraft, saying they harm its security and sovereignty.

- Ahmed Chalabi, head of the Iraqi National Congress, an opposition umbrella group considered a favorite to receive nearly \$100 million in U.S. military assistance. Chalabi met with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Martin Indyk.
- U.S. and British defense ministers repeat warnings to Baghdad that their forces are ready to strike Iraq if President Saddam Hussein broke an agreement to cooperate with UN arms inspections.
- UN arms experts finish their second day of inspections.
- Iraq's UN ambassador, Nizar Hamdoon, asks the Security Council for a two-month extension in the current round of the humanitarian "oil-for-food" program. Hamdoon says Iraq needs time to reach the oil sales limit of \$5.256 billion. Due to low oil prices and poor infrastructure, Iraq is only expected to sell about \$3 billion by the deadline of November 25. He also, however, may be seeking to delay a decision on a new round, to which Baghdad has previously objected.
- Butler says it may take four weeks to know if Iraq is now complying and that he is giving priority to data on VX nerve gas, which Iraq first denied having then admitted. “We demonstrated to them that they made about 4,000 litres, four tons, of this stuff.” He says he is also seeking information on liquid propellants used with Scud missiles and a document uncovered at an Iraqi Air Force base that showed the ordnance was capable of being filled with chemical and biological agents Iraq expended its in 1980-88 war with Iran. Butler says “This is the last chance and I hope it's the best chance and they see the point. If the only thing preventing Iraq from taking the decision to disclose all of its weapons and to be totally and verifiably disarmed of those weapons of mass destruction was my being removed from this job, then I tell you like any good citizen with a good conscience, I would remove that impediment. But, sadly, that proposition is based on an utterly false premise. So, I'm here to tell you I intend to stay on and get this job done.”

98-11-20: Iraq criticizes Richard Butler for accusing Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz of concealing information from his arms teams. Ambassador Nizar Hamdoon says, “This kind of behavior and these kinds of remarks do not come from an international employee. He (Butler) talks about Iraq and the president of Iraq in unacceptable language. If he is really a professional international employee...he should observe a completely different way of working and speaking. *Al-Thawra*, the Baath Party newspaper, says, “It has been proven to the Security Council itself that its Chairman Butler receives his orders from his American overseers and there is concrete evidence that he gives them his reports first to add their hypocritical touches before he presents them to the Security Council.”

- Richard Bulter releases a list of 12 requests for documents sent to Iraq and the replies of Riyadh al-Qaysi, an Under-Secretary in the Iraq's Foreign Ministry. The information was released late on Friday. The requests include:
  1. A document UNSCOM inspectors say briefly on July 18, 1998, at the headquarters of the Iraqi Air Force that provides the details of the munitions used in the 1980-1988 war with Iran. UNSCOM believes Iraq has given it an inflated figure on the amount of expended ordnance that could be filled with chemical or biological agents, and this raises questions about what happened to the remainder. The Security Council has asked for this document to be surrendered to UNSCOM. Iraq said it was ready to consider disclosing “relevant portions of the paper” in the presence of Secretary-General Kofi Annan's special envoy in Iraq, Prakash Shah.
  2. A document from the Muthanna State Establishment, dated September 1988, on future actions concerning the development of chemical weapons. UNSCOM says Iraq had promised to locate the document before and then said it did not exist. Iraq replies that the document had been discussed

- previously and then not raised by UNSCOM in July high-level meetings on future joint disarmament work.
3. Documents and 1990 records on the status of the production of the deadly nerve agent VX. UNSCOM has said that Iraq had not accounted for thousands of litres of VX. Iraq replies that no such records exist, that it was unsuccessful in its 1990 attempts to produce VX for use in weapons and had given UNSCOM all relevant materials.
  4. The Full diary of Brigadier Ismail, an officer in the surface-to-surface missile force, which deals with missile-related activities in 1990 and 1991. Several pages of this diary had been provided to UNSCOM earlier dealing with biological weapons warheads. Iraq now says Ismail has destroyed the diary.
  5. A January 1991 report by Lt.-Gen. Hazzem Abdul Razzaq, the commander of the surface-to-surface missile force, mentioned in his recently published memoirs that describes the balance of missiles and warheads that existed at the time. Iraq says the general had taken notes from documents and then destroyed them as ordered. This is noted in the introduction to his memoirs.
  6. Governmental and ministerial documents describing the creation of a missile unit in 1990, and its equipment of missile launchers, warheads, ground support equipment, propellants and other material. UNSCOM said a similar request was contained in a letter to Iraq in November 1996. Iraq says UNSCOM had not asked for these documents previously but it was ready to relinquish them.
  7. The full diary of "Engineer Muqdam," which deals with the indigenous production of missile engines in 1990 and 1991. Eleven 1 pages had been provided to UNSCOM earlier. Iraq says the pages from Muhkdam's diary illustrated technological problems with experimental prototypes and showed the missiles were not ready for production, and that Muhkdam had since destroyed his personal diary.
  8. Documentary evidence of unilateral destruction of missile propellants in 1991, including parts of an inventory diary certifying the destruction in 1991. Iraq says: "We made a great effort to search for the diaries but it seems that these documents were amongst those destroyed" in 1991.
  9. Documents dated May 1991 which provide inventories of available chemical and biological weapons, missiles and their warheads, launchers and other relevant equipment. Iraq says no such inventory was made and no such documents exist.
  10. Documents detailing decisions made in April, June and July 1991 to retain or destroy proscribed weapons and other materials. UNSCOM believes written records were kept. Iraq says Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz had explained to Butler and his predecessor, Swedish diplomat Rolf Ekeus, that he had taken this decision and "communicated it orally to the competent authorities to carry out."
  11. A report on Iraq's investigation of Lt.-Gen. Hussein Kamal and actions he took to conceal weapons capabilities and documents. Iraq says it did not conduct a formal investigation on the defection.
  12. The Minutes of meetings of the Iraqi High-Level Committee on the retention of banned weapons and materials that UNSCOM has said Iraq admitted was formed in June 1991. Iraq says the International Atomic Energy Agency, not UNSCOM, had previously requested such minutes. "We pointed out to them on that occasion that there was no such committee in the technical sense of the word."
- Iraqi foreign ministry Under-Secretary Riyadh al-Qaysi sends two letters to Butler and states the Security Council should proceed first with a promised comprehensive review of Iraq's compliance so far with council resolutions and that the Council would then decide what more needed to be done regarding disarmament. Al-Qaysi says UNSCOM had conducted long searches of many of them but found nothing contrary to Iraq's declarations. "Therefore, the request you made at this time, which is of a general nature, seems to be provocative rather than professional. We hope that UNSCOM will discard this unprofessional approach which would unjustifiably lead to the prolongation of work, and thereby maintaining the inequitable embargo on the people of Iraq." Al-Qaysi says he is replying on behalf of Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, and that Butler's requests fall into two categories. "The first category comprises alleged documents which do not exist, and the second category includes repetition of previous requests in respect of which we had submitted all the available and true clarifications." Al-Qaysi says the

“prevailing trend in the deliberations of the Security Council and the positions resulting therefrom have been to commence with a comprehensive review” a short time after UNSCOM resumed its activities in Iraq. “The judgment on the remaining issues which should be followed up rests with the Security Council.” He appends an annex raising objections or difficulties regarding the handing over of a dozen specific documents.

- State Department spokesman James Rubin reacts to these developments by saying the U.S. is waiting for Butler to determine the significance of the new information.
  - Secretary-General Annan recommends renewal of the Iraqi `oil-for-food program that would permit Baghdad to sell \$5.25 billion in oil to purchase food, medicine and other humanitarian goods for another six months. Annan’s report says the program should be continued on the same basis as the current plan that gives priorities for specific categories of food, medicine and other supplies Iraq needs. Iraq, however, has only been able to export about \$3 billion in oil over the last six months because of low crude prices and its dilapidated oil industry equipment. Iraq has argued that a two-month extension would allow Iraq to reach the \$5.25 billion target. Diplomats, however, say Iraq's proposal could be a move to delay the next phase of the program which Baghdad sees as an implicit indication that the sanctions would be in place for at least another six months. The new phase of the program is expected to include a provision that Iraq be allowed to spend a specific amount of the oil revenues to upgrade its pipeline and other equipment. Currently Baghdad is permitted to spend \$300 million for this purpose.
  - Iraqi Trade Minister Mohammed Mehdi Saleh says that there is less pressure to lift the oil embargo because the international community knows Iraqis are being fed — even at a subsistence level: “We accepted this program as a temporary one. Now, it has become a cover to continue sanctions on Iraq. Anyway, people need more than food. We need investment in agriculture and industry, to create job opportunities and to raise income. Oil-for-food can't do this.”
- 98-11-21: President Clinton is taking a more cautious approach to a new barrier Iraq has placed in the path of UN weapons inspectors. “I think it's important we not overreact...if they have some independent grounds for objecting to some of this information, that is if they think it's some effort to find out something having nothing to do with matters covered by the UN resolution, they ought to say that and we should immediately resolve it. We will remain vigilant, we will keep up the pressure, we will be ready to act. Iraq must accept once and for all that the only path forward is complete compliance with its obligations to the world.”
- Sandy Berger, the President's assistant for national security affairs, tells reporters in Seoul that military action is still an option. “We've said all along that the issue here is whether Iraq will meet its obligations under the Security Council resolutions and whether UNSCOM (the UN Special Commission) is able to do its work. If we reach the conclusion that the answer to those questions is negative we obviously are prepared to act.”
  - James P. Rubin issues a statement that if Iran tries to undermine Saddam, “we are not going to complain...we are not working with (the Iranians) in any shape or form or soliciting their support.”
- 98-11-22: UN inspection teams in Iraq to carry out their work for a fifth consecutive day.
- *Al-Jumhuriya* says, “We are convinced that UNSCOM is no longer fit to be an international organization carrying out the mandate of the UN. This is why we are not surprised when the American administration makes threats of aggression whenever Iraq takes any legitimate, sovereign position to protest at the deviant behavior of UNSCOM's leaders and members, who are doing things that have nothing to do with their mission and mandate.” *Babel* attacks U.S. President Bill Clinton's public call for a new government in Iraq and U.S. threats of a military strike. “The aim was not just to keep the sanctions in force but was in line with Clinton's scenario to change the regime in Iraq and replace it with the opposition. Their hands should be paralyzed. They have conspired against Iraq and launched on it the fiercest wars which all ended in defeat and disappointment. It is stupid that Clinton and the corrupt rulers of America...do not understand this reality, Our people will not weaken or kneel or submit to threats of destruction. Let the American rulers wake from their sick dreams...Our Iraq is enduring with its dignity and pride and all their schemes will certainly end in failure.”

- 98-11-23: The U.S. reserves judgment on Iraq's conduct in its dispute with UNSCOM and says it has no plans for immediate military action. Secretary Cohen says the U.S. has enough military forces in place to strike Iraq but that obtaining documents is only one aspect of the effort to find and destroy Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright says it is "not a matter of a deadline. It's a matter of really coming forward with what is necessary to show that they are cooperating."
- 98-11-24: Iraqi Deputy Premier Tariq Aziz says the States and its allies want to humiliate and break Iraq through military attacks and sanctions. "The tyrants and the evil of the world, America and the Zionists, and whoever is serving their interests and schemes today seek, as they did in the past and failed, to humiliate Iraq and bring it to its knees by threatening destruction. But they have forgotten that they have tried and failed before and they will fail this time also." A mass burial is held in Baghdad for some 65 children who Iraq claims died from malnutrition and lack of medicine. The procession stops outside the UN offices and families anti-American slogans demanding the lifting of UN sanctions. The Health Ministry repeats its claim that nearly 1.4 million Iraqi have died as a result of the punitive sanctions.
- The Security Council is unable to come to a decision on how to react to Iraq's failure to hand over documents to UNSCOM: "This is a continuing matter. We have not reached any definitive conclusions."
  - President Saddam Hussein orders the replacement of 18 Iraqi ambassadors, including the country's envoy to the UN, government officials said Tuesday. Nizar Hamdoon, the ambassador to the UN, will be replaced by his deputy, Saeed al-Mausawi. Saddam's half-brother, Barzan al-Tikriti, who was Iraq's UN representative in Geneva, has been replaced by Mohammed al-Douri, a legal adviser in the foreign ministry.
  - The Iraqi press reports that Iraq's government asks Arab nations to help lift UN sanctions and stop British and U.S. attempts to overthrow Iraqi President Saddam. An article written by one of Saddam Hussein's advisers says that attempts to dislodge the Iraqi leader could destabilize the Middle East.
  - The Security Council renews the oil-for-food plan for another six months, including funds to upgrade Baghdad's oil equipment. The resolution renewing the plan for six months at the rate of \$5.256 billion in oil sales was adopted by a unanimous 15-0 vote. It includes \$300 million for spare parts and other material for Iraq's oil industry. Iraq has only been able to export about \$3 billion in oil over the last six months because of low crude prices and the state of its oil industry.
  - Iraq reports that the man who tried to kill Izzat Ibrahim, vice-chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council in Karbala was shot dead by his bodyguards on the spot.
  - Egyptian Mubarak says that British and U.S. efforts to use Iraqi opposition groups to undermine President Saddam Hussein were bound to fail. "Anyone who knows the Iraqis knows that no action will succeed unless it comes from within the country, by people who live in Iraq. Those who operate outside the country can do nothing, even if Saddam is bowled over."
  - The U.S. State Department says that trying to assassinate Iraqi politicians is not part of its agenda for a more effective Iraqi opposition.
- 98-11-25: Iraqi opposition leaders from 16 leading opposition groups meet with Assistant Secretary of State Martin Indyk. Ahmed Chalabi, head of the Iraqi National Congress, says, "Let Saddam be on notice. The Iraqi opposition now has the support of the U.S. Congress and the U.S. administration."
- The U.S. State Department nominates Adnan al-Pachachi, a former foreign minister, to forge a united Iraqi opposition movement to try to topple Saddam. Assistant Secretary of State Martin Indyk proposed al-Pachachi's name during his meeting with 16 Iraqi opposition leaders in London, although a State Department official says that Indyk made it clear that it is up to the Iraqi opposition to organize themselves. Al-Pachachi was foreign minister in the government toppled in the 1968 military coup that brought Saddam's Baath party to power. He later became a political adviser to the president of the United Arab Emirates.

- UNSCOM teams have carried eight days of visits since Iraq relented on November 14. Iraq has cooperated with the searches. Most visits were to sites that monitors had already checked and usually involved maintenance work on long-term monitoring equipment.
  - Iraq accepts the six-month renewal of its oil-for-food accord with the UN, allowing for a continuation of the country's oil exports of 1.7 million barrels a day without interruption.
- 98-11-26: The illegal trade in diesel fuel between Iraq and Turkey resumes after being halted during Iraq's dispute with UNSCOM. The trade moves diesel from Iraq's oilfields around Kirkuk through Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq to Turkey. A Turkish official says 625 trucks which can carry up 10,000 litres diesel each, had applied to Turkey cross into Iraq and many had begun to make the journey.
- The Russian foreign ministry says it supports the U.S. effort to ensure Iraq's compliance with UNSCOM inspections, but repeats its opposition to any use of force. It praises a UN Security Council decision this week to renew an oil-for-food plan for another six months.
  - GCC Secretary-General Jameel al-Hujailan says that regional security will be on the agenda of the annual GCC summit, which will be held in Abu Dhabi from December 7-9. "On the regional level, we look for the day when we will be able, together with neighboring countries including Iraq — after this era ends — to reach a regional understanding based on mutual respect and good neighborly relations. At this stage, we consider Iraq's implementation of all Security Council resolutions as a basic prerequisite to achieve regional security."
- 98-11-27: Former U.S. President George Bush advises the U.S. administration to ensure there is international consensus for any attack on Iraq to force it to comply with UN resolutions on weapons inspections. "Keep the pressure on and use the international community together, and I use that because I don't want to see the U.S. be the sole orchestrator of all of this. Keep the international community together and insist the man keep his word. At some point if he's not willing to do that, well, somebody will probably take matters into his own hands in his own country. But short of that I don't see any easy answers to this problem. What worries me is the shattering of the coalition, and his ability to shift world opinion off his own brutality...and shift it to make all of us feel guilty that we're the ones that are doing it."
- Iraq's Deputy Foreign Minister Riyadh al-Qaisi announces he has sent three letters Richard Butler, responding to questions about Iraq's chemical weapons and missile programs. In the letters, Iraq asks the UNSCOM inspectors to help Iraqi investigators look into three unresolved matters. It rejects the other queries, and claims that deadly VX nerve gas was planted on an Iraqi warhead to discredit Baghdad. The letters appear to show Iraqi compliance with requests that it deems legitimate and make no threats or attacks on the weapons inspectors — a sharp contrast to a television interview in Baghdad by Iraq's Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahhaf, who called Butler a "wretched person." In his letters, Al-Qaisi asks that teams be sent to investigate the fate of 155mm shells filled with mustard gas, to verify the disposal of bombs equipped for chemical and biological agents, and to look at pits where special warheads were stored. He refuses to hand over Iraqi-produced missile engine components extracted from the Tigris River canal for analysis, saying the request is not justified "on technical or scientific grounds. Al-Qaisi alleges that VX nerve agent was planted on the warhead fragments in order to discredit Iraq "The incontrovertible facts are that Iraq never produced VX in stable form and never filled VX in warheads."
- 98-11-28: Iraq arrests 39 suspects after the failed assassination attack on Ezzat Ibrahim. *Babel*, an official Iraqi newspaper, reports that Ibrahim had escaped unhurt after two hand grenades were hurled at a car in which he was riding at a religious ceremony in Kerbala, south of Baghdad, on Sunday, the agency reported. The paramilitary group Saddam's Fedayin carried out raids in the three days following the attack and arrested people "in the pay of foreigners."
- President Saddam Hussein's eldest son, Uday, orders Iraqi commandos to lead a crackdown in the Kerbala after the assassination attempt on Ezzat Ibrahim.
  - Iran says its navy is intercepting motor boats smuggling goods into Iraq in violation of the UN embargo
- 98-11-29: Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's half-brother Barzan al-Tikriti announces he will return to Iraq.

- 98-11-30: Iraqi Trade Minister Mohammed Mehdi Saleh is quoted in *Al-Thawra* as announcing that cheese and powdered milk will be available for the first time since the oil for food agreement went into effect two years ago. He does not announce how much each Iraqi would receive. Each Iraqi citizen is currently entitled to a monthly allowance of nine kilograms (19.8 pounds) of flour, 2.5 kg of rice, two kg of sugar and baby formula, tea, soap and other items.
- Richard Butler releases a letter to Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz saying he notes with satisfaction that the Iraqi side is ready to cooperate with the Special Commission on several specific issues. "I expect to be in a position to formulate a report in two or three weeks time on whether or not Iraq has returned to full cooperation." He also asks, however, that Iraq hand over immediately a document detailing munitions spent in Baghdad's 1980-1988 war with Iran that UNSCOM inspectors saw at Iraq's Air Force headquarters in July.
- 98-12-1: Iraqi authorities say they are so unconcerned about new broadcasts by the new Radio Free Iraq that they will not jam the transmissions.
- Iraq's Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf asks the Security Council to meet to discuss "American threats" to Iraq. He calls on the Council members to ask the U.S. to stop "such acts of aggression against Iraq and its sovereignty and territorial integrity. Acts, threats and statements by the U.S. of America represent a flagrant violation of international conventions and norms."
  - Iraq's Deputy Oil Minister Taha Hamood says Iraq will be unable to sell \$3 billion worth of oil under a new six month phase of its oil-for-food deal. "The falling oil prices will reduce our oil exports even below the \$3 billion worth of oil we had exported in the fourth phase of the deal. We are still having the same capacity of oil export." He also says Iraq is holding discussions with Syria on how to rehabilitate an oil pipeline between them closed since 1982. The pipeline would have an initial capacity of 300,000 barrels per day and Iraqi oil officials says that \$80 million is needed to repair the oil pipeline.
  - Iraq breaks precedent and submits 23 contracts for the sale of its crude oil before the UN approves the new plan for distributing goods bought with proceeds of the "oil-for-food" program.
  - The UN announces it has approved 10 contracts for Iraqi oil to be delivered over the next six months. They are the first contracts approved since Iraq agreed last week to continue working with the oil-for-food program.
  - Lt. Gen. Amer al-Saadi denies Iraq tried to buy prohibited missile technology in Romania but admits it sent a team there to settle outstanding matters relating to an old contract and that The Iraqi team also was interested in "some forging and precision-casting technologies" for short-range missiles."
- 98-12-2: UN biological weapons inspectors meet with Iraqi officials of Iraq's National Monitoring Directorate
- *Al-Thawra* say Egypt should have rejected a statement last month by Damascus declaration states which urged Iraq to heed UN demands on arms inspections.
  - The UN reports that "During the week to 27 November...the Security Council's 661 committee approved 23 contracts with a total value of \$11,504,840. The total approved contracts are now 175 worth \$114,311,672. The number of contracts currently on hold was 100 with a total value of \$35,073,552." It reports the contracts were with companies from Belgium, Finland, France, Italy, Singapore, Turkey, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates. They range from pipeline to machine spare parts.
  - Former Iraq oil minister Issam al-Chalabi claims Iraq requires at least \$5 billion to restore its crude oil production capacity to levels the existed before its invasion of Kuwait. He says that reservoirs, wells, storage facilities and pipelines all require urgent attention because of the impact of sanctions, and calls the \$300 million approved for spares under the oil-for-food agreements "a drop in the ocean." He says Iraq also needs to invest in downstream facilities, and that Iraq would require \$30 to \$50 billion to implement all of the plans it had developed before the invasion, including increasing production to 5.5 million barrels per day.
  - Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahhaf calls on the Security Council to ask the U.S. to refrain from threats or action against Iraq. In a letter dated Nov. 30 and delivered to the council

Wednesday, al-Sahhaf says the U.S. had recently threatened air and missile strikes, had aimed “to kill civilians and destroy Iraq's industrial, defense and security infrastructure in order to destabilize the country internally.” This would permit the U.S. “to put into effect its plan to overthrow the government of Iraq,” he said.

- Chief inspector Richard Butler meets with French officials in Paris and describes Iraq's cooperation as “satisfactory.”
- 98-12-3: Iraqi scientists call for an international ban on arms containing depleted uranium (DU), saying their use in the Gulf War had triggered a health and environmental disaster. They ask the World Health Organization and International Atomic Energy Agency to study alleged radiation pollution in southern Iraq. Nafi al-Ani, a doctor from Baghdad medical college, says a study of Iraqi soldiers exposed to explosions of DU munitions showed an unusual frequency of leukemia and lymphomas. Doctor Ahmed Hardan of Iraq's Ministry of Health says the number of abortions in the southern city of Basra had tripled between 1989 and 1997.
- 98-12-4: Richard Butler discusses the Iraqi crisis with Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and other top Russian officials. Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz is expected to arrive in Moscow on December 6 for a four-day visit.
  - Oil exports from Iraq resume, with six tankers sailing.
- 98-12-5: Iraq denies that it barred weapons experts in October from entering a suspected weapons site inside an area controlled by exiled Iranian opposition activists. It says UNSCOM wanted to enter a site “belonging to one of the foreign parties residing in Iraq” over which Iraq has no control. Iraq says it did not interfere when UNSCOM inspectors negotiated with the exiled Iranians on October 25 to enter the site. The exiles are members of the Mujahideen Khalq, which opposes the Islamic government in Iran, operates about a dozen military camps in Iraq.
  - Syria and Iraq renew their invitation to Turkey to resume three-way talks on sharing the waters of the Euphrates and Tigris rivers.
- 98-12-6: Britain declares it will maintain its military presence in Kuwait Iraq complies fully with UN resolutions. British Chief of the Defense Staff General Charles Guthrie says, “We have decided that we are going to be here and make quite sure what was agreed in the middle of November by (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein is done. We think it is crucial we are here...We have no plans for reducing the numbers here and we are here until a satisfactory outcome of the situation. It is clear that the patience of the world is running out with Saddam Hussein and (British) Prime Minister Blair and President (Bill) Clinton have both said that if there is noncompliance by Saddam Hussein we are likely to use force without warning.”
  - Egypt says it will help Iraq rebuild its power sector by rehabilitating networks, power stations and transformer.
- 98-12-7: The Russian government says it is trying to persuade Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz to cooperate with UN weapons inspectors to bring an end to economic sanctions against Iraq. Russian Fuel and Energy Minister Sergei Generalov says, “Lifting of the present sanctions against Iraq would have both positive and negative implications for Russia, but positive effects would prevail. Russian companies would go on with their commitments to develop Iraqi oil fields, and Iraq would be able to service its debt to Russia. That would offset the biggest negative effect -- more oil coming to international markets.” Russian oil producers such as OAO Lukoil Holding, the country's biggest and AO Tyumen Oil Co., the fifth-biggest, are in talks with Iraq to begin oil production there. Tyumen has been buying Iraqi oil under a UN-sponsored oil-for-food program. OAO Gazprom, Russia's biggest company and natural gas monopoly, is in talks with Syria to rebuild a long-closed pipeline connecting Iraqi oil fields to a Syrian port and diverting Iraqi oil shipments from the only current route, which runs through Turkey.
  - Iraq's Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan says that U.S. and British air strikes remain more likely than a peaceful outcome. “A strike is more likely. We are not trying to create a crisis. We are calling for the sanctions to be lifted and they must be lifted quickly.” Ramadan reiterates Iraq's call for changes to the

- composition of UNSCOM. "If they want this commission to work according to its program, there must be a review of its composition and its chairman. Any violation or transgression from (UNSCOM's) task will be rejected on our part. He also criticizes unnamed Arab leaders. "They advised the Iraqi leadership to be more flexible to spare us destruction, but at the same time they are sitting with the plotters and conspirators who want to change the regime (in Baghdad.)"
- Sa'doun Hammadi a special envoy to President Saddam Hussein from President B.J. Habibie of Indonesia says that Indonesia wants an end to UN sanctions, "He (President Habibie) clearly indicated that Indonesia stands with Iraq and would like to see sanctions (end)."
- 98-12-8: Secretary of State Albright says she is surprised that unnamed allies do not share the U.S. perception of the threat posed by Saddam Hussein. "I am always surprised to note they (the allies) do not seem to evaluate the danger as we do since they are more threatened than we are since they are closer to Saddam than we are. The reports about Saddam's capacities to equip himself with biological and chemical weapons are no invention. I find it strange, very strange that our allies do not sufficiently recognize this danger... There never was any embargo on foodstuffs or medicines. Saddam has more than the necessary means to buy these if one considers how much he has spent building his palaces."
- Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, in Moscow for a four-day visit, says Iraq plans to allow inspectors to continue working on its territory only if economic sanctions against the country are lifted after the comprehensive review. "We are going to participate in the review, to submit all documents confirming we are complying with disarmament resolutions. We want to see whether the review will be honest and effective or it will be just more games around Iraq."
  - Four groups of inspectors leave UNSCOM headquarters in Baghdad for surprise inspections in undisclosed locations.
- 98-12-9: Iraqi New Agency says UNSCOM inspectors tried to carry out a "provocative" inspection in Baghdad on Wednesday but pulled back after an Iraqi official asked them to explain what they were searching for. "At nine o'clock this morning a team of inspectors tried without prior notification to enter one of the headquarters of the party in Baghdad in a way which was at the same time astonishing and provocative. A party official who was present at the building asked the team for written notification specifying...what the team was searching for in the place. But the team refused this request and left the site. It appears that such provocative and astonishing methods practiced by elements of the Special Commission's inspection teams clearly aim to manufacture crises and problems," he said.
- Richard Butler reports that, "Inspectors went to a site this morning in Baghdad for which there was absolute justification in disarmament terms, and they were blocked...Iraqi claims that this was illegitimate are simply unacceptable, against the law -- that is, the resolutions of the Security Council. So we were blocked and that is very serious."
  - Secretary of State Albright warns Iraq there will be no comprehensive review of sanctions against unless it cooperates fully with UNSCOM. Albright stressed she had no specific knowledge of the problem in inspecting the Baath Party headquarters, but that Iraq had to transfer the documents sought by UNSCOM.
  - Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed Al-Sahaf sends a letter to Abdel-Meguid urging that Arab League chief Esmat Abdel-Meguid to intervene to help lift sanctions. "We look forward...to an effective role played by the Arab League in a serious issue facing an important cornerstone of the Arab nation... Sanctions form a destructive impact that amounts to a genocide...Moreover they seriously have an impact on the Arab national security."
- 98-12-10: Latif Nsayif Jassim, a member of the Baath Party leadership, says UNSCOM inspectors testing Iraqi will be turned back again if they try a second inspection at the Baath party site in Baghdad. "The answer would be the same. This is a party. Political parties are not included (in the inspection regime)."
- The London-based newspaper Ashraq al-Awsat quotes Secretary-General Annan as saying Butler had sometimes spoken undiplomatically. "I admit and regret that sometimes his (Butler's) words are undiplomatic. His diplomacy is seasonal. I have spoken with him on this...His work is very difficult and associated with high pressure. Sometimes, if we work under pressure we act and do things we don't say

or do under normal circumstances.” Annan had made similar remarks about Butler several days earlier in the United Arab Emirates after addressing the GCC.

- UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) quotes Iraqi government figures in a news conference and says, “There are one million Iraqi students — or 20 percent of primary and secondary school students — who have failed to enroll last academic year.” The figures cover ages 7-16, and an additional 200,000 students are reported to have dropped out during the course of the year.
  - Defense Secretary William Cohen tells reporters that Washington will wait until after next week to assess Iraqi actions. When asked if Iraq was subject to U.S. military attack without warning, he says, “The answer is 'yes'...I agree with Mr. Butler that this is a serious matter. We also think that it is important that they (UNSCOM) be allowed to complete their mission.”
  - A British Foreign Office spokesman says Iraqi actions are “clearly matters of serious concern Iraq has undertaken to provide full cooperation. Its responses so far to UNSCOM requests for documents and its behavior towards the inspectors isn't in our view consistent with full cooperation.”
  - The U.S. announces that it is sending several batteries of Patriot missiles, designed to shoot down attacking missiles, to Israel for exercises while President Bill Clinton visits there next week
- 98-12-12: Iraq's Information Minister, Humam Abdul-Khaleq Abdul-Ghafur, says that Iraq hopes the new six-month oil-for-food accord will be the last before a full lifting of sanctions. “We have experience of the last four stages. Everyone knows the experience. We have reports from international bodies who say the value of what was achieved is very limited — no change in the situation of health and food supply to the Iraqi people. We hope that it will be the last phase. Everybody knows that this is a temporary measure between Iraq and the (UN) Security Council and it is not a permanent one, so we hope that this will be a final stage.”
- Iraq celebrates the second anniversary of the escape of President Saddam Hussein's eldest son Uday from assassination by holding a street party at the site in Baghdad where he was attacked in 1996.
  - UN weapons inspectors resume full-scale operations in Iraq inspect a “sensitive site” without apparent incident. Hussam Mohammad Amin, Iraq's main liaison official with the UN Special Commission (USNCOM) inspectors, reports that teams from UNSCOM and the IAEA visit 24 sites. He says a inspected what he described as a sensitive site in Baghdad. He said the inspection took place according to “modalities” for inspecting sensitive sites, which Iraq says, were agreed between the two sides. Iraq said Hill had told officials on his arrival last week he did not consider the modalities valid. UNSCOM has reported several incidents during the inspections, the most serious being the aborted inspection at the Baath Party offices. But diplomats in Baghdad have questioned whether some of the incidents represent major infringements of UNSCOM work.
- 98-12-13: UN inspectors visit 25 sites on the last day of their current round of searches for Iraq's illegal weapons. Ten groups of experts from the UN Special Commission, known as UNSCOM, and the International Atomic Energy Agency, carry out surprise as well as scheduled checks. Most of the 40 visiting inspectors then left the country, and the rest will leave on the 14th.
- 98-12-14: Iraq's Transport Minister Ahmed Murtada Ahmed Khalil accuses the U.S. of piracy for trying to stop a ship carrying food in Iraqi Gulf: “The vessel named al-Bai'ah (allegiance) came under a new piracy...by American troops in our territorial waters in the Arabian Gulf. The American troops have committed a cowardly aggression against the vessel which belongs to the Iraqi Water Transport Company....The vessel's crew rejected the (American) orders to stop and continued their trip.” He calls it the “second immoral aggression and piracy by American troops” within a week after a U.S. attempt to intercept another Iraqi vessel, the al-Aibid, on December 5.
- Mohammed Said al-Sahaf, Iraq's foreign minister, states: We want an objective attitude recognizing that we have fulfilled all our commitments,...now it's very clear that their intention can no longer be covered by technical pretexts, technical justifications and so on. So, now it's clearly a political conflict.”

- Secretary-General Annan warns of war in Iraq and Kosovo, and tells Iraq to end its “megaphone diplomacy.” “I do not condone what Iraq has been saying. I just want them to get on with the job, get on with disarmament, cooperate with UNSCOM and get it done,” he said in reference to the UN.” He suggests that a comprehensive review is worthwhile for the Council, regardless of Iraqi actions, so it will “know where it stands, what has been achieved, what needs to be done.” He says that U.S. policies diverge from other UN members on requirements for a lifting of sanctions against Iraq. Security Council resolutions link the lifting to a clean bill of health for Iraq on weapons of mass destruction. “American policy goes beyond that but I am guided only by UN policy. There are areas where Washington's policies diverge from that of the UN.”
- 98-12-15: Richard Butler submits a report on Iraqi compliance with arms inspections to Secretary General Annan. The reports says that Iraq has submitted only 1 requested document out of 12, and has blocked UNSCOM during four inspection attempts. “Iraq's conduct ensured that no progress was able to be made in either the fields of disarmament or account for its prohibited weapons programs. Iraq did not provide the full cooperation it promised on Nov. 14, 1998... Iraq initiated new forms of restrictions upon the commission's... Finally, in the light of this experience, that is, the absence of full cooperation by Iraq, it must regrettably be recorded again that the commission is not able to conduct the substantive disarmament work mandated to it by the Security Council and thus, to give the council the assurances it requires with respect to Iraq's prohibited weapons programs.” Butler says the one set of documents received, 64 pages concerning missiles, indicated they did not contain the information sought by UNSCOM. He says UNSCOM was prevented from interviewing graduate students on biological arms research, although this type of research had been conducted at universities, and that the most serious standoff came on December 10 when UNSCOM was blocked from entering the ruling Baath party offices unless it limited inspectors to four and said what it was seeking. He says UNSCOM was barred on November 26 from a military base of the People's Mujahedeen, an Iranian opposition group. And December 13, a Baghdad-based chemical monitoring team was prevented from inspecting a warehouse on grounds that it was the Moslem Sabbath. Butler says inspectors entered a fourth sensitive site that Iraq said had been the former headquarters of its Special Security Organization. The building had been emptied of its contents and Iraq would not say where they were moved. Ge says access was granted to a small team visiting a fifth site at the Military Industrialisation Corporation, but that “this site too had been prepared to avoid any disclosure of relevant materials.”
- Iraq had limited inspections on August 5 and then curtailed them on October 31. But it allowed them to resume on November 14, under the threat of US-British air strikes. He says that Iraq has delayed UNSCOM's work by issuing new restrictions since inspections resumed in mid-November, and that this makes it impossible for inspectors to determine that Baghdad had eliminated its weapons of mass destruction, a key requirement for lifting sanctions. In contrast, the International Atomic Energy Agency says Iraq has provided “the necessary level of cooperation” to its inspectors. It said it had only a few remaining questions relating to its past atomic program.
- State Department spokesman James Foley says no decisions have been made on whether to proceed with US-British air strikes against Iraq, but President Bill Clinton will review the report with his senior foreign policy advisers. “This is a very serious matter. I can't speculate what decision the president will make, but the U.S. has stated before that we believe we have all the authority we need under relevant Security Council resolutions to act. All options remain on the table. Foley says that four recent cases of Iraqi obstruction to UNSCOM inspections were “simply unacceptable. “All of these incidents are simply unacceptable. When Iraq blocks an inspection, we assume that Iraq has something it doesn't want inspectors to see.”
- UNSCOM inspectors are again denied access to an Iraqi site. A Baghdad-based chemical monitoring team is not allowed to enter a warehouse that had been previously inspected because of the Muslim Sabbath, though inspectors limited their inspections to avoid religious offense.
- Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon says, “We have not ruled in, or ruled out, any options at this stage. Obviously, Iraqi compliance has been less than complete, but we need to await Ambassador Butler's assessment of whether he thinks he can do his job, and what he thinks the future will hold.” He says that

the U.S. has a force in the Gulf of 24,100, plus 22 Navy ships, eight carrying Tomahawk cruise missiles. There also are 201 military aircraft in the area, including 15 heavy B-52-bombers on the Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia.

- A Saudi border guard, Saiq Ibrahim Jahoosh, is shot by gunmen from a car on the Iraqi side of the border. This is first report of violence on the Saudi-Iraqi border since the Gulf War.
  - The UN announces that Iraqi crude oil exports are running "flat out" after shipments resumed under the latest six-month round of the UN humanitarian "oil-for-food" program. The UN says that Iraq had completed seven shipments of crude oil in the week ended December 11 for a total of 11.8 million barrels, and an average of nearly 1.7 million barrels per day (barrels per days). Oil exports resumed after the approval the program's latest extension on November 24, and Iraq has quickly raised exports back to near the 1.9 million barrels per days it was averaging in the last weeks of the fourth round. The UN says the backlog of ships at Iraq's ports means exports will continue at a very fast pace in the weeks ahead. The oil-for-food program allows Iraq to sell up to \$5.256 billion of crude oil over 180 days from November 25, but low oil prices and limited Iraqi oil production capacity mean it can only produce about \$3 billion worth of oil every six months. Under the latest phase, Iraq has submitted 45 contracts to sell crude oil, with 37 approved for a total 148.7 million barrels and an approximate value of \$1.2 billion. Iraq is allowed to spend up to \$600 million in spare parts to repair infrastructure and lift oil production. The UN says Iraq has so far submitted about \$212 million in parts contracts, with \$127 million approved. The discrepancy is primarily due to U.S. objections to Iraq spending on its refining industry, instead of boosting crude oil production. The report says humanitarian supplies continued to land, including nearly 87,000 tons of wheat; 1,046 tons of powdered infant formula, various medicines, power station spare parts, etc.
  - The UN begins evacuating its staff from Baghdad.
- 98-12- 16: President Clinton orders a "strong, sustained series of air strikes" against Iraq. Military officials say the punishing attack will begin with a volley of long-range cruise missiles and would last up to four days.
- Clinton gives a speech explaining why the U.S. feels that UNSCOM inspections have failed, the timing and causes of his decision, his goals in launching strikes, and his post strike policy towards Iraq. He states that he acted "to protect the national interest of the US" and "Saddam Hussein must not be allowed to threaten his neighbors with nuclear weapons, poison gas or biological weapons... Saddam Hussein and the other enemies of peace may have thought that the serious debate currently before the House of Representatives would distract Americans, weaken our resolve to face them down. But once more the U.S. has proven that although we are never eager to use force, when we must act in America's vital interests we will do so."
- "... I have decided, with the unanimous recommendation of my national security team, to use force in Iraq, why we have acted now, and what we aim to accomplish. Six weeks ago, Saddam Hussein announced that he would no longer cooperate with the UN weapons inspectors called UNSCOM. They are highly professional experts from dozens of countries. Their job is to oversee the elimination of Iraq's capability, to retain, create and use weapons of mass destruction and to verify that Iraq does not attempt to rebuild that capability. The inspectors undertook this mission first 7 1/2 years ago, at the end of the gulf war when Iraq agreed to declare and destroy its arsenal as a condition of the cease-fire.
- "The international community had good reason to set this requirement. Other countries possess weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles, with Saddam there's one big difference. He has used them, not once but repeatedly, unleashing chemical weapons against Iranian troops during a decade long war. Not only against soldiers but against civilians. Firing Scud missiles at the citizens of Israel, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Iran, not only against a foreign enemy but even against his own people, gassing Kurdish civilians in Northern Iraq.
- "The international community had little doubt then, and I have no doubt today that, left unchecked, Saddam Hussein will use these terrible weapons again. The U.S. has patiently worked to preserve UNSCOM as Iraq has sought to avoid its obligation to cooperate with the inspectors. On occasion we've had to threaten military force and Saddam has backed down. Faced with Saddam's latest act of defiance

in late October, we built intensive diplomatic pressure on Iraq backed by overwhelming military force in the region.

“The UN Security Council voted 15-to-0 to condemn Saddam's actions and to demand that he immediately come into compliance. Eight Arab nations: Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates and Oman, warned that Iraq alone would bear responsibility for the consequences of defying the UN. When Saddam still failed to comply we prepared to act militarily. It was only then at the last possible moment that Iraq backed down. It pledged to the UN that it had made, and I quote, "a clear and unconditional decision to resume cooperation with the weapons inspectors." I decided then to call off the attack with our airplanes already in the air because Saddam had given in to our demands. I concluded then that the right thing to do was to use restraint and give Saddam one last chance to prove his willingness to cooperate.

“I made it very clear at that time what unconditional cooperation meant based on existing UN resolutions and Iraq's own commitments. And along with Prime Minister Blair of Great Britain, I made it equally clear that if Saddam failed to cooperate fully, we would be prepared to act without delay, diplomacy or warning. Now over the past three weeks, the UN weapons inspectors have carried out their plan for testing Iraq's cooperation. The testing period ended this weekend and last night UNSCOM's chairman, Richard Butler, reported the results to UN Secretary General Annan. The conclusions are stark, sobering and profoundly disturbing.

“In four out of the five categories set forth, Iraq has failed to cooperate. Indeed, it actually has placed new restrictions on the inspections. Here are some of the particulars.

“Iraq repeatedly blocked UNSCOM from inspecting suspect sites. For example, it shut off access to the headquarters of its ruling party and said it will deny access to the party's other offices, even though UN resolutions make no exception for them and UNSCOM has inspected them in the past.

“Iraq repeatedly restricted UNSCOM's ability to obtain necessary evidence. For example, Iraq obstructed UNSCOM's effort to photograph bombs related to its chemical weapons program. It tried to stop an UNSCOM biological weapons team from videotaping a site and photocopying documents and prevented Iraqi personnel from answering UNSCOM's questions.

“Prior to the inspection of another site, Iraq actually emptied out the building, removing not just documents, but even the furniture and the equipment. Iraq has failed to turn over virtually all the documents requested by the inspectors, indeed we know that Iraq ordered the destruction of weapons-related documents in anticipation of an UNSCOM inspection.

“So Iraq has abused its final chance. As the UNSCOM report concludes, and again I quote: "Iraq's conduct insured that no progress was able to be made in the fields of disarmament. In light of this experience, and in the absence of full cooperation by Iraq, it must regrettably be recorded again that the commission is not able to conduct the work mandated to it by the Security Council, with respect to Iraq's prohibited weapons program."

“In short, the inspectors are saying that even if they could stay in Iraq, their work would be a sham. Saddam's deception has defeated their effectiveness. Instead of the inspectors disarming Saddam, Saddam has disarmed the inspectors.

“This situation presents a clear and present danger to the stability of the Persian Gulf and the safety of people everywhere. The international community gave Saddam one last chance to resume cooperation with the weapons inspectors. Saddam has failed to seize the chance. And so we had to act, and act now.

“Let me explain why. First, without a strong inspection system Iraq would be free to retain and again to rebuild its chemical, biological and nuclear weapons programs. In months, not years. Second, if Saddam can cripple the weapons inspection systems and get away with it, he would conclude that the International Community, led by the US, has simply lost its will. He will surmise that he has free rein to rebuild his arsenal of destruction and someday, make no mistake, he will use it again as he has in the past. Third, in halting our air strikes in November, I gave Saddam a chance not a license. If we turn our backs on his defiance the credibility of U.S. power as a check against Saddam will be destroyed. We will

not only have allowed Saddam to shatter the inspection system that controls his weapons of mass destruction program, we also will have fatally undercut the fear of force that stopped Saddam from acting to gain domination in the region.

“That is why on the unanimous recommendation of my national security team, including the Vice President, Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Secretary of State and the national security adviser, I have ordered a strong sustained series of air strikes against Iraq. They are designed to degrade Saddam's capacity to develop and deliver weapons of mass destruction and to degrade his ability to threaten his neighbors. At the same time we are delivering a powerful message to Saddam. If you act recklessly you will pay a heavy price.

“We acted today because in the judgment of my military advisers a swift response would provide the most surprise and the least opportunity for Saddam to prepare. If we had delayed for even a matter of days, from Chairman Butler's report, we would have given Saddam more time to disperse his forces and protect his weapons.

“Also, the Muslim holy month of Ramadan begins this weekend. For us to initiate military action during Ramadan would be profoundly offensive to the Muslim world and therefore would damage our relations with Arab countries and the progress we have made in the Middle East. That is something we wanted very much to avoid without giving Iraq a month's head start to prepare for potential action against it.

“Finally, our allies including Prime Minister Tony Blair of Great Britain, concur that now is the time to start. I hope Saddam will come into cooperation with the inspection system now, and comply with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. But we have to be prepared that he will not. And we must deal with the very real danger he poses. So we will pursue a long-term strategy to contain Iraq and its weapons of mass destruction and work toward the day when Iraq is a Government worthy of its people.

“First, we must be prepared to use force again if Saddam takes threatening action such as trying to reconstitute his weapons of mass destruction or other delivery systems threatening his neighbors, challenging allied aircraft over Iraq or moving against his own Kurdish citizens. The credible threat to use force, and, when necessary, the actual use of force, is the surest way to contain Saddam's weapons of mass destruction program, curtail his aggression and prevent another gulf war.

“Second. So long as Iraq remains out of compliance we will work with the International Community to maintain and enforce economic sanctions. Sanctions have cost Saddam more than \$120 billion. Resources that would have been used to rebuild his military. The sanction system allows Iraq to sell oil or food or medicine or other humanitarian supplies for the Iraqi people. We have no quarrel with them.

“But without the sanctions we would see the oil for food program become oil for tanks, resulting in a greater threat to Iraq's neighbors and less food for its people. The hard fact is that so long as Saddam remains in power he threatens the well-being of his people, the peace of this region, the security of the world.

“The best way to end that threat, once and for all, is with the new Iraqi Government, a government ready to live in peace with its neighbors, a government that respects the rights of its people.

“Bringing change in Baghdad will take time and effort. We will strengthen our engagement with the full range of Iraqi opposition forces and work with them effectively and prudently.

“The decision to use force is never cost free. Whenever American forces are placed in harm's way we risk the loss of life. And while our strikes are focused on Iraq's military capabilities, there will be unintended Iraqi casualties. Indeed in the past Saddam has intentionally placed Iraqi civilians in harm's way in a cynical bid to sway international opinion. We must be prepared for these realities. At the same time Saddam should have absolutely no doubt if he lashes out at his neighbors, we will respond forcefully.

“Heavy as they are, the cost of action must be weighed against the price of inaction. If Saddam defies the world and we fail to respond, we will face a far greater threat in the future. Saddam will strike again at his neighbors. He will make war on his own people. And mark my words, he will develop weapons of

mass destruction. He will deploy them and he will use them. Because we are acting today it is less likely that we will face these dangers in the future.

“Let me close by addressing one other issue. Saddam Hussein and the other enemies of peace may have thought that the serious debate currently before the House of Representatives would distract Americans or weaken our resolve to face him down. But once more the U.S. has proven that although we are never eager to use force, when we must act in America's vital interests, we will do so.

- Defense Secretary William S. Cohen orders an increase in U.S. forces in the Gulf which include an air expeditionary wing with about 36 combat aircraft and the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson battle group, to join the 201 planes and USS Enterprise battle group already in the region.
- Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss. criticizes the military action even before it is formally announced. “While I have been assured by administration officials that there is no connection with the impeachment process in the House of Representatives, I cannot support this military action in the Persian Gulf at this time. Both the timing and the policy are subject to question.” The House was scheduled to begin debate on four articles of impeachment against Clinton on Thursday, with votes likely on Friday. House leaders now postpone the impeachment process by one day because of military action.
- Defense Secretary William Cohen responds by saying: “I am prepared to place 30 years of public service on the line to say the only factor that was important in this decision was what was in the American people's best interests.”
- Outgoing House Speaker Newt Gingrich says he will support the president's senior advisers recommended. The top Democrats in Congress support for the attack. Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle and House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt make a statement that, “Saddam Hussein should make no mistake that despite domestic political differences in the US, the American people and Congress stand firmly behind the defense of our nation's vital interests.”
- Secretary of Defense William Cohen tells reporters “the world knows it cannot trust Saddam Hussein. The world does know it can trust the US. ” The defense chief added: “We did not use force lightly ... but Iraq has exhausted all patience.”
- The action is carried out jointly with the British, and Prime Minister Tony Blair, addressing his nation, said it was given the code name “Operation Desert Fox. ”
- Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to Washington, Prince Bandar, consults with Air Force General Joseph Ralston, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
- State Department spokesman James Rubin says the administration has lost hope that Iraq would reverse course and offer serious cooperation with the UN weapons inspectors. He noted that Clinton had given Saddam a reprieve in mid-November on the basis of a pledge of noninterference.
- U.S. sources report that there already are 24,100 U.S. military men and women; 22 ships, eight armed with Tomahawk cruise missiles; and 201 military aircraft in the Gulf region. They include 15 USAF B-52 bombers equipped with cruise missiles with 2,000 and 3,000 pound warheads, which are based on the island of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean, plus 4 B-1Bs in Oman. The USS Enterprise carrier battle group is in the Gulf; and the USS Carl Vinson battle group is on its way.
- A prepositioned U.S. mechanized brigade is partially manned in Kuwait. It includes a CJTF headquarters, forward army headquarters, heavy brigade headquarters, battalion armor task force, long-range artillery battery, air defense units, attack and lift helicopters, MEDEVAC helicopters. U.S. Army personnel bring the three Patriot batteries in Kuwait up to full strength.
- The USAF has approximately 6,000 personnel in the area. There are 15Cs, A-10s, and F-16C/Gs in Kuwait and Bahrain. Additional F-15C and F-16CG aircraft are in Saudi Arabia, but it only allows refueling support and E-3A AWACs flights. There are also RC-135 electronic warfare/intelligence aircraft. The approximate order of battle includes 18 F-15C, 8 F-16CJ, 10 F-16CG, 13 A-10A (anti-tank aircraft in Kuwait), 3 E-3A AWACs, 2 RC-135, 2 U-2s.

- The U.S. naval forces in the 5th Fleet in the Gulf on December 16 include 13 combat ships, 97 aircraft, and 11,895 sailors and marines. They include:
- The USS Enterprise (CVN65) has Carrier Air Wing 3 with 10 F-14s, 36 F/A-18s, 4 EA-6Bs, 4 E-2Cs, 8 S-3A/Bs, 3 SH-60Fs, and 3 HH-60Hs. It has a complement of 5,500. A carrier air wing is armed with over 4,500,000 pounds of munitions, including laser guided bombs, general purpose bombs, HAM, Maverick, Sidewinder, Sparrow, Walleye, AMRAAM, Shrike, SLAM, Phoenix, and Vulcan.
  - The guided missile cruiser USS Gettysburg (122 VLS Cells), and six guided missile destroyers, including the USS Paul Hamilton (90 VLS Cells), the USS Hopper (90 VLS Cells), the USS Stout (90 VLS Cells), the USS Fletcher (61 VLS Cells), the USS Hayler (61 VLS Cells), and the USS Nicholson (612 VLS Cells). The Tomahawk SLCM has a 1,000 pound warhead and a range of roughly 1,000 miles.
  - The nuclear attack submarine USS Miami, which is VLS capable.
  - The guided missile frigate, USS Carr, which cannot launch SLCMs.
  - The U.S. has approximately 5,000 military personnel in Saudi Arabia, many concentrated at the Prince Sultan air base near Kharj, about 60 miles southeast of Riyadh.
  - The multi-purpose amphibious assault ship USS Belleau Wood, with a ships company of 1,077 and the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) with 1,729 combat-ready Marines and an air combat element with 4 AH-1W attack helicopters, 5 AV-8B Harriers, 12 CH-46E and 4 CH-53 assault/transport helicopters, and 4 UH-1N utility helicopters.
  - The amphibious transport dock USS Dubuque and dock land ship USS Germantown.
- The Pentagon announces that a number of CONU.S. crisis response forces are ready for deployment, and many begin the process of closing on December 16:
- The land forces include a CJTF headquarters, a Marine Expeditionary Force Forward Headquarters, an Army division tactical command post, a heavy brigade headquarters, a division ready brigade, an air defense unit, army air and missile defense command, attack and lift helicopters, and combat air search and rescue units. The forces include 3,600 men in an armored brigade based in Fort Stewart to complete the manning of the brigade in Kuwait, 400 men from the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum equipped with HUMVEEs and wheeled vehicles to act as a force protection force, and the rest of a 400-500 man air defense force with 3 additional Patriot batteries.
  - The Navy has 5 MPS (Maritime Prepositioned Ships) in addition to the Vinson Carrier Battle Group.
  - The USAF has additional fighter, strike-attack, bomber, air defense suppression, tanker, AWACs, and aerial reconnaissance aircraft. It considered sending 6-8 more B-1Bs, and a total of 139 additional aircraft, including 98 combat aircraft (84 fixed wing and 14 helicopter) and 41 support aircraft (27 fixed wing and 4 helicopter). Key systems included 3 E-3A AWACS, 1 JSTARS, 12 B-52s, 10 F-117s, 3 EC-130s, 12 F-117s, 16 F-16CJs equipped for air defense suppression, 12 F-16 GGs with laser targeting pods, and 12 F-15Cs.
- The Security Council meets in emergency session to discuss chief inspector Butler's report that Iraq failed to cooperate fully with UN monitors. During the Security Council meeting, China's Ambassador Qin Huasun says Butler had played "a dishonorable role in this crisis" and calls the report "unfounded and evasive of the facts." Russia's UN envoy, Sergey Lavrov, who called the formal Council meeting, says the report's conclusion was biased and supports Iraq's contention that Butler had cited only five incidents in 300 inspection operations. Russia, China, Iraq and Kenya call for a cease-fire at Wednesday night's Council meeting but no action was taken because of divisions among the 15 members. Russia calls another round of Council consultations and circulates a non-binding draft statement calling for an immediate cessation of hostilities. Lavrov says the statement is "an attempt to start the discussion in the Council on how we can bring the situation back into political and diplomatic efforts. We will continue to discuss in the next few days."

- The State Department reports that While Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has talked to some 16 foreign ministers of the Security Council and European and Arab allies before the bombing began to inform them of the U.S. decision. Her most heated conversation was with Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and only took place after strikes began. Albright rejects Ivanov's contention that the fault is largely UNSCOM's and Butler's and not Iraq's. She urges Ivanov to consider the more important common interests Washington and Moscow share, including Russia's own economic survival.
  - France express its regret that that Butler withdrew his inspectors from Iraq without discussion within the Security Council. French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin says that his country regrets, "the situation that has been created and which prompted these American strikes in Iraq."
  - The U.S. has support from Japan and Canada. Sandy Berger, Clinton's national security adviser says that when the president and his aides telephoned foreign leaders they found "a good deal of support in the world." He said the U.S. decided to avoid the time-consuming process of asking countries other than Britain to take part in the military operation. "We decided that we would act with the British, ourselves, with the support of many other countries, but not necessarily with their participation," Berger says creating a multi-nation military operation would have "taken us days, if not weeks."
  - Albright says she did not speak with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, officials said. He issued a personal statement in New York on Wednesday, calling this "a sad day" for the UN, the world, and "me personally," because of his failure to avert the use of force.
  - U.S. officials say on background that the UN inspection process is ended and that the U.S. will use other forms of containment, including continuing the economic sanctions, deterrence and threats, support of the Iraqi opposition, and the use of force to restrain Iraq.
  - Butler has already ordered all staff from UNSCOM, the UN Special Commission, and the International Atomic Energy Agency to leave Baghdad overnight. However, 133 relief workers remained behind at the UN' Baghdad headquarters on the orders of Secretary-General Annan, officials About 73 UN relief workers have been able to leave Iraq, most for scheduled holiday breaks. The remainder are sent to the UN headquarters at the Canal Hotel, a former hotel school on the edge of Baghdad, to sleep in their offices. Another 232 relief workers are in the Kurdish areas of northern Iraq. They remain on duty.
- 98-12-17: President Clinton prepares for a debate in Congress that seems nearly certain to end with his impeachment. House Speaker-elect Bob Livingston admits having extramarital affairs – but says they did not include his own staffers and that he did not lie about them under oath.
- More than 200 cruise missiles are fired and more than 70 Navy aircraft take part in the first wave of attacks. The first U.S. cruise missile and air strikes hit Iraq just before 1 a.m. (2200 GMT on Dec 16) Sirens in Baghdad sound the all-clear at 6:40 a.m. (0340 GMT) after raids lasting about six hours. U.S. Defense Department officials say first wave of attacks involved more than 200 cruise missiles followed by bombing raids by attack aircraft including F-14 and F-18 fighter aircraft, and EA-6B aircraft with HARM high speed anti-radiation missiles from the USS Enterprise. Some dozen F-16 and A-10 fighters in Kuwait and four B-1s from Oman are not used until the next day. The U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) cites "host-nation sensitivities" as a reason not to provide a precise breakdown of where U.S. warplanes in the region are based.
  - U.S. officials says they struck the barracks of Saddam Hussein's elite Republican Guards, anti-aircraft facilities, airfields and military command-and-control sites. Secretary William Cohen says, "There have been no American casualties and we are achieving good coverage of our targets. Our targets include Iraq's air defense system, its command-and-control system, airfields and other military infrastructure and facilities." Cohen and General Henry Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, showed enlarged photographs of the military intelligence headquarters and Republican Guard barracks in the Baghdad area. The aerial pictures showed intact buildings before the raids and rubble afterward.
  - These are much more serious attacks than any strikes since the Gulf War. In June 1993, the U.S. fired 23 cruise missiles at Iraqi intelligence headquarters in Baghdad in retaliation for an alleged plot to

- assassinate former President Bush. In September 1996, 27 cruise missiles were launched against military targets in southern Iraq in retaliation for the movement of Iraqi troops against Kurds in northern Iraq.
- Fighters and bombers at bases in Bahrain, Kuwait and Oman join in the campaign by the evening of December 17. They include four B-1 bombers in Oman, the first time those advanced aircraft have joined in a combat operation. The 60 F-16 and F-15 fighters in Saudi Arabia remain grounded, although Saudi Arabia permits refueling and AWACS flights. Saudi Arabia has repeatedly refused to permit attacks Iraq to be launched from its soil since October, 1997.
  - Senior Clinton administration officials say that the strikes will probably leave the U.S. with little ability to closely monitor Iraq's capability to develop chemical, biological and nuclear weapons, and that the attack will almost certainly mean the end of the 7-year-old UN weapons inspection program in Iraq, and will force the U.S. to maintain a large military presence in the Gulf region for at least several more years. While senior U.S. officials state that the air strikes will degrade Iraq's programs to make poison gas and nuclear weapons, they acknowledge that the weapons programs would continue and perhaps accelerate after the attacks end.
  - Staff at 40 U.S. embassies in Africa stay home although duty officers are present to handle emergency consular cases and any urgent diplomatic contacts. The U.S. closes the embassies as a security precaution.
  - Iraqi officials say at least 25 people had been killed and 75 injured in Baghdad alone since the attacks began. Iraqi Health Minister Umeed Madhat Mubarak claims that Iraqi hospitals may not be able to cope with the growing influx of casualties. "We have severe shortages of medicines and life-saving measures." Baghdad radio reports that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein went out to inspect the damage from the first assault. The radio says the home of one of Saddam's daughters was hit in the air raids but she was not there.
  - In the strongest Russian protest yet, it recalls its ambassador Yuli Vorontsov from Washington and its ambassador from the UK. At Security Council, Russia introduces a statement calling for a halt to US-British air strikes and discussions on the future of weapons inspectors after the bombings end.
  - Richard Butler defends his report that Iraq did not fully cooperate with UNSCOM. "I want to say simply, slowly and plainly that any suggestion that that report was not factual, was not objective, is utterly false." Butler also states that any report that the report's release on December 15 night was timed to suit the U.S. government and help President Clinton deflect attention from impeachment proceedings is "utterly wrong." Speaking after Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov had said Russia would insist on his dismissal, Butler was asked if he would quit. He replies, "Absolutely not."
  - Iran condemns the military strikes against Iraq as "unacceptable" and calls for UN action to halt the operations. It also urges Iraq Baghdad to cooperate with the UN to implement Security Council resolutions.
  - The UAE newspaper al-Khaleef calls the strikes an act of "blatant aggression," and urges other Arab states to join the UAE in demanding an immediate end to the attack.
- 98-12-18: U.S. B-52 bombers and attack jets start new wave of air and missile raids in the evening. British Tornados, which did not take part in the first wave, leave Kuwait to bomb Iraq.
- Secretary of Defense Cohen says at a news conference that the impeachment crisis is having no effect on the ability of U.S. forces to carry out the strikes. "I would have to speculate at this point that those people involved in this operation are focused on one thing, and that's carrying out the mission," he said. "Whatever else is going on at this particular moment is probably of little concern to them until they carry out their mission."
  - General Henry Shelton, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, says more cruise missiles were launched in the first two days of the air campaign than the 290 that attacked Iraq in 1991. Targets included military command centers, missile factories, television and radio transmitters and jammers, bases of elite Republican Guard units in Baghdad and Tikrit, air defenses, headquarters and the barracks

and equipment of the Special Republican Guards and State Security Organization, the headquarters of the Military Intelligence, and units that help Iraq build, protect and use weapons of mass destruction. Missiles and bombers also strike airfields and an oil refinery in the southern Iraq city of Basra, which being used for oil exports in violation of UN sanctions. "We have had some very good success with our strikes, but not all of them have gone exactly as planned."

- The U.S. releases its initial first stage battle damage assessment and estimates that 89 targets were struck, 8 had been destroyed completely, including an Iraqi air defense site; 10 were severely damaged, including the Iraqi military intelligence headquarters; 18 were moderately damaged; 8 were lightly damaged, and 12 had not been damaged at all. The Defense Department says it had no damage assessments yet for 33 other targets, including the Basra refinery and several facilities believed to have been used for the production of chemical and biological weapons.
- The initial targets include 83 listed facilities:
  - 27 surface-to-air missile (SAM) and integrated air defense system (IADS) facilities. These include numerous targets in the Southern Sector. Damage is reported to SA-2 and SA-3 sites, and a repair facility is severely damaged.
  - 18 command and control facilities, including TV and radio transmitters and jammers. The headquarters of the Directorate of Military Intelligence, Special Security Organization (SSO) and Special Republican Guards (SRG) suffer severe damage.
  - 19 weapons of mass destruction security facilities, including severe damage to most Special Republican Guards barracks and headquarters buildings.
  - 11 weapons of mass destruction industry and production facilities, including facilities at Al Kindi, Al Karama, and Iba al Haytham.
  - 8 Republican Guards and regular army headquarters and facilities, including corps and division headquarters.
- Damage assessment includes only rough first stage assessments, but can be summarized as follows:

Target Type	WMD Security	WMD Industry	SAMS/IADS	C2	Rep Guards	Industry	Total
Target Numbers	19	11	27	18	8	1	83 (100 percent)
No Damage	1	0	8	2	0	-	11 (13 percent)
Light	4	2	1	0	1	-	8 (10 percent)
Moderate	9	1	1	2	2	-	15 (18 percent)
Severe	1	0	2	5	1	-	9 (11 percent)
Destroyed	2	0	1	5	0	-	8 (10 percent)
Being Assessed	2	8	14	4	4	-	32 (36 percent)

- Thomas Wilson, Director of Intelligence for the Joint Staff, says Iraq has yet to fire any surface-to-air missiles at the attacking aircraft. One reason is Iraqi reluctance to expose hard-to-replace military equipment to attack; another is the destruction of air defense radar systems during the first phases of the strike. "If there is any surprise it's the complete lack of response" by Iraqi forces, said Vice Adm. Scott Fry, director of operations. Wilson says Iraq's southern air defense system "has been degraded.... It has not been completely destroyed." Wilson shows charts indicating only a handful of targets were judged to have been destroyed. Others registered light, moderate or severe damage, with some misses and many still being assessed using reconnaissance photos.
- Chinese President Jiang Zemin calls on the U.S. and Britain to cease military action and seek a settlement with Iraq through negotiation. Chinese defense experts accuse the U.S. and Britain of using

military strikes against Iraq as part of a broader plot to achieve world dominance. The *People's Daily* quotes Chen Bojiang, an expert with the Chinese Academy of Military Sciences, as saying "The strikes on Iraq by the U.S. and Britain have thoroughly exposed their strategy to achieve world hegemony and strengthen their leadership in the so-called New World Order." Zhang Yuliang, a senior professor at China's National Defense University, is as saying, "The U.S. premeditated such raids on Iraq long ago in order to demonstrate the power of its military forces and expand its plans for world hegemony. The unilateral move by the U.S. has set a dangerous and odious precedent and shocked the entire world."

- Iraq's armed forces says they have had shot down 77 out of 305 missiles fired by U.S. and British forces in the first two days of air strikes. "Our heroes downed 77 hostile rockets (which were) felled by the fire of our anti-air units in the first series of attacks, launched in the early hours of Thursday, and 138 in the second round."
- U.S. military planes drop tens of thousands of leaflets on Iraqi troops in the southern part of the country, informing them that "only those units that support the Baghdad regime" are being targeted for attack by U.S. missiles and bombers. The leaflets are printed in Arabic, and have photographs of the charred hulks of Iraqi tanks destroyed during the Gulf War. The leaflets say, "Your unit has not been targeted but it is being watched."
- There are 13 warships in the Gulf. For a second day the Enterprise launches F-14, F-18 and EA-6B jets, which are joined Thursday by U.S. and British fighters in Kuwait. The six destroyers, one cruiser and one submarine that fired the Tomahawk cruise missiles to start the attack have virtually exhausted their arsenal and cannot return to port in time to reload. However, a second carrier, the Carl Vinson, and six additional warships that can fire Tomahawk cruise missiles are moving through the Red Sea and are expected to move into attack range by December 19. The Pentagon has also dispatched an additional USAF Air Expeditionary wing with approximately 72 aircraft, including nearly 12 F-117 Stealth fighters.
- Military commanders at the Pentagon say they were closely studying new bombing reports from the third day of air strikes to determine when they could halt the air campaign, which they hope to do because of the imminent start of Ramadan.
- Additional U.S. soldiers fly into Kuwait on Friday in a continuing buildup of ground forces that is occurring in parallel with the US-British Desert Fox air offensive against Iraq. About 200 troops arrive, the last of some 1,500 U.S. soldiers who had been intended as replacements for troops scheduled to be leaving under the routine 120-day troop rotation. Instead, the departure of the other soldiers has been canceled and more are on their way. There are now some 5,000 U.S. military in Kuwait, including Marines and Air Force personnel. Others have been alerted and are ready to deploy.
- British Prime Minister Tony Blair gives his most direct warning to date that he and President Bill Clinton hope to oust President Saddam Hussein from power in Iraq. Blair calls Saddam as a liar and says he will continue to pose a threat as long as he remained in office in Baghdad. "Which is one of the reasons why, without setting it as an objective of this campaign, we are doing all we can to bring about an end to his rule, there is no doubt about that whatever."
- British Defense Secretary George Robertson says at a news conference that raids on Iraq carried out by British Tornado warplanes have gone well. Most targets had been outside Baghdad, he told a news conference, and had included air defense sites, command and control centers and the infrastructure serving Iraq's elite Republican Guard units. The country's air defense systems were being severely degraded by waves of attacks carried out by allied Cruise missiles and combat aircraft, he said. "Twelve of our aircraft flew in three waves of attacks and I'm delighted all of them returned safely...Initial indications are that the raids by the Tornados have gone well." The Defense Ministry releases film of a precision-guided bomb from a Royal Air Force Tornado GR1 destroying a hangar housing the planes at Talil air base southeast of the Iraqi capital. Defense Secretary Robertson says the target was one of several hit by Britain's 12 warplanes based in Kuwait. Other clips of infrared video show British bombs hitting a radio mast, a hardened fighter aircraft shelter, and a surface-to-air missile radar installation at unidentified sites in Iraq, part of a vast air and missile offensive in which British forces have joined the

- US. Robertson says the pilotless planes could be equipped with crop spraying devices and used to deliver deadly anthrax spores against Iraq's neighbors.
- Secretary of State Albright says that Clinton Administration officials were briefing every embassy in Washington and that she had contacted more than 20 foreign leaders and UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. "The response has been gratifying." She says that she found "a full understanding (among Arab leaders) of why we have undertaken military action. Most expressed the view that Saddam was entirely responsible for the military strike now under way." In fact, Albright said, Arab governments were assisting the U.S. and Britain in their military offensive. She also says she hopes UN weapons inspectors (UNSCOM) can return to Iraq after the current attacks ended. "We think that it is possible for UNSCOM to go back in after this if (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein would comply." She says that while the main objective of the strikes is to contain Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, the removal of Saddam was in the interests of the Iraqi people. "We also believe that the Iraqi people need a government that is more representative. We are talking about regime change and working with a variety of opposition groups to try to have a government that is representative and that would abide by Security Council resolutions." She says the temporary closure of 40 U.S. embassies in Africa was ordered because, "There are some specific security threats to a variety of embassies. We are taking precautions."
  - Butler gives a press conference in which he says he expects the Security Council in the days and weeks ahead to again tell Iraq to cooperate with UNSCOM. "We would go back and start our work tomorrow if they would give us genuine cooperation." Butler is asked why UNSCOM's conclusions were in sharp contrast to the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which concluded that Baghdad had cooperated with nuclear inspectors. He says the IAEA's job was different because it was dealing with a nuclear weapons program "that was in the making" -- which is vastly different from UNSCOM's work with already completed missiles, chemical and biological weapons.
  - The U.S. denies Iraqi charges that it had collaborated with chief UN weapons inspector Richard Butler to ensure Butler's report on Iraqi compliance with inspections would trigger a U.S. attack. It says it indications from Butler two days before his report was submitted on Tuesday that he was likely to conclude Iraq had failed to meet its pledge to cooperate with UN inspections, a U.S. government spokesman said. U.S. officials insist the attack was not timed to avert a U.S. House of Representatives debate on impeaching President Bill Clinton. The debate began on Friday, a day after the intended start, which was put off due to the attacks.
  - US-British strikes on Iraq draw qualified endorsements from most NATO members. NATO Secretary General Javier Solana says backing for the strikes was "practically complete" at the meeting of NATO defense ministers. Solana singles out Saddam Hussein, saying, "He alone is responsible for the grave situation and for the consequences that his defiance of the will of the international community has entailed." German Defense Minister Rudolf Scharping expresses political support for the strikes and "regret that it was necessary." French Defense Minister Alain Richard, however, deplores the U.S. attacks and stresses the "grave human consequences they could have on the Iraqi population." U.S. Defense Secretary William Cohen and his British counterpart, George Robertson, were not at the NATO meeting because they had to deal with the Iraq crisis at home.
  - French President Jacques Chirac and British Prime Minister Tony Blair discuss ways to end the Iraq crisis after a second wave of U.S. and British air strikes, officials said. Chirac's spokeswoman says Chirac said air strikes would not solve the problems, and believed the current crisis must be ended rapidly and the international community should build a global long-term strategy towards Iraq. She says they agree that new methods need to be worked out to ensure that Iraq fulfill its disarmament commitments. Chirac's office says the French president and Blair talked together for about half an hour. They agreed that they should try to find "a new relation between the UN and Iraq to ensure that control of Iraqi disarmament comes under the authority of the (UN) Security Council. They agreed that the position of the Iraqi population has to be taken into better account. The oil-for-food system has to be improved.

- France does join in blaming Saddam Hussein, citing his efforts to frustrate UNSCOM inspectors. French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine does not support for military measures but says, "I don't know what the solution is."
- Secretary-General Kofi Annan avoids queries about Butler, but says, "I don't know when the morning after will be, but we will have to make this determination as to what we do, how we are going to manage the operation, if we are going to have operations." It is difficult for me to say it right now." Butler, asked about the calls for his resignation, tells reporters: "If anything would be resignation material, it would be if the UN broke its promise on sanctions -- that when disarmament is done, sanctions will go. That would be resignation material."
- German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer says he hopes for a political solution to the crisis in Iraq. "We regret the situation, that now force is used, and we hope that politics will come back again and find solutions to fulfill the resolution of the Security Council," Fischer told a news conference in the Danish capital. He reiterated the German position that Saddam Hussein is responsible for developments which led to US-British air strikes against Iraq, dismissing reports that Germany's Social Democrat-Greens coalition was split.
- The Netherlands says it fully supports the U.S. and Britain in their decision to mount a second wave of punitive air strikes on Iraq. Foreign Minister Jozias van Aartsen says in a letter to parliament, Iraq had made military action unavoidable. "The government regrets that Saddam Hussein has made a peaceful solution impossible. The Iraqi president must bear full responsibility, also towards the Iraqi people, for this military action." He expresses the hope that civilian casualties would be kept to a minimum, but says, "I have been assured that is the explicit aim of the U.S. and Britain."
- There is broad support in British, Danish, Dutch and German newspapers for the decision to launch Operation Desert Fox against President Saddam Hussein. But the press in France, Ireland and Arab countries were mostly hostile. The Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung asks: "Was it a despairing effort to save his own neck in a way that imitates fiction?" Even normally friendly press is critical, Britain's *Daily Mail* asks, "Is Slick Willie risking British lives to save his own neck?" Spain's leading daily, *El Pais* says, "On the eve of a vote as significant (as the House of Representatives impeachment decision), Clinton should not have gone ahead with the attack".
- Russia demands the resignation of the chief weapons inspector, accusing him of being dishonorable in his dealings with the Security Council and conspiring with Washington to set Iraq up for attack. China takes a similar position, and condemns the American bombing. For the second time in two days, Russia calls meetings of the Security Council to discuss the American strikes on Iraq, the damage they may be causing and the role of Butler's report on December 15 in leading to an attack. The Russian delegation condemns the fact that the American air strikes began just as the debate was getting under way. A statement from the Russian Federation said today says, "The military strike was delivered precisely at the time when the Security Council was discussing the Iraq issue." "The entire system of international security, with the UN and the Security Council as the centerpiece, has been undermined." Russia's representative to the UN, Sergey Lavrov, says he has asked for Council agreement on how to bring the situation back from open warfare to the political and diplomatic arena.
- President Clinton writes Russian President Boris Yeltsin defending the U.S. decision to attack Iraq and the State Department announces Madeleine Albright will go to Moscow next month. The letter, sent December 17, makes a case for the attack. Clinton also recalls that the U.S. and Russia had worked hard for a peaceful resolution of Iraq's resistance to UN weapons inspections, said David Leavy, spokesman for the National Security Council. When diplomacy failed, Clinton wrote, it was necessary to use force. He urged Yeltsin to put their disagreement in a larger context of the important US-Russian relationship.
- Yeltsin says that, "Russia demands an immediate end to military action, to show common sense and restraint and not to allow further escalation of the conflict". He has Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov convey a message to Clinton in a telephone conversation with Secretary of State Albright. The contents are not disclosed.

- Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov tells U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright further air strikes against Iraq could seriously harm US- Russian relations. "This would not be our choice." He urges the U.S. to abandon the use of force and return to the search of a political solution to the Iraqi crisis in the Security Council. "Everything must be done to rule out a setback in our relations."
- British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook speaks with Igor Ivanov by phone. A spokesman says, "They agreed the UK and Russia should work together in the post-military phase (of the Iraq crisis) and the tone was friendly throughout,"
- Defense Minister Marshal Igor Sergeyev cuts short a foreign trip and returns to Moscow on orders from President Boris Yeltsin, canceling plans to attend a NATO-Russia meeting in Brussels. He says "The situation that has arisen demands careful analysis and a correction to our approaches to the problems of international security. What kind of cooperation and partnership is it possible to talk about with the alliance now if Russia's opinion is openly ignored?" Colonel-General Leonid Ivashov says, "If Russia's opinion continues to be ignored Moscow will be forced to change its military-political priorities and may become the leader of that part of world society which disagrees with diktat." The strikes have disrupted "the entire system of international security relations." Interfax news agency quotes him as saying U.S. cruise missile strikes on Iraq were the Pentagon's way of practicing a nuclear attack against other targets. "The cruise missiles which are being used in this operation can carry both conventional and nuclear warheads," he was quoted as saying. "It should be noted that, after the missile strikes, strategic aircraft take off and the global system of communications and control is activated."
- Russia's air force chief claims the US-British air strikes against Iraq have fallen short of their expected effectiveness, Itar-Tass news agency reported. According to early estimates, the air strikes against Iraq were not as effective as the Pentagon hoped," it quoted Colonel-General Anatoly Kornukov as saying. Kornukov said he based his conclusion on information received from "various sources in the Gulf."
- China criticizes the U.S. for its strikes again, calling the attacks a case of "power politics" that set a dangerous precedent President Jiang Zemin announces that he has sent a personal message to President Clinton urging an end to U.S. and British air strikes on Iraq. Jiang argues that diplomacy still could convince Iraq to resume cooperating with UN weapons inspectors. He is responding to a message from Clinton explaining the U.S. position. Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhu Bangzao expressed "deep regret" over the U.S. and Britain's continued attacks. In a statement carried by the official Xinhua News Agency, Zhu renews Beijing's demand for an immediate halt to the military action. The ruling Communist Party's leading newspaper, *People's Daily*, says that the U.S. bypassed the UN Security Council and ignored diplomatic norms when it acted alone in attacking Iraq, "creating a dangerous and odious precedent that shocked the entire world." It dismisses the report by Butler as nothing but "an excuse" for the U.S. strikes, and accuses Butler of withholding information showing Iraqi progress in dismantling its missiles and chemical and biological weapons in a report he gave to the Security Council. "There was no legitimate reason for the U.S. military action against Iraq. Killing civilians and using force to try to topple another government is a typical example of hegemonism and power politics."
- Saddam Hussein gives his first TV address since the attacks began. Saddam is seen dressed in his field marshal's uniform. He states that, "By God, we will not compromise," during address, which was broadcast shortly before air-raid sirens sounded in Baghdad to mark the start of the third night of air strikes. "We stand against the barbaric way of those that have used our airspace to launch an aggression against our people. A curse on the agents of Satan. We will continue resistance and attack in the name of God and may the criminals lose. We will fear nothing but God and we will not kneel except to the face of God."
- Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz accuses Richard Butler of collaborating in advance with the U.S. on a report that prompted attacks on Iraq. "There was coordination by the U.S. government and Butler about the content of the report and the timing of the report." He accuses the U.S. and Britain of trying to "impose their will on the whole Arab world."
- Iraq's UN Ambassador Nizar Hamdoun states that U.S. claims to be after Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, but the real aim of the U.S. is to topple Saddam Hussein. "I don't think it's a question of

- weapons of mass destruction. They know for sure that there is no more such weapons in the whole country of Iraq.”
- Radio Free Iraq, the US-funded radio network, sends messages into Iraq that are described by the Iraqi government as an anti-Saddam propaganda machine, said that it had expanded its programming to Iraq to four hours a day. The programs include news broadcasts that include reports on the activities of Iraqi opposition groups.
  - Iraq's Gulf port of Mina al-Bakr continues to load oil.
  - Saudi Arabia denies reports that its forces briefly advanced towards the Iraqi border on Thursday before withdrawing. An official source at Baghdad's Ministry of Culture and Information had said Saudi armored units advanced towards Iraqi borders in a reconnaissance mission and pulled back after checking the area.
  - Sheik Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, expressed his “great concern over the military action against Iraq and its repercussions on the Iraqi people.”
  - Sheik Sabah al-Ahmed al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti foreign minister and deputy prime minister, tells the daily *Al-Rai Al-Amm* that “we are not part” of the crisis between Iraq and the UN.
  - In Iran, demonstrators at Tehran's Palestine Square call for international intervention to stop “the massacre of innocent people” in Iraq -- traditionally an enemy of the Iranians. A senior Iranian cleric, Ayatollah Mohammad Emami Kashani, condemns US-led strikes on Iraq as an aggression against the Islamic world but attacks Iraq for provoking the attacks by refusing to cooperate with the UN. “We condemn this attack which is part of crimes committed by America and England against the Islamic world. We hope God will rid the Islamic nation of these arrogant oppressors. Of course Iraq's government is also responsible and is condemned. Why does it not cooperate with the UN and carry out UN resolutions?” Kashani, is a spokesman of a top clerical body and his remarks were broadcast on Tehran radio. The Iranian news agency IRNA said backers of the hard-line Islamist group Ansar-e Hezbollah held a march after prayers to protest against the U.S. and British strikes on Iraq. A statement read after the demonstration says: “The criminal America has shown (through this attack) that it is still a dictator, therefore any establishment of relations with that country is condemned,” the agency reported. The group often attacks meetings of moderates and is a strong opponent of attempts by President Khatami to ease tensions with the US.
  - Gulf Arab newspapers publish different views of the U.S. and British attacks. Some dailies in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Qatar demanding an end to military action and some Saudi Arabian papers call for Saddam's head. The UAE daily *al-Khaleej* says that that Iraq is victimized by U.S. President Bill Clinton's attempt to escape impeachment over his sex scandal. Qatar's *Asharq* newspaper said that “the missiles of death and destruction the U.S. and Britain are directing to the chests of the unarmed Iraqi people show the extent of the hatred directing the destruction machine against the Arab nation and demonstrates that the human conscience had been put to rest.” One Gulf newspaper depicts Iraq as Jesus Christ nailed to a cross with U.S. missiles, another hoped that President Saddam Hussein would become prey to Anglo-American desert foxes. In Saudi Arabia, several newspapers blame Iraq for inviting the military strikes and wished that “Desert Fox” would lead to Saddam's demise. *Al-Bilad* daily, in a scathing attack on Saddam, said the Iraqi leader has been behind the instability in the region since 1990 invasion of Kuwait and hopes that the current military operation would result in his death.
  - In Egypt and Jordan, security forces are deployed to prevent demonstrations from turning violent. In the Jordanian capital of Amman, about 500 demonstrators were surrounded by an equal number of police. At Amman's University of Jordan mosque, the protesters called for an Arab revolt against the US. “Saddam ... if you want commandos we are ready” and “Syria, Jordan, Iraq -- revolt and make Clinton go to hell.”
  - The Arab League calls an emergency meeting for Sunday to discuss the situation in Iraq. Its secretary-general, Esmat Abdel-Meguid, blames the attack on the report by Butler, and says he “intended to provoke Iraq and not be neutral.”

- Hundreds of worshipers gathered at Cairo's al-Azhar mosque to shout demands for Arabs to defend Iraq. "Leaders of the country, let us go to holy war," the protesters chanted. The crowd of demonstrators briefly broke through a cordon of police surrounding the mosque before being shoved back onto the Al-Azhar grounds. Sheik Mohamed Tantawi, leader of Al-Azhar urges solidarity with the Iraqis. "Stand by the Iraqi people or we will be hit by God's damnation." preached.
- Similar protests are staged in the capitals of Lebanon, Jordan and Yemen, where 15,000 people marched through the streets of San`a shouting, "America is the enemy of the Muslims." Palestinians rally against Clinton for the second straight day, shouting "Death to America!"
- Syrian Parliament Speaker Abdul-Kader Qaddoura says the U.S. strikes "increased the suffering and pain...particularly its children and civilians... (We) condemn and denounce this attack and call on the international community to condemn and halt it immediately." Several Syrians staged a two-hour sit-in strike at the gates of the U.S. embassy in Damascus in protest at the strikes.
- In Beirut, about 2,500 people staged a sit-in outside UN headquarters. The protesters waved Iraqi flags and shouted, "Beloved Iraq, strike Tel Aviv."
- Thousands of Yemenis demonstrate to protest against Anglo-American military strikes on Iraq after Moslem prayers on Friday. More than 2,000 worshippers emerged from one mosque in the Yemeni capital and marched with placards denouncing the air strikes.
- Morocco, which contributed a small contingent to the US-led forces that evicted Iraqi troops from Kuwait in 1991, officials call for "self-control to give a chance to international peaceful initiatives. International initiatives are the only way to ensure the application of UN Security Council resolutions which guarantee the territorial integrity of Iraq," said a foreign ministry statement faxed to Reuters. Moroccan political groups and newspapers condemn the U.S. and Britain. Hundreds of students in Moroccan cities, including Casablanca, hold rallies. Morocco's leading newspaper, Al Ittihad Al Ichtiraki, states, "The American aggression is unjustified and has violated international legality...It returns the world to the law of the jungle and the American cowboy policy. But what is regrettable is this deadly Arab official silence which appears to approve the American government in its onslaught against a brotherly Arab people." said in a commentary.
- Israel's defense minister warns that Israel would retaliate should Iraq "dare" to attack his nation, and Palestinians protested the bombing of Iraq with more anti-American rallies. Israeli leaders were more direct in their warnings than on the first day of the U.S. bombings of Iraq, when they said only that Israel reserved the right to defend itself in the event of an Iraqi attack. Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai tells Israel radio there has been no change in the military's assessment that chances of an Iraqi missile attack on Israel are slim
- U.S. and British forces launch another round of air attacks against Iraqi targets. U.S. Defense Secretary William Cohen says, "The U.S. and British forces are continuing to attack a wide range of military targets in order to decrease Iraq's ability to threaten its neighbors." He says he continued to be satisfied with the results of the strikes, which were not yet complete. There had been no American or British casualties. "We are taking every precaution to protect our personnel and this is why we are sending additional personnel to the Gulf." Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Henry Shelton, tells a news conference that the total number of sea and air-launched cruise missiles has now exceeded the number expended during the Gulf War.
- British Prime Minister Tony Blair says that the US-led attacks on Iraq are significantly damaging its military capability. Blair, confirming that British Tornado fighters had again joined the latest wave of attacks, said Britain and the U.S. were on course to achieve their military objectives against Iraq.
- Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz says, "This is not a military conflict. This is a criminal aggression by the U.S. and Britain. It's a criminal violation of the charter of the UN." He attacks President Clinton and Prime Minister Blair for the "lies and fabrications to justify a crime that cannot be justified. `How do you expect a Zionist like Clinton and a Zionist like Blair to respect the holy month of the Moslems? The timing, as you know, was connected with the failure of his (Clinton's) visit to Israel."

Aziz says hospitals were destroyed in an attack on the Ministry of Defense. Radio and television stations were attacked, as well as an oil refinery in Basra. He says he does not expect the strikes to last long, given the scale of the military buildup. "The reality is that the resources that they have assembled for this aggression are limited, they are not the same resources that they assembled in the aggression of 1991. They cannot throw 200 missiles every day for a whole month. It may be one, two, three or four days but it will not go on, with these resources, for a very long period. Just after Aziz spoke, the Pentagon announced that the total number of sea and air-launched cruise missiles now exceeded the amount used during the 1991 Gulf War. Aziz accuses UN chief weapons inspector Richard Butler of collaborating in advance with the U.S. on a report that prompted the attacks. "There was coordination by the U.S. government and Butler about the content of the report and the timing of the report." He says that Iraq will never allow UN chief weapons inspector Richard Butler to return to the country, "Baghdad will not receive a criminal and vulgar person who was used in a despicable manner to harm the Iraqi people." He says Iraq can no longer accept both UN sanctions and the arms inspectors from UNSCOM (UN Special Commission). "Iraq cannot tolerate both sanctions and UNSCOM. Sanctions have to be lifted. When the sanctions are lifted we can accommodate the work of the UN and the security council correctly and honestly."

98-12-19: The holy month of Ramadan begins. Moslems in the Arabian Peninsula sight the new moon and proclaim the start of Ramadan. The new moon's slim crescent is sighted in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) after nightfall as American and British forces launched sustained missile attacks and bombardment against Iraq for a third night.

- U.S. Defense Secretary William Cohen says in the morning that, "We are sensitive to the beginning of Ramadan ... but the military operation is paramount now and we will continue to carry it out. There is no fixed end time. We have set very specific targets that we intend to attack and when those missions are completed then the mission will end. Until that occurs, we have to keep at least some flexibility. We may have to go back and strike some targets."
- Clinton and Prime Minister Blair again call for a new government in Baghdad.
- A Pentagon briefing reports that American and British forces have now struck 100 targets using about 450 sea- and air-launched cruise missiles and 650 sorties by fighters, bombers and support aircraft. Today's attacks include strikes by F-16 and F-15 fighters, as well as British Tornado fighters, based in Kuwait and supported by aerial tankers and AWACs. Around 17 missiles attack Baghdad. U.S. and British forces attack other targets in the country. B-1 bombers, based in Oman, fly into Iraq on their first combat missions. They strike barracks and headquarters of six divisions of the Republican Guard, seven or eight of Mr. Hussein's presidential palaces and the headquarters of the Baath Party in Baghdad, badly damaging it. Iraq's refusal to allow UN weapons inspectors to inspect that building is a key reason for targeting it. U.S. and British jets strike an oil refinery near Basra, in the south, that was producing product smuggled through Iranian waters to provide funds for the Iraqi regime that were not controlled by UN sanctions
- The targets as of 0800 EST in December 19, include 100 targets:
  - 32 surface-to-air missile (SAM) and integrated air defense system (IADS) facilities. These include numerous targets in the Southern Sector. Damage is reported to SA-2 and SA-3 sites, and a repair facility is severely damaged.
  - 20 command and control facilities, including TV and radio transmitters and jammers. The headquarters of the Directorate of Military Intelligence, Special Security Organization (SSO) and Special Republican Guards (SRG) suffer severe damage. The relay station at Al Rumaylah is believed to have been destroyed, partially cutting off the communications to Iraq's forces in the south. Saddam Hussein had, however, divided the country up into four regions before the strikes, with contingency orders in case communications were severed.
  - 19 weapons of mass destruction security facilities, including severe damage to most Special Republican Guards barracks and headquarters buildings. Some Special Republican Guards barracks as destroyed, possibly with the occupants in them. Buildings hold a maximum of 400 personnel.

There are 30,000 Special Republican Guards. At least four barracks in Baghdad and the barracks at Tikrit were hit.

- 11 weapons of mass destruction industry and production facilities, including facilities at Al Kindi, Al Karama, and Iba al Haytham. They include Iraq's major final-stage missile fabrication plant in the Baghdad area, plus an engine facility and light damage to the missile simulation center. They also include an RPV facility believed to be dedicated to delivering biological weapons south of Baghdad,
- 9 Republican Guards and regular army headquarters and facilities, including corps and division headquarters. The strikes hit the headquarters and C2 facilities of 3 heavy and 1 infantry division in the Baghdad area, including the Baghdad division. They also hit the Adnan division in the north (opposed to the Kurds) and Medina division in the south.
- 9 airfields, including the attack helicopter forces used against the Kurds in the North and Shi'ite rebels in the south. Targets also include L-29 aircraft being converted for use as RPVs for either reconnaissance use or possible delivery of biological and chemical weapons at al-Sara airfield north of Baghdad.
- 1 refinery used to make the product smuggled illegally out of Iraq through the Gulf – normally through Iranian waters. This is the Basra PLL facility which shipped product via the Shatt al-Arab.

-- Damage assessment includes only rough first stage assessments, with confirmed damage to 70 of 100 targets, but can be summarized as follows:

Target Type	WMD Security	WMD Industry	SAMS/ IADS	C2	Rep Guards	Refinery	Airfield	Total	
Target Numbers	18	11	32	20	9	1	6	100	(100 percent)
No Damage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(0 percent)
Light	5	4	4	2	1	1	1	18	(10 percent)
Moderate	6	5	4	4	5	0	4	28	(28 percent)
Severe	5	1	5	4	3	0	0	18	(18 percent)
Destroyed	2	0	1	7	0	0	0	10	(10 percent)
Being Assessed	0	1	18	3	0	0	1	23	(23 percent)

-- The strikes leave most of Iraq's pre-Desert Fox conventional forces untouched, except for headquarters and command and control facilities, and the barracks of the Special Republican Guards. Losses of attack helicopters, aircraft, SA-2s, and SA-3s are minimal. Casualties are unknown.

-- The Clinton administration says that ongoing strikes are intended to diminish Iraq's ability to produce weapons of mass destruction and threaten its neighbors. In his weekly radio address, delivered as the House debates his impeachment, President Clinton says the attack is "going well." He states that after the current strikes end, the U.S. will attack Iraq again if Saddam's government tries to rebuild its chemical and biological weapons capabilities: "Where do we go from here? We stand ready to use force again."

-- Secretary of Defense Cohen says that, "From the beginning of this operation, we've been careful to set realistic goals. "We've also been careful not to either overstate or exaggerate the results as our intelligence analysts study the very preliminary data." He says, "that this military action is substantial," and that the Iraqi ballistic missile program had been set back "by at least a year."

-- George Robertson, Britain's defense secretary, says that U.S. and British attacks included strikes by British Tornado jets, had hit 100 military and industrial targets, and had caused "substantial damage" to Iraq's biological and chemical weapons programs and to the Republican Guards.

-- A second aircraft carrier, the Carl Vinson, enters the Persian Gulf and moved into position to participate in a fourth day of strikes, joining the carrier Enterprise, whose F-14, F-18 and EA-6B jets have struck

- Iraq for three days. Six cruisers and destroyers able to ill more Tomahawk cruise missiles accompany the Vinson.
- The pan-Arab headquarters of Iraq's ruling Baath Party is hit and badly damaged during air strikes by U.S. and British forces. The two main buildings of the Baath Party complex in Baghdad's Qadissiya district received direct missile hits in the pre-dawn attacks, the fiercest on the capital's center in three days of bombardment. There is no movement inside the complex, which appeared to have been abandoned at the time of the attack, and no word on casualties. Buildings housing the Military Industrialization Commission, military intelligence and the security police were reportedly hit in the first two days of attacks. The Baath headquarters is different from another key party office from which UN weapons inspectors were partly denied access last week
  - Vice President, Taha Yassin Ramadan declares an end to cooperation with UN weapons inspections, imposed as part of conditions for ending the Persian Gulf war in 1991.
  - Iraq's press condemns the U.S. and Britain. The government newspaper *al-Jumhuriya* declares, "Yes, you the people of a great civilization -- we will fight and resist the aggression. *Al-Qadissiya* paper says Iraq had fought beside Palestinians against Israel and defended Gulf states from Iran and deserved to be supported by the Arabs. "Now the doors are open wide for the Arabs to enter Iraq to take part in the decisive battle of Um al-Ma'rik (the mothers of all battles." Other newspapers carry a statement by the pan-Arab Command of the ruling Baath Party calling on Arabs to fight the U.S. with all available means. "Let Arab masses escalate their heroic fight against America inside and outside the Arab world with all means available."
  - An Iraqi official in Baghdad says said the death toll from three nights of bombardment has more than doubled to 68.
  - Chinese President Jiang Zemin calls on the U.S. and Britain to cease military action and seek a settlement with Iraq through negotiation. Chinese defense experts accuse the U.S. and Britain of using military strikes against Iraq as part of a broader plot to achieve world dominance. The *People's Daily* quotes Chen Bojiang, an expert with the Chinese Academy of Military Sciences, as saying "The strikes on Iraq by the U.S. and Britain have thoroughly exposed their strategy to achieve world hegemony and strengthen their leadership in the so-called New World Order." Zhang Yuliang, a senior professor at China's National Defense University, is as saying, "The U.S. premeditated such raids on Iraq long ago in order to demonstrate the power of its military forces and expand its plans for world hegemony. The unilateral move by the U.S. has set a dangerous and odious precedent and shocked the entire world."
  - A poll of 300 people, mostly Saudis, conducted and published by the London-based *al-Hayat* newspaper shows 82 percent oppose the raids. Only 18 percent of those polled supported the bombings, it said.
  - Syrian protesters attack the U.S. and British embassies and the residence of the U.S. ambassador. Marine guards at the U.S. Embassy in Damascus, largely emptied of staff, fired tear gas to disperse stone-throwing protesters, but three scale the building, tear down the American flag and burn it.
  - In the West Bank, more than 100 Palestinian protesters are injured in clashes with Israeli troops. Anti-American, pro-Iraqi demonstrations were held in the towns of Hebron and Jenin, and in Rafah in the Gaza Strip. Some of the protesters carried burned U.S. and British flags, and shouted, "Death to America!"—just days after Palestinian crowds had given President Clinton a warm and enthusiastic welcome during his landmark visit to the areas controlled by the Palestinian Authority.
  - Demonstrations against the bombings are held in Jordan and Egypt, and smaller rallies were organized by émigrés in Austria, Denmark and Bulgaria.
  - Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, a key Middle East ally of the US, send a letter to Clinton urging him to "end military operations on Iraq as quickly as possible." Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa says Mubarak believed the assault should end immediately because of "the extreme damage it is causing to Iraq and its people and the region."

- 98-12-20: The U.S. and Britain end their attack on Iraq during the night after a fourth day of air and missile strikes. The decision to end the campaign comes on the first full day of Ramadan
- President Clinton, appears at the White House after the House of Representatives has voted to impeach him He ends the campaign at 6 P.M. Eastern time on December 19 in the US, or on 2 A.M. on December 20 in Iraq. He declares the attack a success and warns that the U.S. and UK would strike again if Iraq takes steps to rebuild chemical or biological weapons or threaten his neighbors. He says that, "I am confident we have achieved our mission. We have inflicted significant damage on Saddam's weapons of mass destruction programs, on the command structures that direct and protect that capability and on his military and security infrastructure." Clinton also say the U.S. would maintain its military forces in the region, keep Iraq under the pressure of comprehensive economic sanctions, continue to enforce the "no-fly" zones in northern and southern Iraq, and work more intensively with the Iraqi opposition to try to change the Iraqi government. "So long as Saddam remains in power he will remain a threat to his people, to his region and to the world." Clinton again calls for a new government in Iraq. "So long as Saddam remains in power, he will remain a threat to his people, his region and the world. With our allies we must pursue a strategy to contain him and to constrain his weapons of mass destruction program."
  - Secretary of State Madeleine Albright says the strikes are a "successfully accomplished mission" but acknowledges that the threat posed by Iraq's chemical and biological weapons capability cannot be completely erased. "Obviously it is very hard to say that everything that he has in weapons of mass destruction has been destroyed, but his capability of threatening his neighbors and delivering (weapons) has been severely degraded. Albright says the U.S. may have to strike at Iraq again if Saddam Hussein rebuilds his country's weapons of mass destruction capability. "We reserve the right to use force again" She also says that aid U.S. strategy against Iraq is shifting toward overturning Saddam's regime. "We would like to see a different regime. That is what we are going to be working towards by more active support of the various opposition groups."
  - President Clinton and his U.S. military commanders consider issuing orders halting the reinforcements of ground and air forces ordered in recent days to guard against an aggressive Iraqi response to the strikes, according to two senior defense officials. Thousands of ground troops and additional air crews are preparing to deploy to the Gulf region. If the administration opts to halt the deployments, the officials said, units that have not yet deployed would be told to remain in their bases and some en route to the Gulf ordered to return home.
  - The Pentagon says 425 Tomahawk cruise missiles were fired during the campaign. This compares to a pre-Desert Fox inventory of 2,500 SLCMs (1,725 Block III and 849 Block IV) and 239 CALCMs, 198 with 3,000 pound warheads and 41 with 2,000 pound warheads. Damage assessment reports on December 21 claimed 85 percent accuracy for the TLAM. No figures were provided on the CALCM.
  - The offensive involved 650 aircraft missions, including 32 sorties by 12 British Tornado fighter-bombers. Iraq says its gunners shot down more than 100 Tomahawks. In addition to the cruise missiles, there were undisclosed numbers of laser-guided bombs and other ordnance. In their first use against a real target, two B-1s bomb a large military complex near Baghdad. No sorties were flown during day time, a pattern established early in Desert Storm.
  - To put Desert Fox in perspective, a total of 2,400 aircraft (1,800 US) were involved in Desert Storm (January 16-February 28, 1991). They flew a total of 118,000 sorties, 42,000 of which were offensive, against 777 fixed targets. They dropped about 162,000 unguided dumb bombs and used 9,500 smart weapons. Data from Elliot Cohen and the Department of Defense produce the following comparisons:

	<u>Desert Storm</u>	<u>Deliberate Force</u>	<u>Desert Fox</u>
Gulf War	Bosnia	Iraq	
1/16-2/28/91	8/29-14/9/95	12/16-12/20/98	
<u>Total Aircraft</u>	2400	300	213+
US	1800	200+	201+
<u>Total Munitions Used</u>			
Cruise missiles	333	23	425+ (90 CLCM) 425 SLCM)
Guided Smart Weapons	9500	700	90 percent+
Unguided "Dumb" Weapons	162,000	1,025	(total of
<u>Total Strikes</u>	42,600	-	1,075-1,165
Air	42,000		300 night sorties 600 pieces of ordance
<u>Targets/Strikes</u>			
Weapons of Mass Destruction	32/9670	-	11/-
Command & Control	163/1500	-	20/-
Leadership/Government	45/200	-	19/-
POL	28/540	-	1/-
Missiles	61/1,460	-	11/-
SAM/IADS	120/1,730	-	32/-
Military Industry	25/975	-	1/-

- British forces have flown dozens of sorties with Tornado GR1 fighters from Kuwait. During the fourth night of attacks, 12 Tornados flew 24 missions, attacking an large military airfield and a complex near the city of Al Kut in southern Iraq. During previous sorties, British forces struck the Tallil air base in southwestern Iraq. Royal Air Force spokesman Group Capt. Bryan Collins says four Tornados were en route to Iraq to bomb Republican Guard positions when the stand-down order reached British forces based in Kuwait. He said the fighters were recalled. The last attack comes hours after Baghdad residents broke their fast on the first day of Ramadan.
- Not a single U.S. or British casualty is reported after about 70 hours of intensive air strikes involving 650 sorties against nearly 100 targets. A total of 415 cruise missiles were launched, Pentagon officials said, including 325 Tomahawks fired by U.S. Navy forces and 90 heavier cruise missiles deployed from Air Force B-52s.
- Navy officials announce that a second aircraft carrier battle group, led by the USS Carl Vinson, has moved into the Gulf to support the group headed by the USS Enterprise.
- The U.S. reports that strikes have targeted almost 100 sites of President Saddam Hussein's political and military infrastructure and suspected sites for the production or storage of weapons of mass destruction. The sites targeted during the four-night assault include:
  - *Baghdad: Directorate of Military Intelligence, Special Republican Guard barracks, Republican Guard headquarters, TV station, Communications center, Air Defense Center, Special Security Organization, Baath Party headquarters, Intelligence Service, Al Karama and Al Kindi missile research and development facilities, Baghdad Museum of Natural History, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Al Mustansiriya University*
  - *Tikrit: Al Sahra Airfield, Republican Guard headquarters, Al Bakr air base*
  - *Mosul: Missile research and development facility, air base, two army bases, Republican Guard headquarters*

- *Taji: military air base, missile design and production facility*
  - *Samarra: Air defense sites*
  - *Jabul Makhul: Presidential palace that covers 10 square miles and includes 90 structures, suspected nuclear/chemical weapons site, Republican Guard headquarters*
  - *Al Qurnah: Communications-related sites*
  - *Ash Shuaybah: Radar site*
  - *Ash Rumaylah: Communications-related site*
  - *Al Kut: Airfield, military complex*
  - *Ibn Al Haytham: missile storage facility in southern Iraq*
  - *Basra: Oil refinery*
- The reporting on targets and damage is summarized as follows:
- 32 Surface-to-Air Missiles (SAMs) and Integrated Air Defense Systems (IADS) sites: Destroyed/Severely Damaged: 6; Moderate/Light Damage: 8, Under Assessment: 18
  - 20 Command and Control Facilities: Destroyed/Severely Damaged: 11; Moderate/Light Damage: 6; Under Assessment: 3.
  - 18 Weapons of Mass Destruction Security Facilities: Destroyed/Severely Damaged: 7; Moderate/Light Damage: 11; Under Assessment: 0
  - 11 Weapons Production, Research and Development, Storage Facilities: Destroyed/Severely Damaged: 1; Moderate/Light Damage: 9; Under Assessment: 1
  - 9 Republican Guard and Regular Army Facilities: Destroyed/Severely Damaged: 3; Moderate/Light Damage: 6; Under Assessment: 0
  - 5 Airfields: Destroyed/Severely Damaged: 0; Moderate/Light Damage: 5; Under Assessment: 1
  - 1 Economic Target: Destroyed/Severely Damaged: 0; Moderate/Light Damage: 1; Under Assessment: 0
- General Shelton provides details on three targets in Iraq's military production infrastructure, showing photographs of buildings with large holes where bombs crashed through the roofs. The first is a missile repair facility at Taji, where the Iraqis used to repair all their surface-to-air missiles and also to develop ballistic missiles. "We aimed at five buildings. Three sustained very severe damage, one sustained moderate damage and one was damaged lightly. He won't be doing any more refurbishment or facility work there for quite some time. The second was the Zaaferaniyah facility, 13 miles (20 km) southwest of Baghdad, where Iraq makes components and designs machine tools. Two buildings were targeted and -- both were completely destroyed. At the third site at Shahiyat, a facility where the Iraqis test liquid engines for rockets and missiles, the U.S. aimed at two buildings and a test stand. Both buildings sustained very severe damage and the test stand was completely destroyed. The destruction was heavy and devastating to most of the targets that he holds the most dear. It included nine missile research and development facilities, 20 out of 21 of Iraq's command and control facilities and 18 out of 19 targets associated with the protection of Iraq's programs to develop weapons of mass destruction.
- Cohen says that Iraqi development of longer-range missiles is believed to have been pushed back by a year. Cohen indicates that assessment is based on the time analysts believe it would take to rebuild the facilities. It could take longer, he said, given the administration's "containment" policy of limiting Iraq's war-making capabilities through sanctions and inspections. Cohen cites "substantial" success in degrading Iraq's "command and control" systems—systems and networks devoted to communications, intelligence, propaganda and security. "Saddam may rebuild, and attempt to rebuild, some of this military infrastructure in the future, just as he has replaced many facilities, including lavish palaces, after Desert Storm," Cohen said, referring to the aftermath of the Gulf War. "But we have diminished his ability to

- threaten his neighbors with both conventional and nonconventional weapons. The policy of containment has been successful....We will keep our forces in place as they've been in place for a number of years now. We will be at the ready should he try to reconstitute those facilities or pose a threat to the region. We'll be prepared to act again in the future."
- In London, officials show images of hits by British forces against Republican Guard installations in southern Iraq. Prime Minister Tony Blair said the Guards were targeted because they guard Saddam Hussein, "keep him in office, have their own system of repression, and of course have been instrumental in putting together the means of concealing the weapons of mass destruction."
  - Secretary Cohen says that Iraqis might try to rebuild the facilities but the U.S. would keep a watchful eye. "We are going to be in the region, we are going to maintain our military capability, we are going to continue the sanctions and watch to make sure that he doesn't pose a threat to his neighbors or try to reconstitute these programs. The burden of proof really is on Saddam. He is going to continue to live with the restrictions. He will still have a no-fly zone and a no-drive zone. We will continue the maritime interdiction operations."
  - Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan repeated the vow of other Iraqi leaders never to let UNSCOM return, at least as long as UN-imposed sanctions remain in place: "The issue of UNSCOM is now in the past, the commission of spies is now in the past," Ramadan told reporters in Baghdad. "I don't want to go into details, but I am saying that everything dealing with the inspections, monitoring and weapons of mass destruction, it's all behind us."
  - There is no comprehensive tally of Iraqi casualties. Officials said a mass funeral had been held for 68 people killed in and around Baghdad in the bombing raids. Tariq Ramadan states there were 10 times more casualties among civilians than in military ranks but did not cite any figures. Iraq's ambassador to the UN, Nizar Hamdoon, says that U.S. and British attacks have killed or wounded thousands of people. "There has been enormous damage, mainly to the civilian infrastructure and to human life. I am told the casualties are in thousands, in terms of people who were killed or wounded, but we don't have any final figures." There are reports of as many as a dozen deaths at a university in a northern Iraqi province, and at least a handful of deaths from the bombing of a major oil field in Basra in the south. U.S. officials have confirmed that they tried to kill large numbers of the Special Republican Guard, which provides crucial support, protection and muscle for Saddam Hussein. Neither U.S. nor Iraqi officials would give an estimate yesterday of Iraqi military losses. In Baghdad, life went on as normal, but reporters says it was possible to glimpse heavy damage to several buildings where elements of the Iraqi security and military establishments were housed. One missile hit the headquarters of the Iraqi Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs last night, witnesses said, wounding at least three guards and leaving a crater 20 feet deep just inside the gates. Three other missiles were said to have hit near Al Mustansiriya University in the heart of the Iraqi capital.
  - A statement by Iraq's armed forces general command said that strikes targeted presidential sites, civil establishments, government offices, colleges, students' dormitories, factories, refineries and some military units. It does not elaborate.
  - Saddam Hussein makes his first public comment since the attacks have ended. He says that the Iraqis have been victorious against "enemies of God" The Iraqi president gives a brief speech on radio and television and says that the Iraqi people and the army have proved to be "worthy of what your leadership expected from you. God will repay well and crown your heart with clear victory." In his speech, Saddam also criticizes the Arab world for pretending to be "asleep ... or sick" and not supporting Iraq. "A new aggression (was) started by the enemies of God and the nation. With it, the resistance started again."
  - No final casualty toll has been released, but previous reports indicated at least 42 Iraqis were killed and 96 wounded in the strikes. Iraqi officials do not allow reporters to inspect areas where the most extensive damage occurred, including presidential palaces and defense installations.
  - Iraqi newspapers Sunday report as follows: *Al-Musawir Al-Arabi* says "Victorious again!" *Al-Thawra* says, "Iraq does not deserve but victory with God's help,"

- Clinton says after calling off the attacks that he hopes that UN weapons inspectors would be able to go back, but Iraqi Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan declares that UNSCOM's "mission is over."
  - French President Jacques Chirac said he had proposals on how the international community could have "effective control on Iraqi weapons and their eventual development." But he does not elaborate.
  - Russian President Boris Yeltsin says the U.S. and Britain have shown common sense by halting "senseless and unlawful" strikes against Iraq. Yeltsin also states that the world must draw serious conclusions from the events of the last few days and pay special attention to consolidating the role of the UN in world affairs. "Common sense has finally prevailed. Now the international community must draw serious conclusions from these tragic events. We still have to assess fully the negative political consequences of the bombing, not to mention the victims among the civilian population and the substantial damage to Iraq's economy, already drained dry by sanctions. However it is already absolutely clear that the use of force has only complicated solving the Iraq problem. Special attention must be paid to consolidating the UN's leading role in international affairs." He says that Russia has played a prominent role in opposing the "senseless and unlawful military action," which Washington said was intended to destroy Iraqi chemical and biological weapons, and said Baghdad now needed humanitarian and medical aid.
  - Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov, visiting India, says: "We are put very much on our guard by statements that this may be a temporary pause and that strikes might be resumed. We are categorically against putting the question in this way." Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, speaking before the bombing ended, says he expects a quick return to diplomacy to avoid the stalemate that followed the 1991 Gulf War. He praises Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein for his "restraint." "We'll be able to get the situation back into the context of the UN Security Council in the next few days."
  - China calls for renewed diplomatic efforts to resolve the dispute between the UN weapons and Iraq. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhu Bangzao says, "We have taken note of the fact that with the call of relevant parties, the U.S. and Britain ceased their air strikes against Iraq. China hopes for an early resumption of diplomatic efforts to solve the issue concerning the weapons inspection in Iraq by political means, and is ready to work with relevant parties to this end."
  - Japanese Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura urges Iraq to comply with Security Council resolutions. "Japan, once more, strongly urges the government of Iraq to comply immediately and unconditionally with all the latter's obligations under relevant UN Security Council resolutions, including the acceptance of UNSCOM inspection team."
  - Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer says the decision to bomb Iraq was entirely correct. "It is not a marginal issue, it is a central issue (which) has to be addressed by the international community. That causes a lot of pain, a lot of debate, a lot of controversy. But in the end what the British and the Americans have done has been absolutely right and in the interests of the security of the Middle East and in the interests of the security of the international community,"
  - UN special envoy Prakash Shah says UN humanitarian workers will return to Baghdad to resume their work by December 23, 1997.
  - Iraq's oil exports under the UN' oil-for-food program continued uninterrupted despite the strikes by U.S. and British forces.
- 98-12-21: President Clinton and his top national security aides say they did what they set out to do. Defense Secretary William Cohen again says, "We've tried to be very accurate in our damage assessment, not to inflate it or overstate it. We had very specific military objectives. Those objectives, in our judgment, have been met." He says that if Iraq tries to rebuild its capability to produce chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction, "We're prepared to take it down again."
- The Defense Department revises its format for describing bomb damage. During the strikes, Pentagon figures indicated that only one target in five was destroyed or severely damaged. Now the statistics list simply list "confirmed damage" that may include light to moderate damage. On that basis, 73 out of 96 targets reported sustained some damage.

“We consider this a very successful attack at this point,” said Army Gen. Henry H. Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. “Our success goes up almost daily as we have a chance to make a more complete assessment.”

-- Revised damage data issued at 1400 on the 21st claim an 85 percent hit rate and that 74 percent of all strikes were highly effective.

<u>Target Set</u>	<u>Targets - Planned/Executed</u>		<u>Impacts – Hit/Missed</u>		<u>Success – Full/Partial</u>	
<u>Weapons of Mass</u>						
<u>Destruction/Security</u> (Attack the Iraq leadership’s security apparatus. Degrade national command and control system)	18	18	18	0	16	2
<u>Weapons of Mass</u>						
<u>Destruction/Missile Industry</u> (Degrade/delay WMD program and key enabling technologies. Ability to produce ballistic missiles delayed one year.)	12	12	12	0	11	1
<u>Command and Control</u> (Attack strategic center of gravity; degrade national command and control system. High value regime C2 targets attacked. Capability to command and control WMD, security and operational military forces severely degraded.)	21	20	18	2	17	1
<u>Airfields</u> (Destroy high value assets difficult for Iraq to replace. Degrade helicopter Capability)	6	6	5	1	4	1
<u>Republican Guard</u> (Degrade capability to reinforce security efforts or move forces north or south. Ability to use RFGC in strike against Kuwait degraded)	9	9	9	0	9	0
<u>Refinery</u> (Deny Saddam revenues from illegal oil exports)	1	1	1	0	1	0
<u>Integrated Air Defense System</u>	19	18	13	5	8	5
<u>Surface-to-Air Missile</u> (Set conditions for air operations, degrade Iraq’s air defense system. Critical IADS nodes and strategic SAM fire direction Centers below 33° north degraded)	16	16	9	5	8	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>11</b>

-- Pentagon officials caution, however, that full bomb-damage assessment could take months, that pictures are often deceiving and that Iraq may have to be attacked again. Although troop reinforcements were

- expected to be ordered back to their U.S. bases today, the “containment” force in the Persian Gulf region will remain some 20,000 strong, and there are no plans for relaxing the guard over Iraq.
- Prime Minister Tony Blair's office says the attacks left the Iraqi air defense system “in ruins” and Saddam Hussein weakened. The sites targeted during the four-day bombardment that ended Saturday included 20 command and control facilities and nine sites linked to the elite Republican Guard. Attacks on 35 other targets “have left the Iraqi air defense system in ruins.” Six of the targets were related to delivery systems for Iraq's remote-piloted weapons of mass destruction. “We believe the damage that has been inflicted in the last few days has left Saddam (Hussein) very weak and vulnerable.”
  - Foreign Office minister Derek Fatchett says, “There should be no carrots without sticks... If there is to be that light at the end of the tunnel which the French have been talking about for some time, there has to be Iraqi cooperation and compliance,” and that Britain did not want “a consensus at any price” in the Security Council. “There must not be easy rewards for Saddam Hussein, for someone who has not cooperated with the international community. We mustn't go to a soft consensus which allows easy rewards.” Tony Blair says, “We will do whatever we can to bring about the downfall of Saddam.”
  - Richard Butler says, “Any suggestion that I cooked the books or colluded with the U.S. for this purpose is without foundation. I could take you through site by site and I can show you that in every case there was a disarmament justification for going to that site. They were my choices. They were based on facts. I did not discuss them with the U.S. or anybody else.” He says he did speak to five or six ambassadors who had asked for advanced word on what he thought would be its conclusions. These included the U.S. and British ambassadors, but adds that, “And by the way so was Iraq. Iraq had a heads up in advance as well. No there is no reason for me to do that. The very idea that my presence in this job can be used as a diversion from Iraq's failure to give us the information we need ... that somehow this comes down to one individual, I'm sorry that is such a diversionary tactic and there would be no reason to resign in the face of that.”
  - Hans von Sponeck, the UN humanitarian coordinator in Iraq, says the attacks have disrupted the distribution of supplies under the UN-approved oil-for-food program.
  - Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz says that Iraq remains on high alert and he believes U.S. and British air attacks could resume. He tells four days of intense U.S and British air strikes had killed 62 military personnel dead and wounded 180. The air strikes had also ended UN arms inspections in Iraq, he added. Aziz did not give details of civilian casualties but said they were “much, much more” than those in the military. “We are still on red alert and there might be a repetition of military aggression some time... We shall never, never accept any conditions made by Clinton or Blair...They acted according to the law of the jungle.” **He says that Clinton and Blair had boasted about the damage the strikes had inflicted on Iraq's elite Republican Guard and Special Republican Guard, but that only 38 were killed and 100 wounded from the two guards corps, plus 24 soldiers from regular army and air defense units were killed and 80 wounded.** Aziz says that the U.S. and Britain committed “an unjustified crime” in carrying out the raids. He condemns chief UN arms inspector Richard Butler and said that the inspection process ended when London and Washington began the air strikes. “The moment America and Britain launched missiles against Iraq they killed UNSCOM. I cannot give them another life.” He calls Butler “a cheap pawn in the hands of the Americans.” Aziz said the air attacks had taken place in daylight as well as at night because the U.S. and Britain wanted to wind up their assault quickly to avoid causing greater hostility in the Arab world. He complains of an US-British conspiracy to destabilize the Iraqi government and to finance “terrorist” acts. “The aggression has not stopped, it is continuous,” and that Prime Minister Tony Blair had “turned Britain into a tail of the fox which is in Washington.” As for Blair's statement about putting Saddam “back in his cage” with the air raids, Aziz says that. “This is the old rhetoric of a liar.”
  - Several European Union leaders call for new measures to ensure Iraq does not violate UN resolutions banning weapons of mass-destruction weapons now Iraq has declared that UNSCOM. weapons inspectors will not be allowed to return. Austrian Chancellor Viktor Klima says, “We trust that a political dialogue can be undertaken as soon as possible, primarily with the involvement of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan” French President Jacques Chirac says France is supporting a “new organization, new

methods” so the UN can maintain “effective control on Iraqi weapons and their eventual development.” French foreign minister, Hubert Vedrine, announces that French diplomats are working on proposals for “a new form of cooperation between the UN and Iraq to restore the role of the Security Council.” Italian Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini and German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer also call for a new initiative to maintain arms control and to “improve the conditions of the Iraqi people.” German defense minister, Rudolf Scharping, says Russia should also join in “a political dialogue (with Iraq) as soon as possible.”

- Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov and Defense Minister Igor Sergeyev call during a visit to India for a strategic triangle with India and China, and Sergeyev urges closer military cooperation between the former Soviet republics after US-British air attacks on Iraq. Primakov says, “We will never change our position. We are very negative about the use of force bypassing the Security Council.” Sergeyev says, “At this moment, when the U.S. and their allies are unpredictable, it is essential we reach a common understanding of the military-political problems arising,” he said in televised comments at a meeting in Moscow of defense ministers from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). I hope that strikes on Iraq are not resumed under any circumstances. I hope sense prevails.” Colonel-General Leonid Ivashov, the military's head of international cooperation, says, “After what has happened we are not going to pretend everything is all right in relations. Though reducing the pace of mutually beneficial cooperation in the military sphere, Russia is not going to sever it totally. Russia will try to encourage the alliance and its separate members to discuss serious and concrete issues of bilateral and European security.”
- Colonel-General Leonid Ivashov, who is in charge of international cooperation in the Russian Ministry of Defense, says the strikes against Iraq will affect Russia’s military cooperation with Washington and London but that its ties with NATO will not be affected. “After what has happened we are not going to pretend everything is all right in relations (with the U.S. and Britain. Though reducing the pace of mutually beneficial cooperation in the military sphere, Russia is not going to sever it totally. Russia will try to encourage the alliance and its separate members to discuss serious and concrete issues of bilateral and European security.”
- General Valentin Korabelnikov, the head of Russia's GRU military intelligence agency, estimates that every fifth missile fired on Iraq from December 16-20 had failed to hit its target. “The strikes were not as effective as the Pentagon said. The destruction of several civilian sites, which can have had nothing to do with military installations or possible centers where weapons of mass destruction could be designed or produced, testifies to this.” Korabelnikov reported on the results of an early intelligence survey of Operation Desert Fox at a meeting of defense ministers of the post-Soviet Commonwealth of Independent states in Moscow. Russian Defense Minister Marshal Igor Sergeyev, had addressed the meeting earlier on Monday, and called on the CIS armed forces to cooperate more closely because the US, with the bombing of Iraq, had become “unpredictable.”
- Many Middle Eastern newspapers condemn the strikes on Iraq, which one calls “Operation Desert Rabbit.” An-Nahar in Lebanon says, “This non-battle has been the silliest of wars. Its biggest damage has been inflicted on the U.S. itself, victimized by a leader who only succeeded in damaging his tattered presidential honor and the dregs of Washington's international prestige.” Jordan's pro-government Al-Rai newspaper says the strikes have unleashed Arab fury against the US. “The aggression on Iraq was a spark which rekindled what pent-up feelings Arabs have had for America and its hostile policies. Go away from our land, you Americans, we have had enough of your hostile policies. Al-Ettihad in the UAE refers to “deceitful” U.S. statements and says the “book they resort to every time it seeks to practice its hegemony and implement its plans against the whole region.” Al-Khaleej asks, “What is the need then for the international inspectors ... who work as spies for the U.S. and not as employees of the UN?” Newspapers in Israel and Kuwait are also s critical of the attack because it failed to remove Saddam. Ha’aretz says, “There is still no indication whether the weapons of mass destruction held by Iraq were damaged” and headlines its editorial as, “Failure in the Desert.” “There is real doubt whether the UN inspectors will restart in a serious manner. The conclusion is that Saddam Hussein will continue to develop weapons of mass destruction and perhaps accelerate their development ... In this case, Operation Desert Fox will be known as a failure.” *Al-Ahram* in Egypt says that said Clinton was “driven by

desperation to an outside adventure trying to circumvent internal refusal of his policies.” Al-Wafd says, “I won't rule out that Clinton would do anything to hold onto his chair in the White House ... This could include a new attack on Iraq, Libya, Sudan or any new target.” *Al-Ittihad al-Ichiraki* in Morocco headlines, “Tomahawk missiles fail to hit U.S. Senate.”

- Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdel-Meguid states that Arabs reject the US-British strikes, “Arabs will not accept the destruction of Iraq with such brutality while it (Iraq) is committed to implementing Security Council resolutions. How can the U.S. and Britain attack Iraq based on a report by a person who has lost his credibility.”
  - The Arabic-language newspaper *al-Hayat* says it has received a statement from the extremist al-Gama'a al-Islamiya (Islamic Group) in Egypt which says that fighting the U.S. is “a divine method and a divine decree. What abominable action is worse than atheists raiding our houses, destroying our factories, killing our women and children and plundering our riches?”
  - Algeria announces it will send milk and medicine to Iraq. President Liamine Zeroual has stated that, “Algeria opposes the use of force to settle international conflicts.”
  - Kuwait increases security measures at home and around its foreign missions after a “terrorist” threat following the US-led assault on Iraq.
- 98-12-22: Undersecretary of State Thomas Pickering says, “It is up to UNSCOM to decide how it can be most effective in the pursuit of the mission.” Pickering tells a news conference that the U.S. would be willing to consider boosting an exemption that permits Iraq to sell \$5.2 billion worth of oil every six months provided the proceeds are used for food and medicine. “Oil-for-food ... would be the one area where we could see perhaps the possibility of more forward movement, particularly if the humanitarian report indicated there was a greater need for food. I think that there's a possibility out there of expanding it if the (UN) secretary general and his experts believe there is a need for expansion. We're prepared ... to continue to look very carefully at that and see it move ahead.”
- Pickering says the U.S. will take “a careful look” at a Russian proposal to convene the 22 political commissioners next month for an “updated assessment” of UNSCOM's operations. He rejects France's proposal to change the inspection system, and says the U.S. will rely on Butler and UNSCOM's “technical and professional expertise.” “It is up to UNSCOM to decide how it can be most effective, and intervention by the Security Council in dictating the work, role, personnel system and activities of UNSCOM ... would not be wise, would not be effective and would not be acceptable... the burden is on Iraq to demonstrate its absolute and authoritative commitment to cooperation. If it does not permit UNSCOM to come back, then it has selected sanctions in perpetuity” if it maintains an arsenal of weapons of mass destruction, moves against Kurds in Iraq or threatens its neighbors.”
  - Secretary of Defense William Cohen orders a halt to additional emergency deployments to the Gulf region. Cohen approves the return to their U.S. bases of the six B-1 bombers, 10 A-10 anti-tank aircraft, 10 KC-10 tankers now on the Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia, and 13 of 15 B-52 bombers, also on Diego Garcia. This leaves a force of between 17,000 and 20,000 that will remain stationed in the region indefinitely.
  - Lt. General Anthony Zinni, the commander of the Central Command, reveals for the first time that heavy Iraqi anti-aircraft fire forced some U.S. planes to abandon their planned targets. “We did not put pilots at risk to fly in for a target that wasn't essential.” Zinni is aboard a plane with Cohen flying to the Gulf to meet with U.S. troops and Arab leaders.
  - The U.S. and Britain deny Iraqi Army charges that U.S. or British warplanes had fired two rockets at an area near the southern city of Basra. A Pentagon spokesman says, “It is not true. No U.S. aircraft have fired any rockets over Iraq” In Kuwait, the Royal Air Force says that none of its planes had even flown over southern Iraq that day.
  - Defense Department officials express dismay regarding the “thoughtless graffiti” on a Navy bomb that was being prepared for a strike on Iraq and which referred to Ramadan. The Associated Press had transmitted a picture of a 2,000-pound laser-guided bomb on the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise in the

Persian Gulf waiting to be loaded on F-14 and F-18 jet fighters. The bomb bore several inscriptions, including one that said, "here's a Ramadan present from Chad Rickenberg." Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon issues a statement that, "Religious intolerance is an anathema to Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen and to all Americans who cherish the right to worship freely. The U.S. deeply respects Islam. We are grateful for our good relations with Arab and Islamic peoples, and we appreciate the important contributions of Muslim-Americans to the U.S. military and to our nation as a whole. I know our people in uniform respect and appreciate religious practices different from their own. This incident is a rare exception that does not reflect American policy or values."

- British Defense Secretary George Robertson gives a press briefing to show that the strikes had seriously damaged Iraq's military. He tells a news conference that, "We know that we have done considerable damage to the war machine of Iraq. Increasingly in the next few days evidence will be brought forward from the battle damage assessments to show that is absolutely correct. While life appears to be going around as normal inside Iraq, inside the military structures there has been immense damage and the impact has been very considerable indeed."
- Air Marshal John Day, Director of Operations in the Ministry of Defense, says initial assessments showed that 74 percent of the 111 attacks on key Iraqi installations had knocked out the facilities concerned. Fifteen percent had missed their targets and 11 percent appeared to have caused only slight damage, said Day, who was briefing reporters only on British action during the US-led aerial bombardment of Iraq. Day produces a series of slides showing damage to key installations. One shows the hangar at Tallil Airfield, which he says housed pilotless aircraft, designed to deliver biological and chemical bombs, and large areas of its roof are destroyed and debris litters the ground. Another photo shows the Taji steel fabrication plant, and two buildings believed to be used to make components for nuclear programs are shown to be destroyed. "We set out to minimize collateral damage and to focus our attacks on the military machine. I appreciate very much the constraints on the media caused by the Iraqi government propaganda machine...those members of the press who are laboring in Iraq just now cannot possibly see the damage that we have done." He says 12 Cruise missiles had hit the interior of the headquarters of the ruling Ba'ath Party, which had been closed to UNSCOM inspectors, but that a passerby on the street might not notice great damage. "That (the party HQ) was one of the mechanisms by which Saddam controlled his chemical and biological weapons program...he will not be able to do that ever again because of the damage that was caused. Those close to Saddam will realize that we have the ability and the will to target the regime, as distinct from the Iraqi people."
- Robertson speaks with German Defense Minister Rudolph Scharping standing next to him. Scharping dismisses Iraq's claims to have scored a victory. "Every dictator will say that he won...that is the nature of dictatorship." He also denies that the U.S. and UK were isolated diplomatically and that a meeting of NATO defense ministers was unanimous that "it was necessary, albeit regrettable, to act militarily. I cannot see any kind of isolation. There will be some debates about the political strategy in the future...but I am sure we will find a common one."
- Richard Butler says of speculation about his possible resignation, "Frankly, I think this question should be put down. It is a silly question," he told reporters after being asked whether he would step down, if asked to do so. I know that some people have asked for my resignation or dismissal," he said, referring to public criticism by Russia, China and others. But I ask you to think of this: is it about me or a personality, or is it about substance? The substance is the disarmament of Iraq. No one in the Security Council is saying anything else. They have various views on how to do that." (The issue is) about Iraq obeying its obligations and our finding a way to make that possible. Whoever would be in my job would have the same responsibility. I think it is a red herring and I think it should stop." Asked about future weapons inspections, Butler says that there are "two sides to this equation -- one is the Security Council, which is the lawmaker here, and the other is Iraq, whose cooperation is required. A serious discussion has started in the Security Council and among leaders, presidents, prime ministers and so on, to find a new way of dealing with the Iraq problem. I would be hopeful that when Iraq sees what is evolving, that it would shift from what it was saying yesterday and cooperate again," he said, referring to a statement by Iraqi leaders that UN weapons inspections could not be resumed.

- 100 UN relief staff set out by road from Jordan to return to Iraq and resume work disrupted by the air strikes
- German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer suggests that the UN could gradually begin relaxing international sanctions against Iraq. "It would appear to me that the right answer would be, on the one hand, not allow Saddam Hussein to have weapons of mass destruction in his possession but, on the other hand, to find a way -- apart from military action -- to link ongoing disarmament in Iraq with humanitarian measures and a step-by-step lifting of the sanctions. But that will need the approval of those involved in the UN Security Council."
- French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin says that Britain's participation with the U.S. in strikes on Iraq demonstrates the need for a common European defense policy. He tells the French National Assembly the fact that Britain and France had differed over last week's Desert Fox attack did not mean efforts to coordinate security policy had failed. "This divergence should not hinder considerations among Europeans on a European identity in defense and security policy. To the contrary, I see in this another sign of the necessity to speed up the elaboration of a common foreign and security policy as the Amsterdam Treaty foresees it. This also shows how necessary it is to work with our allies...to gain support for our views, which is that a multipolar world must evolve where nations decide together in the international community rather than accept the imperatives of certain countries." Jospin says Saddam Hussein clearly is responsible for the crisis, and that a long-term surveillance system is needed to keep the Iraqi programs under control.
- A French public opinion poll finds that that 63 percent of those surveyed disapproved of the bombing while 24 percent approved. The remaining 13 percent express no opinion. The poll is based on a samples 1,006 people aged 18 and over. A similar poll conducted in 1991 found that 71 percent of the French people approved of the Gulf War bombing while just 14 percent disapproved and 15 percent gave no opinion.
- White House spokesman P.J. Crowley says that Russian President Boris Yeltsin has received a message Clinton that explain the strikes on Iraq. "The president conveyed to President Yeltsin our rationale as to why the attack was necessary in light of (chief UN arms inspector Richard) Butler's report that Iraq had failed to cooperate fully and completely with UNSCOM."
- Russia's parliament delays debate on START II until the spring of 1999 at the earliest, in part because the strikes on Iraq. Vladimir Ryzhkov, the deputy speaker of parliament's lower house, says the treaty in now on the agenda of the spring session of the State Duma. "This, of course, does not guarantee either the ratification of the START II treaty, or even that it will be considered by the State. It simply shows that the State Duma intends to continue work in this direction."
- Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhu Bangzao states that, "China made positive efforts in urging the U.S. and Britain to put an early end to the military action. President Jiang Zemin delivered an oral message to President Bill Clinton and exchanged views over the telephone with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, elaborating on China's opposition to the use of force. China is maintaining close contact with parties concerned at the UN Security Council and the capitals of several countries," Zhu said. We are ready to work together with the international community for the just and proper handling of the issues relating to Iraqi arms inspections."
- Brazil welcomes the end of U.S. and British strikes on Iraq and urges Baghdad to change its decision not to allow UNSCOM inspectors back into Iraq.
- Syria calls the U.S. and British air strikes against Iraq "treacherous aggression" that threatens Arab security. The central leadership of the NPF National Progressive Front (NPF), Syria's ruling coalition of the seven parties led by the Baath party, calls the strikes on Iraq a "flagrant violation of all international laws. This aggression threatened the national Arab security and the higher national interests of the Arab nation. An official says the strikes bypassed the UN and its institutions, and condemns the "double standard policy" in dealing with Arab countries and Israel. The U.S. and Britain insist on implementing fully all resolutions against Iraq... while they ignore all decisions that were adopted against Israel for its occupation of Arab lands and possession of weapons of mass destruction."

- Iran reports that two stray cruise missiles from the US-British attack on Iraq hit Khorramshahr, about 25 miles east of the Iraqi city of Basra. The first cruise missile struck the city, a port with major oil facilities, on Thursday. Iran does not say when the second missile struck the city. The first missile landed in the city center and damaged several houses but did not cause any casualties.
- 12-23-98: National Security Adviser Sandy Berger tells a news conference that the U.S. has rejected suggestions that the Security Council make it easier for Iraq to end economic sanctions. "We don't believe that we ought to lower the bar. We don't believe we ought to dumb down the system. We should not reward Iraqi intransigence with new watered-down monitoring mechanisms designed to meet Iraq's demands. ... Iraq must demonstrate it will fully cooperate with verification and inspection," he said. Berger repeats policy statements that any change in UNSCOM would be a concession to Saddam Hussein and undermines confidence in Security Council. "Unless UNSCOM confirms that Iraq has disarmed, the UN cannot lift the sanctions imposed when Iraq invaded neighboring Kuwait in August 1990. If there's not some method of verifying compliance, then we cannot envision there being any form of sanctions relief... UNSCOM is the agreed instrument for achieving that verification. Walking away in the face of Saddam's defiance ultimately would destroy the credibility of the UN Security Council. Iraq needs to change its approach to inspections, not the international community. If inspections are to resume, it has to come after there is some clear demonstration by Saddam Hussein that he intends to cooperate. Otherwise, we simply are going back to where we were... We will continue to conduct air reconnaissance. We can act if Iraq resumes production of missiles or tries to test any missile system. We can act if Iraq tries to resume large-scale production of chemical or biological weapons. We can watch Iraq's external procurement activity. And we will know what it is trying to build and buy."
- Berger says the U.S. will organize a meeting of Iraqi opposition groups early in 1999, and that senior U.S. officials will meet with the groups. He says the Clinton Administration will fulfill a legal requirement under the Iraq Liberation Act to identify the groups that deserve support by the end of January, but notes that the law does not compel the administration to disburse any of the military aid earmarked for the opposition. "The U.S. has been careful not to arouse false expectations about the opposition, which is weak and divided. We will strengthen the opposition in a practical and effective way, step by step. If we are serious, we must do this carefully, not noisily. We will not play recklessly with the lives of those who may risk their lives to oppose Saddam. And we must not imply commitments before we are clear about their risks and costs and likely benefits. Change, when it comes, often comes suddenly and at unexpected times. Change will come to Iraq at a time and in a manner that we can influence but not predict."
- At a meeting of the Security Council, three of the five permanent council members -- Russia, China and France -- state their opposition to the U.S. and British strikes, and call a new inspection mechanism, the lifting of sanctions against Iraq and the ouster of chief inspector Richard Butler. The U.S. objects to a Russian proposal that Secretary-General Annan play a role in the formulation of UN policy on Iraqi arms inspections. Russia had proposed a statement calling for Annan to first assess the impact of the air strikes, and then "play his part in promoting humanitarian relief and healing diplomacy." The U.S. insists on amendments that delete all reference to Annan's role in diplomacy and which say he should only play a role in promoting humanitarian relief. Russian envoy Yuri Fedotov says he objects to limiting Annan's role. "The Secretary-General must continue to play an important and meaningful role in this crisis and the Security Council needs to reaffirm its role under the Charter of the UN. The U.S. does agree with Russia that the 21-member governing board of UNSCOM should meet by the end of January to assess the situation, but says that UNSCOM and the IAEA must first assess the current situation on the ground in Iraq.
- France states it wants to ease of the arms monitoring system as well as the punishing sanctions on Iraq. Russia and China agree and also seek the dismissal of UNSCOM's leader, Richard Butler, whom they accuse of distorting the state of Iraq's program for weapons of mass destruction.
- U.S. National Security adviser Sandy Berger responds, "We should not reward Iraqi intransigence with new watered-down monitoring mechanisms designed to meet Iraq's demands. With respect to Saddam's

- arsenal of deadly weapons, our strategy will be simple: If he rebuilds it, we will come. If you build it, he will come.“
- Secretary Cohen arrives in Kuwait. He later announces that the U.S. will keep enough U.S. troops and equipment in the region to be able to renew military attacks on Baghdad if Iraq threatens U.S. allies in the region. “To the extent that we determine that he is in fact going to pose a threat to the region again, then we're prepared to take action. We have the ability to react very quickly so we're satisfied that our day-to-day force is adequate.” Officials traveling with Cohen say the number of U.S. troops in the Gulf region will drop to between 21,000 to 22,000 from a peak of 29,900 during the strikes. They state that many of the heavy bombers and other aircraft used in the strikes are returning to the US, including all six B-1B bombers, 12 tank-killer A-10s, 10 KC-10 tankers and 12 of 15 giant B-52 bombers. They also say that the forces being withdrawn will remain on alert and can return to the Gulf on 72 hour's notice.
  - General Zinni says that Iraq can quickly rebuild its military command and communication systems, which were hit during the U.S. and British strikes. He says that President Hussein most feared a revolt in his own ranks, and moved Iraqi ground troops into four widely separated sectors where he placed loyal and lieutenants in charge. Zinni reports, however, that there are no signs of an imminent overthrow of Saddam. U.S. intelligence analysts saw troop movements which were monitored from satellites and U-2 spy planes, and concluded that Saddam's main aim was to avert any uprising from within once the British and American strikes began. “That decentralization was done so they ensured they had control,” and “to prevent plotting,” Zinni said. “I think it was done more for internal reasons and internal military problems they thought they might have than for any military preparations they had for us.”
  - Navy Captain Nelson, the deputy commander of Carrier Air Wing 3 aboard the Enterprise, reveals some pilots, concerned about accidentally hitting civilian centers, abandoned bomb runs and returned to the ship with their weapons still strapped under their wings. Nelson also disputed assertions from more senior military commanders, that Iraqi resistance was light. “There were all sorts of SAMs (surface-to-air missiles. The people that were commenting that Iraq was putting up a feeble defense weren't looking at the same triple-A that I was.”
  - British and American military officers at Camp Doha in Kuwait state that they were working with the Kuwaiti government to create a facility that they describe as a ‘mass casualty’ center in case of war. The casualty center will reduce the need to rush medical facilities to the Gulf region with every emergency in the long-running struggle against Iraq.
  - Iraqi Trade Minister Mohammed Mehdi Saleh said on Wednesday he expected “terrorist activities” against the U.S. to increase as a result of its policy toward Iraq, but says that Iraq would not be behind, or support such attacks. “When the U.S. is helping terrorist activities against Iraq, then this will enhance terrorist activities against the US,” Saleh said, referring to a bill in the U.S. Congress allocating nearly \$100 million to Iraqi opposition groups. It is not a threat, it is a consequence of their policy...by adopting aggressive policy against Iraq and against Arab people and against Moslems, and by using sanctions as a means of destroying this society and by using military aggression...” Saleh also states that the oil-for-food deal with the UN was a failure and called for the immediate lifting of sanctions. “It is not a system that can be used for the future. It has failed.”
  - The official Iraqi News Agency reports that three children were killed and 20 people wounded in the southern province of Wasit as a result of the U.S.-British strikes. These casualties are in addition to 62 soldiers and an unspecified number of civilians that Iraq had said were killed earlier.
  - The Iraqi army claims Western warplanes violated its airspace twice but it does not report any exchanges of fire.
  - Iraq orders the UN to cancel a scheduled flight of UN military observers to Baghdad. The flight had been scheduled to carry members of the UN Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission from Bahrain to Habaniyya air base near Baghdad. The force was set up after the 1991 Persian Gulf War to monitor the cease-fire and the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait. Secretary-General Annan calls Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, who tells him the “measure was taken for the safety of UN aircraft. The suspension

- was temporary. It's not a ban. It's a holding of those flights because of the dangers that are involved. There might be cross-fire that could endanger those flights.”
- Russian Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov says the strikes on Iraq have created a bad international precedent and urges the U.S. and UK to change their approach. He says strikes had finally been halted because of the influence of public opinion and of “many countries including Russia. Thank God it's over now. But there is a possibility of returning to the use of force, by-passing the UN Security Council. It is a very threatening situation that could destroy the entire system of international relations. Of course we must deal with this and try to influence the U.S. and Britain so that they change their approach to international affairs. A return to the Cold War in its classic form is not possible. But at the same time a cooling in relations is also possible. Everything now depends on the U.S. and countries of the West; the ball is in their court.” He says any attacks on any country without the decision of the Security Council is “a path towards instability.”
  - Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov speaks by telephone to U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright late on Tuesday and to British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook and announces, “From our side, the necessity was stressed...of taking concrete steps aimed at getting a settlement back very quickly into a political context within the framework of the UN Security Council.”
  - Russian ambassador Yuli Vorontsov arrives in Washington and says that, Life goes on and we will have normal relations with the U.S. of America. Without withdrawing our criticism of what happened... relations will go on developing normally.”
  - Former French defense and foreign ministers attack the French government for not condemning the U.S. and British strikes more severely at a private meeting with Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine. Vedrine calls for a more flexible arms surveillance policy. Former centrist Defense Minister Francois Leotard says his is “struck by the moderation of the official French position towards the US,” Ex-Foreign Minister Herve de Charette warns against U.S. hegemony and state it is scandalous that the U.S. has not yet provided information on the damage the bombing had caused. Paul Quiles, a former Socialist defense minister attacks Vedrine's claim that the raids had a legal basis in Security Council resolutions and charges the U.S. wanted to use NATO in future military operations the UN does not endorse. Vedrine had state that Security Council resolution 1154, passed in March 1998, gave the U.S. and Britain a basis for attacking Iraq. “One cannot say their action was devoid of a legal basis,” the report quoted him as saying. “The countries of the Arabian peninsula think the French position is too obliging towards Iraq and, according to the Anglo-American position we already know, see mercantile motives behind it.” He also says France had blocked a U.S. bid effort to obtain a NATO resolution supporting the attacks and that support by NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana “did not bind alliance members at all.”
  - France announces that its military aircraft will soon resume flights to enforce the no-fly zone over southern Iraq suspended during Desert Fox. The French daily Liberation reports that French planes flying over southern Iraq had helped to prepare the strikes, and that film and electronic intelligence gathered by French Mirage F1CR reconnaissance aircraft were provided to the USAF Force until December 16, when French participation in the monitoring mission was suspended.
- 12-24-98: General Zinni states that Iraq might use other refineries to smuggle oil in violation of UN sanctions while the refinery at Basra, Iraq's third-largest, is repaired. “We wanted to incapacitate it so it couldn't be used for him (Saddam) to gain financing to support his military or weapons of mass destruction program. The damage we did is repairable. We're not trying to fool ourselves into thinking we obliterated this. If we did, it probably would have caused collateral damage that we didn't feel was appropriate, or would have been environmentally damaging. In the short-term, he would probably try to find some other way to do the illegal export, and then work to repair it.” The Basra facility was able to handle up to 126,000 barrels of crude oil a day before the attacks, equal to 36 percent of Iraq's total refinery capacity of 350,000 barrels per day. Zinni said Iraq has been able to use Iranian waters, but that Iran has become more cooperative in recent months. “If the Iranians enforce their end, which they seem to be doing in some degree...and we're able to tighten it up and cut the sources and make it more difficult, I think that hurts him (Saddam) more in the long-run.”

- Saddam Hussein calls U.S. and British leaders “enemies of God” in a Christmas speech and calls on believers to fight their “continued aggression.” “The criminal aggressors in America and Britain as well as Zionism and those in their shadow...launched their criminal aggression...not only against the dignified people of Iraq but also against humanity and mankind at large.” He declares the U.S. and British attacks are contrary to the principles of Jesus and the principles of Islam because they continued into Ramadan. “...it has become clear to us all, the believers in God and his prophets...that the rulers of America and Britain, along with Zionism, that they are the enemies of God.... face up to these criminals...who continue the aggression against Iraq.”
  - An Iraqi ministry of information official says Secretary of Defense William Cohen’s visit to Kuwait shows that Kuwait has committed treachery against the Arab world: “Cohen, the Jew, thanked the rulers of Kuwait for their participation in the US-British colonialist aggression against Iraq. This new act of treachery by the rulers in Kuwait is not unusual...and reflects their deep hatred to Iraq, its people and the Arab nation.”
  - Iraq's state-run newspapers say Iraq will not be intimidated by U.S. threats of strikes to force Iraq to allow the resumption of UN weapons inspections. Al-Iraq says that UNSCOM now exists only “in the sick dreams entertained by America. To say ... UNSCOM still exists ... is like chasing a mirage. The vicious role of this American and British commission is over and their treacherous aggression was the final bullet. Iraq now claims that more than 40 civilians and 62 soldiers were killed and some civilian sites were hit. Babil says, “The possibility of military action which they wave as a means of psychological terror will not be more than what our people and military units have already seen. They mistakenly thought that their intensive bombardments against the Iraqi army, power stations and telephone exchanges would be enough to bring their agents to the streets. But this did not happen and they were frustrated as a result of growing Arab rejection of their attack.” The Baath Party newspaper, *al-Thawra*, says the attacks have not ended, “The aggression has not stopped yet including the military aggression. Their aggressive military buildup is still there and their bad and illegal intentions are still there accompanied by their officials' statements to resume the attack.” The paper also strongly attacks France for its position. “We should be careful about the French card and we should fear the French from now on.” It urges the Security Council to end sanctions and punish the “aggressors.”
  - The Shebab TV Channel, run by Saddam’s son Uday, remains off the air and Iraq's satellite television channel also no longer broadcasts. The radio and television stations that can still transmit only seem to cover Baghdad and the surrounding areas.
  - Iraq is already repairing some damage in residential areas. Water and sewage pipes hit in the Karada neighborhood have been fixed, but no activity is yet seen at the complex that housed the military intelligence, or the headquarters of the General Security Directorate. Both have been badly damaged in Desert Fox.
  - Turkey's Parliament Operation Northern Watch through June 30. Northern Watch's mandate has been renewed every six months since the end of the 1990-91 Persian Gulf War. More than 45 U.S. and British planes and 1,400 personnel are based at the Incirlik air base near Adana.
- 98-12-25: An Information Ministry spokesman issues a statement that, “The US, by its demand (for inspections to resume), is trying in vain to turn the clock back. The Special Commission and its inspectors are part of the past because of the American-British aggression.”
- *Al-Thawra*, the newspaper of the Baath Party, says, “The resignation or sacking of Butler is not enough. The embargo on Iraq must be lifted. After that Iraq might look into agreeing to the continuation of the work of permanent monitoring cameras and others. Does Richard Butler deserve that his sacking be the price of the blood of Iraqis martyred in the Anglo-American aggression? Is the matter that is worth discussing Butler's resignation or sacking? Or is it the lifting of sanctions on Iraq?”
  - Osama bin Laden calls for all Muslims to fight and kill British and U.S. citizens in retaliation for the strikes on Iraq. Bin Laden says British and U.S. citizens generally supported the attacks, and “that makes every one of their nationals warmongers whom every Muslim must fight and kill.”

- 98-12-26: Iraq says its air defenses fire at British planes attacking a post in southern Iraq. An Iraqi military spokesman says that, "At 11:25 (0825 GMT) this morning formations of enemy planes...attacked one of our air defense positions which confronted them and forced them to drop their load indiscriminately." The spokesman does not explain where the incident took place, but says that the planes were flying from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, violated the Iraqi airspace at 9:15 a.m. (0615 GMT), but flew outside the range of anti-aircraft guns. Iraq claims that this is the third straight days that Western planes violated Iraq's southern airspace but does not report any exchange of fire.
- The northern no fly zone was imposed in 1991 and the southern zone in 1992. A total of approximately 45 planes normally patrol the northern no zone as part of Operation Northern Watch and are based at Incirlik Air Base in southern Turkey. The southern no-fly zone stretches from the border line with Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Jordan to the 33rd parallel just south of Baghdad. The northern no-fly zone is above the 36th parallel. The U.S. flies up to ten types of planes, including USAF E-3A AWACS, electronic warfare planes F-16 and F-15 jets, Marine Corps EA-6Bs, and Army UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters and USAF HH-60 Night Hawk helicopters used for search and rescue missions. Turkey flies F-4 and F-16 fighters and The UK flies Tornado fighters and aerial refueling planes. Operation Southern Watch is conducted by U.S. and British planes based in Saudi Arabia and U.S. Navy aircraft aboard carriers in the Gulf area.
  - Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan says on the Qatari al-Jazeera satellite television station that Iraq will now fire at Western planes patrolling a no-fly zone in southern Iraq. "We say it clearly, any violations of our air space can not but be confronted by Iraqi fire." He also reiterates that UNSCOM will never be allowed back. "Now, and after the aggression...the issue of the Special Commission and its inspections is finished and that is final."
  - Shabab (Youth) Television, an Iraqi station owned by President Saddam Hussein's son Uday, resumes broadcasting only nine days after it was hit on the first day of U.S. and British strikes. Shabab is a terrestrial station and is seen broadcasting on its usual channel. Iraq's satellite television station is still blacked out.
  - Yuri Fokin, the Russian ambassador to Britain, returns to London
- 98-12-27: The Iraqi weekly *Musawir al-Arabi* names Saddam Hussein as the "Man of All Years." He alone ... and nobody else lives in our hearts and symbolizes our dignity and pride. Who has the courage to keep the whole world busy?"
- Iraqi Trade Minister Mohammed Mehdi Saleh says Iraq may demand that the UN oil for food workers leave. "Iraq refuses the continuation of this project and demands the lifting of sanctions. This means the ouster of UN teams that supervise it. Iraq is bearing huge expenses which it pays to these (UN) personnel and they do nothing apart from verifying that the imports have reached Iraqi ports."
  - Yemen calls for an Arab summit. Sheik Hamdan bin Zaid al-Nahayan, minister of state for Foreign Affairs, says that, "The UAE fully supports Yemen's suggestion for an emergency summit in the light of the serious situation confronting the Arab nation." Iraqi Vice President Ramadan says that "any Arab summit held, with or without Iraqi attendance...which ends without a clear decision...to end the Arab embargo on Iraq and denounces the aggression is a summit conspiring against Iraq and the Arab masses." *Babel* says that, "Some Arab parties especially Kuwait will try to blackmail and destroy such a summit by influencing its decisions." *Al-Thawra* says that, "The Saudi regime had indirectly taken part in the aggression by allowing the aggressors to use Saudi ports and waters."
  - The Arab Parliamentary Union meets in Jordan. Iraq proposes a draft resolution calling for Arab nations to ignore U. sanctions and for all foreign troops to leave the Gulf. The meeting condemns the US-British strikes on Iraq as "unjust aggression" and legislators from 16 Arab nations called on their governments to work to lift the UN trade embargo.
- 98-12-28: Iraqi Minister of Trade Mohammed Mehdi Saleh denies reports that Iraq may end the oil-for-food deal with the UN and ask the UN staff to leave. "This information is not correct. The (UN) observers can stay

in Iraq as long as there is an oil-for-food program. We have not made a decision on whether to cancel or maintain it.”

- The UN announces that Iraqi oil exports reached a record 2.51 million barrels per day during Desert Fox. The UN approved eight contracts for the sale of oil in the week from December 19-25. This brings the number of approved contracts for the six-month period to 58, for a total of 224.2 million barrels of oil. Nevertheless, the price of the oil dropped to a new low, with the average price for Iraqi oil exported last week amounting to \$8.23 per barrel. The UN program allows to sell up to \$5.265 billion worth of oil every six months but Iraq expected to raise less than \$3 billion over the current six months, ending on May 24. The report also says that the UN Security Council's sanctions committee approved 13 contracts in early December, worth \$4.4 million, for spare parts and other equipment Iraq needs to upgrade its dilapidated oil industry. The purchases came from 13 countries, with the largest contracts going to Belgium, the United Arab Emirates and Germany. Baghdad is allowed to import \$300 million in spare parts out of the oil revenues and has purchased \$133 million worth since June when the council first approved the expenditures. However, the Sanctions Committee has delayed approval of another 133 contracts, worth \$43.6 million, on hold since June, six of them in the second week of December. Most of the delays came from the US. Before sanctions were imposed, Iraq exported 3.2 million barrels per day. UN officials warn that if Iraq continues to ship oil at this relatively high volume it may damage its oil fields, which rehabilitation, and gas injections, to maintain the production of Kirkuk and Basrah Light crude oil.
  - Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz says Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak is unreasonable for blaming Iraq rather than the U.S. for strikes against Iraq. In an editorial published in *al-Jumhuriya*, Aziz says Mubarak had failed to blame the U.S. President Bill Clinton for leading a four-day campaign of air attacks against Iraq this month. “President Mubarak is the only one in this world who has preferred to blame the Iraqi leadership for the aggression, rather than blaming Clinton. In reality there is no reasonable, honest and clever human being in this world who would share Mubarak's conclusion.” The daily Babil, owned by Saddam's son Odai, calls Mubarak's comments to “the panting of a dog.”
  - An Iraqi military spokesman says that, “Iraq air defenses have probably shot down a hostile Western plane and a search for the wreckage of the plane and its pilot is going on...in order to provide its pilot an opportunity to infiltrate if he is alive or give its agents an opportunity to bring back his body if he is dead.” Iraqi also claims its forces fired at U.S. or British aircraft coming from Turkey, and that four Iraqi soldiers were killed and seven injured when the planes fired missiles at its air defense positions. U.S. officials confirm an incident and that Iraq had launched missiles at planes patrolling the northern a no-fly zone.
  - Faik Nerweyi, spokesman for the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), says, “We believe the escalation could lead to a situation that might change the status quo. (Northern Watch) is in place and we are happy about it and that's why we are worried this escalation of tension will change the situation. We are worried. The population in our area is worried.”
- 98-12-29: Iraq warns that its aircraft are flying in the “no-fly zones” and its anti-aircraft batteries will fire on U.S. and British planes. Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan, is asked by Associated Press Television News whether Iraq was flying aircraft in “no-fly” zones, and says, “We are doing it right now. Iraqi planes in effect are flying in a normal manner in Iraqi airspace. The so-called air exclusion zones exist only in the sick imagination of the British and American administrations. “Our observation posts and concerned forces in the field have confirmed that they shot down a plane/ Iraq does not recognize these no-fly zones...and we will continue to resist such violations.”
- The U.S. says there are no immediate reports of Iraqi aircraft in northern and southern “no-fly” zones and that the U.S. and Britain will continue to enforce the zones. It says there were no flights over the northern “no-fly” zone on December 28th, “strictly due to weather and nothing else.” A British Defense Ministry spokesman reports no Iraqi air activity and adds that the UK is ready to take action “should the conditions of the ‘no-fly’ zones be breached.”

- French Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Anne Gazeau-Secret says France has not ruled out resuming French flights as part of "Operation Southern Watch" She declines comment on Iraqi statements that Baghdad does not recognize the no-fly zones and will treat planes entering Iraqi airspace as invaders. France had grounded its surveillance aircraft in the region on December 16, in anticipation of the U.S. and British strikes on Baghdad in which Britain also participated. The French arm of Operation Southern Watch is based in Saudi Arabia and consists of 175 people, five Mirage 2000-C planes, two Mirage F1-CRs and a tanker aircraft.
- Turkey renews calls for a peaceful solution to the situation. Defense Minister Ismet Sezgin says, "This is a sensitive situation for Turkey...We are making our warnings for the use of the base with sensitivity." Sezgin says the U.S. planes used the right of self-defense in response to the Iraqi attack and said Ankara was seeking a peaceful solution to the tension. "Iraq also should comply with the UN resolutions. We want our neighbor to return to the international community as soon as possible. The Turkish foreign ministry says, "It is necessary for regional stability to avoid actions that would disturb the implementation of Northern Watch."
- Arab foreign ministers postpone a meeting to plan an Arab summit proposed by Yemen to discuss the US-British air strikes against Iraq until January 24. Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa says, "The decision only postpones, rather than cancels, the meeting to give time for more consultations...It's better to hold a meeting agreed upon and attended by all member states."

The ministers had planned to meet on December 30 at the Cairo-based Arab League, and Secretary-General, Esmat Abdel-Meguid says the meeting was postponed at the request of Gulf Arab states. Other sources indicates that Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal had requested the postponement. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak had said earlier in the day that Egypt opposed a US-led attack against Iraq but did not support President Saddam Hussein.

- The official Iraqi newspaper *al-Qadissiya* accused Saudi Arabia and Kuwait of delaying the Arab foreign ministers' meeting, "Responding to American orders they have moved secretly and publicly to foil any Arab call to hold a meeting. It is not strange to hear that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have launched wicked endeavors to call off the meeting in order to implement an American conspiracy (against Iraq)."
  - International Committee of the Red Cross delegates that have visited Iraqi hospitals say they have seen about 230 people, mainly civilians, apparently wounded during the strikes in Desert Fox. Urs Boegli, the chief spokesman, said that about 200 were in Baghdad's three large hospitals. "Today we are winding up our tour of hospitals in Iraq. We think we have seen 230 wounded. They appear to be largely civilians -- children, women and men. We have distributed surgical supplies for about 500 cases -- half for immediate use and half as reserve supplies." Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz had said a week earlier that the four-night campaign of air strikes had killed 62 soldiers and wounded 180. He said civilian casualties were "much, much more," but gave no figures. The ICRC delegates had visited 18 hospitals since December 17. I had no figure for deaths among civilians or armed forces. The Iraqi Red Crescent, declined to estimate casualties.
  - The Jordanian Pharmacists Association, whose members own 1,600 pharmacies and 12 drug factories, says it will send trucks to Iraq carrying large shipments of medical goods.
- 98-12-30: U.S. planes attack Iraqi targets for the second time after Iraqis fire surface-to-air missiles on British and U.S. aircraft flying in Iraq's southern no-fly zone. U.S. Department of Defense spokesman says there are no U.S. or British casualties and that 24 aircraft, including British Tornado and U.S. F-16 fighter jets, had returned safely to base with no damage. The U.S. and British aircraft were conducting a routine patrol at about 1:30 a.m. EST (0630 GMT) when the Iraqis fired between six and eight surface-to-air missiles from a site southwest of Talil in southern Iraq. The British pilots, flying on the same mission with the Americans, detected the Iraqi missiles and the Americans retaliated. A USCENTCOM spokesman says that, "In response to that unprovoked attack, we responded by firing two HARM missiles (anti-radar missiles) and we dropped a number of GBU-12 500 pound (300 kg) precision-guided munitions at approximately 2:15 a.m. Eastern Time (0715 GMT)."

- The British Ministry of Defense issues a statement saying that, at around 06:20 GMT on Wednesday, six Iraqi missiles were fired from a site around 20 miles (30 km) west of Talil at allied aircraft, including British Tornados, patrolling the southern no-fly zone. U.S. F-16 aircraft flying with the Tornados responded by attacking the missile site with anti-radar missiles and laser guided bombs. All coalition aircraft returned safely to base. British Defense Secretary George Robertson warns that Britain will rigorously enforce the no-fly zones despite Iraqi missile attacks and accuses Saddam Hussein of defiance, arrogance and weakness. A U.S. National Security Council spokesman says the No Fly Zone patrols would go on. "This is a key element of our containment policy to prevent (President) Saddam Hussein from using his aircraft to threaten his own people and his neighbors. We will continue to vigorously enforce it and our aircraft will take the necessary precautions to carry out their mission and defend themselves." Iraq says it will continue to fire on Western planes guarding the two no-fly zones, which were established in 1991 to deter the Iraqi army from attacking minority Kurds in the north and Shi'ite Moslems in the south of the country.
  - An Iraqi military spokesman says "Our brave air defenses have fired ground-to-air missiles at hostile (Western planes) formations forcing them to flee after it was almost certainly that one of the planes was shot down. The criminals have once again violated our airspace in the southern region as formations of their hostile planes approached today at 9:24 a.m. local time (0624 GMT)."
  - President Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin have a telephone conversation and agree that differences over Iraq should not prevent good US-Russian relations. White House spokesman David Leavy states that, "Both presidents agreed that despite differences over Iraq, it was important to continue to build the US-Russian relationship and to move the important common agenda that we have forward in 1999. Leavy says that Clinton expressed "concern about the continuing threat that Saddam poses" and said that "allied air crews will take the necessary precautions to protect themselves and carry out their mission." Yeltsin's office issues a statement that the two presidents called for the "the preservation and development of the positive potential" but says that " The Russian president confirmed his firm assessment that the Anglo-American action is unacceptable. Attempts to solve international crises by force, especially circumventing the competent international organizations, are unacceptable." Secretary of State Madeleine Albright announces that she will visit Moscow on January 25-27 visit for talks with Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov. Vice President Al Gore's plans talks with Russian Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov in March.
  - The Iraqi Health Ministry claims that more than 8,800 Iraqis died in November as a result of UN sanctions and that "6,269 children below five years and 2,584 elderly persons died during November 1998... as a result of different sorts of diseases caused by the continuation of the embargo imposed on Iraq more than eight years ago." The Ministry says its data show that in November 1989, the year before the imposition of sanctions, only 258 Iraqi children and 422 adults died. It says its statistics for children's deaths for November reveal that 1,631 died of diarrhea, 2,419 of pneumonia and 2,219 of malnutrition. Of the adult deaths, 579 were due to heart diseases and high blood pressure, 413 to diabetes and 1,592 to "tumor diseases." Health Minister Umeed Madhat Mubarak had said last August that more than one million Iraqi children had died as a result of sanctions. He said an average of 6,452 children under the age of five were now dying each month, compared with 539 a month before the Gulf crisis. Official census figures show, however, that the population of Iraq rose from 16.3 million in 1987 to 22 million in 1997.
  - Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz attacks Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan for interfering in Iraq's internal affairs and for not condemning US-led air strikes against Iraq. "Prince Hassan has made the same mistake that had been committed by other Jordanian officials who had behaved as if they were the guardians of the Iraqi people. The prince declined to say that America and Britain had committed an aggression against Iraq and he, as an Arab and Jordanian, did not condemn and reject the aggression/" Aziz also says he has "friendly relations" with Prince Hassan.
- 98-12-31: General Ali Hassan al-Majeed, a member of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council, says, "Heroes of our air defenses have fired missiles and shot down on Wednesday one of the hostile planes flying in Iraq's airspace. We will continue to liberate Iraq's sky from the evil ones who support the most corrupt

man in this world, (President Bill) Clinton, and his Arab supporters, the rulers of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.” Majeed was appointed by Saddam as commander of Iraq's southern region when the U.S. and Britain began a four-day bombing campaign against Iraq on December 17.

- Iraq's deputy premier Tariq Aziz says of Secretary General Esmat Abdel-Meguid's decision to postpone a meeting of the Arab League chief to discuss US-led air raids against Iraq that, “The decision of the Secretary-General lacks legitimacy and it also lacks sincerity. History will record that the decision taken by the Secretary-General is shameful and was taken to meet vicious Saudi desires. The battle against the aggression and the aggressors will not stop and it will continue.”
  - Iraq's Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf sends a letter to Abdel-Meguid demanding that Kuwait pay compensation for the damage caused by the strikes after allowing American and British forces to launch raids from bases on its territory. Sahaf says British and U.S. forces had fired a total 456 cruise missiles and that their planes had flown 87 missions using Kuwaiti air bases, territory and waters. “Iraq holds Kuwait fully responsible for taking part in the aggression on Iraq and the damage caused by the aggression, and stresses its full right to compensation.”
  - The USS Enterprise carrier battle group leaves to patrol the Mediterranean. The carrier battle group headed by the USS Carl Vinson remains in the Gulf, with more than two dozen other ships, 200 aircraft, and 20,000 troops.
  - Secretary-General Annan tells the Security Council that Iraq needs spare parts for its oil industry immediately or it could not export enough oil to meet food and medical needs for its people. His letter notes that the drop in world oil prices has resulted in a shortfall of more than \$1 billion from the \$3.1 billion in oil sales the UN has said was required to implement a basic humanitarian program for Iraq over the past six months, and that Iraq's oil fields are in such a lamentable state that, “It is extremely unlikely that the Iraqi oil industry will ever meet the planned production targets associated with the oil-for-food program.” He says a report from the Dutch Saybolt firm under contract to the UN to supervise Iraqi production, includes a list of the spare parts and other oil equipment that is “reasonable and covers the most essential requirements of Iraq's oil industry. It would be helpful, therefore, if the council request the (sanctions) committee to proceed as expeditiously as possible in its consideration and approval of applications for oil spare parts.” Some 133 applications worth \$43.6 million have been placed on hold by the committee. Another 238 worth \$133.6 million have been approved since June. Annan says that Saybolt reported that Iraq's oil production was declining at a rate of 4 percent a year and that even if Baghdad spent the \$600 million it has been permitted to date, oil production was likely to remain at current levels of about 2.5 million barrels per day (bpd), of which it exports an average of about 1.9 million bpd. The Saybolt team also reports that some oil fields are being harmed and face irreparable damage unless improvements are made.
- 99-1-1: U.S. defense officials report that Iraq frequently is moving anti-aircraft batteries to make Iraq's estimated 60 surface-to-air missile, or SAM, batteries hard to find and hit. “They are moving their batteries around quite heavily. A concrete building is obviously easier to plan for and to hit than something that is mobile. They are difficult to hit and mobile. They are small targets. ... And you don't always know where they are.” U.S. and British patrols and satellites track missile movements between launching sites, but this requires constant monitoring because many batteries are highly mobile. The SA-6 units, used in recent Iraqi attacks, are loaded on a trailer behind a vehicle and can move in minutes. SA-2s and SA-3 units take several days to disassemble, move, and reassemble.
- Iraqi Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan says, “Iraq will continue its confrontation of hostile planes flying in the so-called no-fly zones in southern and northern Iraq. Iraq does not recognize the two no-fly zones since they were imposed by America and Britain, as it was a unilateral decision taken outside the UN Security Council.” Ramadan also says the work of UNSCOM and IAEA inspectors is finished: “they have nothing to do in Iraq except spying on Iraq.”
  - The Baath Party newspaper *al-Thawra* says, “Our great people...will achieve victory against the wicked aggressors and it will foil their last failing dreams. Iraq's resistance of the no-fly zones is an act of self-defense and it is legal, just and in line with the Security Council resolutions.” The paper quotes a

Ministry of Culture and Information statement that, "The British government would not dare to send its crows to violate Iraq's sovereignty without military and political cover provided by corrupt (U.S. President Bill) Clinton. The British who claim they are protecting Iraqi people...are the same people who bombed Iraqi tribes in the south and north with chemical weapons during the 1930s and attacked Iraqi soldiers (during the 1991 Gulf War) with weapons enriched with depleted uranium."

- Iraq tells the UN it will no longer accept U.S. or British citizens working in the Iraq as part of its humanitarian program because of the raids in Desert Fox. The UN has 420 staff in Iraq, in Baghdad and the three Kurdish-dominated northern provinces.
- 99-1-2: *Babel* calls on Egyptians to overthrow Mubarak. "Egyptians who can not accept such behavior...would reject their shameless ruler who has lost everything, including his self-respect. In order to follow up American hostile policy against Iraq, Mubarak collaborated with Saudi rulers to prevent the Arab meeting." A cartoon shows Mubarak dancing in a female belly dancing costume while Kuwait's rulers and King Fahd stand around him, beating drums and playing music. President Clinton, Secretary Albright and Netanyahu applaud, President Clinton is shown dressed in a cowboy suit with a tie emblazoned with the Star of David.
- The Iraqi Ministry of Trade claims that, "The hostile American stand towards the Iraqi people is still high and on all levels. The U.S. Representative at Committee 661 is playing an aggressive role and continuing his economic war against the Iraqi people by deliberately impeding the arrival of food, medicine and other humanitarian needs in time to Iraq. This hostile attitude of the American Representative at Committee 661 is added evidence of the intention of U.S. officials to annihilate the Iraqi people by all means."
- 99-1-3: Saddam Hussein says the "no fly zones are, "not only a stark violation of international laws and norms, especially those of the UN, but a stark violation of Security Council resolutions themselves. What they are violating ... is the will of the Arab nation and the will of the Iraqi people... which is determined to fight back with all its courage and bravery. Arabs and just people all over the world are asking what these planes are doing flying in the skies of an independent country, and why have they been violating the air space of this country for eight years without a UN resolution permitting this."
- Senior Iraqi officials say Iraq will continue to defy the no-fly zones and an Iraqi government newspaper says confrontation with the U.S. and Britain will escalate after a pause over the New Year.
- Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa and Secretary-General of the Arab League Esmat Abdel-Meguid state that an Arab ministers meeting to discuss the situation in Iraq after Desert Fox is still on schedule for January 24th.
- 99-1-4: Iraq asks the UN to replace its American and British staff in Iraq, citing anger from citizens after the US-British bombing raids and says it cannot guarantee the safety such personnel. There are about 14 UN staff members -- one American and 13 Britons out of some 420 UN humanitarian staff in Iraq, including the three northern Kurdish. Diplomats said work to get rid of mines in the north was particularly upsetting to Baghdad, which is seeking to populate the area with non-Kurdish Iraqi citizens.
- Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf says, "Iraq completely rejects such illegal methods and procedures and stresses that it does not recognize any action which takes place outside the Arab League. Holding such a meeting is yet another example of the size of corruption and weakness the Arab League has reached. Abdel-Meguid had told reporters in Cairo on Sunday: "The January 24 meeting is still on and there is no intention to delay or postpone it. Kuwait today confirmed its attendance."
- Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa says, "There is a regrettable campaign which the Iraqi press has directed at Egypt and its leader. Egypt's stance on the Iraqi crisis is known as insisting on international law and what benefits the Iraqi people. Egypt's position will continue to call for the authority of the Security Council and respect for it, and for the Council to undertake its role in keeping peace and international security."
- State Department spokesman James Rubin says that the Iraqi Special Security Organization, led by President Saddam Hussein's second son Qusay, have carried out hundreds of summary executions in the

mainly Shi'ite south over the past six weeks, and have taken hostage more than 2,000 civilians from the southern marshes. He says the Iraqi action is linked to the assassination of two senior Islamic clerics -- Grand Ayatollah Sheik Mirza Ali al-Gharawi in June and Ayatollah Sheik Murtada al-Broujerdi in April 1998. Both were Iranian Shi'ites based in Iraq and Rubin said the killings were widely blamed on the government. "The repression reportedly reached a peak in November, with hundreds killed in actions directed personally by Qusay Hussein. Over the past six weeks we have seen reports of mass arrests throughout the southern no-fly zone and in the Shi'a suburbs of Baghdad and hundreds of summary executions of dissidents at Amara and Radwan prison. More than 2,000 civilians who were unable to flee were reportedly taken hostage by regime forces... This is old people, the infirm, women and children taken as hostages and sent to Baghdad."

- Rubin also says that an Iraqi representative gave a formal note to the UN regarding the departure of U.S. personnel in Iraq, "In his oral presentation the Iraqi official emphasized that ... some Americans working in UN humanitarian programs will receive visas and that denial of visas to others is a temporary measure. Any Iraqi effort to selectively exclude some nationalities from the staff of the UN humanitarian program would contravene the UN's worldwide policy of non-discrimination on the basis of nationality. The numbers involved here are very small and it seems that it may have little or no impact."
  - Iraq claims it had defused 58 unexploded bombs dropped during Desert Fox, "The Civil Defense Directorate defused during the latest US-British aggression on Iraq in Baghdad and the governorates 58 unexploded missiles and bombs dropped on government and civil establishments." The Directorate's Chief, Qasim Mohammed Noori, states that 39 of the unexploded bombs were found in Baghdad and the others in the southern provinces of Qadissiya, Wasit, Basra, Dhi Qar and Babil.
  - Iraq and Jordan sign an agreement under which Iraq will supply Jordan with 4.8 million tons of crude oil and byproducts in 1999. The UN permits an arrangement under which Iraq supplies Jordan with oil at concessionary rates in return for Jordanian food and medicine. The Iraqi oil prices are equivalent to grant to Jordan of up to \$250 million. Jordan wanted to increase its oil purchases from Baghdad by 3 percent from last year's 4.8 million tons. It needs one million tons of product and the rest is crude oil. This is about 75,000 barrels of oil a day.
- 99-1-5: Iraq accuses the U.S. of violating international law by maintaining no-fly zones in its northern and southern airspace, and claims that the U.S. and British air strikes in Desert Fox had won support in the Arab world despite criticism from some Arab leaders. An Information Ministry spokesman says, "When the U.S. announces it will continue to enforce the no-fly zones, it is announcing the continuation of violating the sovereignty and dignity of Iraq's northern and southern skies. Enforcing the so-called no-fly zones is an illegal action, outside UN Security Council resolutions and international legitimacy, and an aggressive action rejected by Iraq and resisted with all bravery and honor. The American insistence to enforce the no-fly zones at a time when big powers like Russia and China have announced that their imposition took place without consultation at the (UN) Security Council and has no connection with UN resolutions means the U.S. is persisting in ignoring international will."
- White House spokesman Joe Lockhart says that, "We will continue to enforce the no-fly zones, It's an important part of our containment policy."
  - U.S. Air Force and Navy warplanes fire missiles at four Iraqi MiG-25 fighters over southern Iraq in the third military confrontation in eight days. In two separate incidents some 60 miles and 15 minutes flying time from each other, two pairs of MiG-25s turn their targeting radars on two U.S. Air Force F-15s based in Saudi Arabia and two Navy F-14s from the aircraft carrier Vinson. The first incident, involving two MiGs and the F-15s occurred at about 2:15 a.m. EST (0715 GMT) or about 10:15 a.m. in Iraq, southeast of Baghdad. The second incident involving two other MiGs and the two F-14s from the Vinson occurred about 15 minutes later southwest of Baghdad. The American planes fire a total of six missiles, none of which hit their target. Another Iraqi fighter, a MiG-23, seems to have crashed after fleeing from the southern no-fly zone over southern Iraq. Pentagon spokesman Ken Bacon tells reporters that fighter may have run out of fuel. Bacon says all U.S. planes returned safely. This is the third incident between Iraq and U.S. and British forces in eight days, and the first instance in which U.S. jets have fired on Iraqi warplanes since December. 27, 1992--when a USAF F-16 shot down an Iraq MiG-25. The U.S. says as

many as 14 Iraqi jets violated the no-fly zone in eight incidents. Iraq confirmed that there had been a confrontation and said that all of its planes returned safely to bases.

- Saddam Hussein says in an Army Day broadcast after the air clashes, "Revolt, sons of the great Arab nation ... revolt and unseat those stooges, collaborators, throne dwarfs and cowards. Both you and we are aware that some of the rulers in certain countries in our great Arab nation, together with their fathers and grandfathers, were installed by foreign powers, especially Britain and the U.S. supported by vicious, racist Zionism."
- Iraq's Defense Minister General Sultan Hashim Ahmed says, "We were attacked and we had to defend ourselves," Ahmed said. "We shall defend (Iraq) to the death... We will continue to defend ourselves whether the others like it or not." When he is asked about the combat capability of Iraq's army, he says it is in "excellent" shape and that Iraq's air force is in even better shape.
- Secretary of State Madeleine Albright says, "Some of the actions of Saddam today and his rhetoric calling on people in Arab countries to overthrow the governments that do not support him really show Saddam's increasing isolation and desperation... We intend to enforce the no-fly zones."
- Gen. Henry Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is asked at a hearing of the Senate Armed Services Committee, why American missiles and jets do not destroy Iraqi military airfields and jets on the ground. "We have looked at numerous options and have various plans that are available right now. If the president were to see fit to take that type of action, we in fact have these kinds of plans on the shelf."
- A UN official states that U-2 flights from bases in Saudi Arabia have been halted and that last flight took place before the start of four days of attacks on Iraqi targets by U.S. and British warplanes and cruise missiles that ended on December 19th. UNSCOM spokesman Ewen Buchanan says, "We have not asked for any U-2 flights. I am not sure what value such flights would be if you can't actually do any inspections on the ground."
- Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz says in *Al-Jumhuriya* that, "Clinton reassured his agents in the region, especially Saudi Arabia and Egypt and others, that in the December crisis what was being planned was different from before, and the basic aim of the military aggression was to change the regime...Iraq is not alone. The Arab people are standing with it despite all the campaigns of deception. Iraq, steadfast and proud, requests an unequivocal condemnation of the aggression, a lifting of sanctions on Iraq by Arab organizations."
- UN rejects Iraq's effort to expel 14 British and American relief workers employed by the UN
- Iraqi News Agency denies any arrests, "It is clear that (U.S. State Department spokesman) James Rubin could find nothing to cover the failure of their criminal aggression to achieve its evil aim except by issuing these silly and cheap lies which exist only in Rubin's sick imagination."
- Iraq's oil exports average of 2.24 million barrels per day for previous week, versus record 2.51 million barrels per day (bpd) of exports the previous week, s the highest level since the Iraq/UN oil-for-food program began in December 1996. It remains above the 1.88 million bpd that Saybolt has claimed is Iraq's sustainable export capacity. Iraq averaged 2.01 million bpd of crude oil exports in the four weeks before January 1, 1999.
- Maad Abdel-Rahim, a leader of the opposition Iraqi National Accord, says his group has met with Hani Riyadh, Egypt's ambassador to Jordan
- 99-1-6: Lt. Gen. Sultan Hashem Ahmed, Iraq's Minister of Defense, says at a ceremony at the monument of the Unknown Soldier in Baghdad, during the 78th anniversary of Iraq's armed forces, that Iraqi air force jets will keep challenging the "no-fly" zones, "We have to defend ourselves. We shall fly in our airspace and defend it until death."
- Mohammad Baqer al-Hakim, a senior Shi'ite cleric and head of the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, claims that Iraq is preparing for aggression against Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, "Sabotage operations (would be carried out) in the two countries through Iraqi agents."

- The UN reports that Iraq's Trade Minister Mohammed Mehdi Saleh has sent a letter to government agencies buying humanitarian goods under the oil-for-food deal ordering officials not to buy from U.S. and British bids to supply it with food and medicine under the oil-for-food deal. Switzerland and Japan are included in the annex, which was to Iraqi government agencies before Desert Fox began. The Iraqi letter lists 27 favored countries headed by Russia, China and France with which Iraqi buyers were encouraged to do business. Other favored countries were mainly Arab and Asian states, mixed with European countries more sympathetic to Iraq. In descending order of priority, they include: Vietnam, Malaysia, Algeria, Tunis, Morocco, the United Arab Emirates, Indonesia, Korea, India, Pakistan, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Greece, Spain, Jordan, Cyprus, Austria, Saudi Arabia, Italy, Turkey, Yugoslavia, Belgium and Iran. Australia is not mentioned on Iraq's list but UN data show it sold goods worth \$93 million in the last phase of the accord, making it Iraq's six biggest supplier. Egypt was the third. The U.S. averaged \$70 million worth of business in the first three phases of the accord, won just \$1.3 million in the fourth phase,
- Egypt's Foreign Minister Amr Moussa and Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdel-Meguid say that Iraq was top of the agenda of a meeting of Arab foreign ministers scheduled for January 24.
- The British aircraft carrier *Invincible*, carrying Sea Harrier aircraft and Sea King helicopters departs for the Gulf with the destroyer, the *Newcastle*, and two supply ships. Britain's Minister for the Armed Forces, Douglas Henderson, says, "This is the clearest possible signal that our efforts to find a way forward on the diplomatic front remain firmly underpinned by a readiness to use military force again, if need be, to keep him (Saddam) contained."
- *The Washington Post* and *Boston Globe* report that the U.S. had used its access to UNSCOM to spy on the secret communications of the Iraqi government. *The Washington Post* says Secretary General Annan had convincing evidence that UNSCOM inspectors helped collect eavesdropping intelligence used in American efforts to undermine the Iraqi regime. *The Boston Globe* reports that U.S. intelligence agents were able to listen in on secret communications between elite military units responsible for Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's security. *The Boston Globe*, cites unnamed U.S. and UN officials as saying that the spying on Iraq's intelligence apparatus was ongoing, but that it was unclear whether the operation, which began in February 1996, was designed to topple the Saddam's regime. The *Post* says Annan's advisers acknowledged that the Secretary General was trying to put pressure on UNSCOM chief Richard Butler to resign in favor of a successor who might win the consent of Iraq and its defenders on the Security Council. It quotes the paper Assistant Secretary-General John Ruggie as stating that if these charges are true, "they would pose a serious challenge for the UN with regards to our disarmament work in Iraq and multilateral arms control efforts generally."
- Secretary-General Annan says he is unaware of a reported effort by UNSCOM inspectors to help the U.S. monitor Iraqi communications -- but says that that such cooperation could seriously harm UN disarmament work around the world. Annan's statement, released by spokesman Fred Eckhard, said: "We not only have no convincing evidence of these allegations, we have no evidence of any kind. The Secretary-General therefore rejects the characterization of his state of mind attributed to so-called 'confidants. Obviously were these charges true, it would be damaging to the UN' disarmament work in Iraq and elsewhere. Our credibility rests on our ability to maintain integrity, impartiality and professionalism in our work. Any deviation from that is damaging to the UN."
- Richard Butler flatly denies that UNSCOM spied for any country. "We have never conducted spying for anybody. Have we facilitated spying? Are we spies? Absolutely not. Don't believe everything that you read in print. There is much in those articles which is wrong. I regret it." Butler also says that UNSCOM discovered in 1995 that it had been "flagrantly deceived by Iraq through false declarations of its weapons of mass destruction programs, through concealment of weapons and through a policy of continual obstruction and seeking to defeat our work," and that UNSCOM had to seek member country aid to "crack this wall of resistance...but we have never accepted or used any of that assistance for any other purpose, not for any member state's national purposes, only for our purposes of seeking to bring about the disarmament of Iraq."

- Secretary of State Madeleine Albright telephones Annan and he reassures her that the articles did not reflect his views
- State Department spokesman James Rubin says it is it was naive to suppose the U.S. does not use material that UNSCOM collects during its search for Iraqi weapons or that UNSCOM personnel do not share their knowledge of the Iraqi system, and that. "The U.S. has been helping UNSCOM with intelligence and logistical support to try to get to the bottom of the concealment mechanism, which operates primarily through the special Republican Guard units. Through intelligence, logistical support, expertise and personnel, we have been helping UNSCOM to try to find out where these weapons of mass destruction are. The US, like every government, obtains information and analysis judgments wherever it can. That's the way governments do business... This is an attempt at mischief-making to change the subject from Iraq's failure to comply with the question of U.S. support for a UN operation that is called for by a Security Council resolution. The people who were purporting to speak for the Secretary General ... must be either incredibly ignorant about the workings of UNSCOM or be misguidedly sympathetic to the position of Saddam Hussein...Determining whether Iraq has been disarmed is a technical judgment only the UN Special Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency are qualified to make...We will continue to reject any political, diplomatic or bureaucratic efforts to undermine the professionalism and integrity of the UN Special Commission. We will look with interest at any proposal to improve the effectiveness, the integrity, the professionalism and the ability to operate of UNSCOM."
- Iraq's Ambassador, Nizar Hamdoon, says, "For us this is not really news. We were accusing UNSCOM of doing exactly the same that was confirmed today by the Washington Post: this is for UNSCOM to be utilized by the U.S. government to try to destabilize the government in Baghdad."
- Russian Ambassador Sergey Lavrov says, "We said after that report we cannot trust the chairman of UNSCOM, Ambassador Butler, and this position stays."
- Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Vladimir Rakhmanin repeats Russia's long-standing opposition to the no-fly zones and calls for all sides to show restraint. "We're seriously concerned by the new incidents...Our negative view of these unlawful actions is well known. Sooner or later this issue has to be reviewed in a fundamental way. At this stage, we urge all sides to show restraint."
- 99-1-7: A U.S. F-16 fires missiles at what is believed to be a Roland Iraqi ground missile radar site in the northern no-fly zone after its radar targeted an aircraft policing the exclusion area. The F-16CJ picked up indications it was being targeted by a Roland mobile surface-to-air missile radar. At 3:12 a.m. EST, the F-16 fired a HARM anti-radiation missile then returned safely to base. The radar does not come on-line again and the missile unit is believed to have been hit. The incident is the fourth in 10 days
- Lt. General. Anthony Zinni says Saddam's grip on power seems to be slipping and that he is trying to assert control by repeatedly challenging "no-fly" zones, by executing suspect military and civilian leaders and by attacking Arab leaders. "He's dangerous now. He could become more dangerous." Zinni says Iraq has now violated the no-fly zones at least 40 times in the last few weeks. He says Saddam's efforts to shoot down a U.S. or UK plane are "a desperate attempt ... to claim some sort of victory. These are fairly desperate attempts to regain some of that position (in Iraq and the region) that he held before, or thought he held before. We're seeing signs -- and I wouldn't want to overstate what we're seeing or make predictions -- but we are seeing things that indicate that maybe his grip on control and the ruthlessness by which he attempts to maintain control is slipping."
- Zinni also says that Saddam ordered the executions of military officers he considered traitors during Desert Fox, and has apparently executed civilian leaders in the south since that time. If I were a member of Saddam's inner circle, I'd worry. I do think we see clear signs that his internal control has been affected. I think we see clear signs that he's worried about it. I think we see clear signs that he's doing things that are desperate." When he is asked how long U.S. warplanes can play cat and mouse with Iraqi aircraft, Zinni states that it is up to President Clinton whether to authorize further military action, such as bombing Iraqi airfields. "We do have contingency plans to react if that decision is made."
- A Pentagon spokesman says that most no-fly incursions have been "cheat-and-retreat actions." The two violations in the southern no-fly zone on January 6, for example, lasted seven minutes and four minutes.

- Two MiG-21s “darted into the no-fly zone for a very brief period of time and at a time when U.S. aircraft were not in the area. So, as I say, it was timid, cheat and retreat. And that's basically the pattern we're seeing day in and day out.”
- Ambassador Hamdoun, say the reports in *The Boston Globe* and *The Washington Post* support Iraq's claims, “If this has been established now as a fact, then the whole issue of Iraq's compliance would have to be dealt with differently.”
  - Scott Ritter says on Australian radio that the U.S. had access to information compiled by UNSCOM about weapons of mass destruction in Iraq and about Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, and that information was then used in the December bombings of Iraq by the U.S. and Britain, code-named Operation Desert Fox. “I think it's quite obvious when you look at the facilities bombed by the U.S. in Operation Desert Fox that they were targeting locations based upon information that UNSCOM had developed. I find that reprehensible.” He supports the views in the two U.S. newspaper reports which said the U.S. had tapped secret Iraqi communications by using intelligence gathered by Butler's weapons teams. “The U.S. provided critical assistance to the Special Commission and through this assistance was brought into contact with very sensitive information that touched upon the political situation in Iraq. We investigated how they protected these weapons and that brought us into contact with how they protect the president. Some of this information, the U.S. became aware of.”
  - Butler tells Australian Broadcasting Corporation radio that, “There's no spying, I want to rebut that completely. UNSCOM has never conducted intelligence activities for any of the 40 or 50 member states who support us, of which the U.S. is only one,” Butler said, adding his teams had accepted assistance from member states, including the US. I've always made it clear that we will only accept assistance that is directed to our disarmament purposes and I would not approve of anything that may serve separate purposes. I think sensible people recognize that shooting the messenger is a pretty bad way of solving a problem of substance.”
  - The CIA and the National Security Agency (NSA) decline to comment on *New York Times* and the Wall Street Journal reports that U.S. spies joined UNSCOM inspection teams and that the NSA had a direct feed of conversations between Iraqi security agencies. The Wall Street Journal reported that UNSCOM picked up encrypted signals from the Iraqi communications network, including Republican Guard units, and a U.S. satellite transmitted them to the NSA for decoding. The NSA then relayed some of the information back to the UNSCOM inspectors in Baghdad. The NSA says it has no comment. *The New York Times* reports that U.S. intelligence officers, using diplomatic or other professional identities, worked undercover on UNSCOM teams and gathered intelligence independently of UNSCOM. The CIA declined to comment.
  - State Department spokesman James Foley denies that U.S. intelligence officers performed this role in UNSCOM but refuses to discuss the NSA's role. “These experts were sent to UNSCOM to carry out UNSCOM's mission and take direction from UNSCOM” He is asked if the team included any U.S. intelligence officers, and says, “No. (But) It really is impossible for me to discuss intelligence matters as such. We never do it.”
  - UN spokesman Fred Eckhard says “The reports ... tend to lend more credence to these allegations. I don't think anything yet is proven, and so it is still, I think, too soon to make firm judgments.”
  - Richard Butler says he has asked U.S. officials “What they might have done unbeknownst to us,” in using UN weapons searches in Iraq to undermine Saddam Hussein's regime. He says he expects to have “relevant conversation” and “wanted real answers. We don't want our system misused in that way.” He says he discussed his concerns with Secretary-General Annan, who in turn has been in contact with Secretary Albright.
  - General Zinni says he has no evidence that any schools or hospitals were directly hit during Desert Fox. He is reacting to a preliminary survey by UNICEF, and the World Food Program, which said the attacks flattened an agricultural school in the northern city of Kirkuk, and damaged at least a dozen other schools and hospitals in Baghdad. “We look at our battle damage assessment and we use our intelligence sources and the pictures you see and everything and we have not seen any of this. “ Some of this could possibly

- have been damage from shock effect. We have seen some broken glass and ceiling tiles, and the possibility (is) that that kind of effect might have taken place. We have seen nothing like a quote direct hit -- I mean we would see a direct hit. We've looked very hard through intelligence (data) and haven't seen it, so we haven't seen the proof or evidence for any of this." Zinni estimates that the attacks killed between 800 and 1,200 members of the elite Iraqi Republican Guard, units of which guard President Saddam Hussein as well as Iraq's secret biological and chemical weapons projects.
- Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Ganzouri says, "The Iraqi regime is pressing ahead with policies that have made it lose (our) trust and alienated it from the Arab states. It has the utter denunciation by all strata of the Egyptian people of the Iraqi regime and its excesses against Egypt and the Arab world." *Al-Ahram* newspaper prints a front page editorial saying that that Saddam's call was his "last and losing card. Saddam, with all the disasters of its blood-thirsty regime...can not determine the Arab agenda or defend Arab rights or honor."
  - The Gulf Arab states react to Saddam Hussein call for Arabs to revolt against their rulers. Kuwait's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheik Saad al-Abdulla says that, "aggressive intents are always present in Saddam Hussein's regime. His attacks against Arab leaders are not new because swears and insults and conspiracies are tools which the Iraqi regime uses against all those who do not follow it." The Kuwaiti newspaper *al-Anba* says, "Who will heed your invitation you moron? No one except the Iraqi people who must rise one day to step on the red hats of your guards and spit on your statue." Saudi Arabia's *al-Riyadh* newspaper says that Saddam's speech reflects his "political and intellectual bankruptcy" and that the solution is now the "termination of Saddam. This is the truth over which there is no disagreement. How could this be achieved?...The Iraqi people alone own the future and should act accordingly."
  - The Saudi *al-Yawm* newspaper says, "The tyrant of Baghdad has started the process of writing the beginning of his end and hammering the last nail in his coffin as the worst ruler Iraq has witnessed in its long history. It will not only increase Baghdad's isolation but will lead to the imminent fall of the regime." The Saudi newspaper *Okaz* says, "The Arab masses will not respond to those who gamble with their destiny. The regime of Saddam cannot live in a healthy political climate because political stability...means the Iraqi people will wake up to work for their security and stability by lifting that regime off their chests and causing its downfall forever." The UAE's *Gulf News* says, "There is no reason for the Arab world to fight over whether to hold a summit to discuss Iraq, clearly they must. To keep Saddam from speaking for everyone, the Arab world has to find its own voice."
  - A spokesman for the Iraqi Ministry of Culture and Information says that Hakim, head of the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, met Kuwaiti ruler Sheik Jaber al-Ahmad al-Sabah, and that this was so that "plots and sabotage acts that would be carried out...by the so-called opposition who consist of thieves, mercenaries and criminals. Their treacherous role in taking part in the American-British aggression against Iraq is yet another proof of their dirty game."
  - Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf sends a letter to the president of the UN Security Council discussing of UN coordination with two non-governmental organizations clearing mines in the north. "The information in the report...reveals the presence of three non-governmental organizations working in northern Iraq without the knowledge or agreement of the Iraqi government, which means their cadres entered Iraq illegally." He gives no details of the organizations involved. The de-mining operations in the Kurdish provinces are viewed as a threat by the Iraqi government, as is the removal of mines close to the border with Iran.
  - The Iraqi Communist Party claims that 81 Iraqis, including 18 military officers, were executed in Baghdad for political or security-related reasons during Desert Fox, and that four officers were convicted under Article 223 of the penal code, which stipulates the death penalty for anyone who attempts to kill the president. "Our party sources inside Iraq have reported that the dictatorial regime carried out in mid-December 1998 a horrific massacre which claimed the lives of tens of political detainees who had been languishing in the cells and dungeons of Abu Gharib Prison in Baghdad. The executed victims...were convicted on political or security-related charges after sham trials in which the accused did not enjoy even the most basic rights." The Statement claims that Colonel Salem Eidan Muhawash and Major Hilal

- Farhan Naji supervised the killings and that around 2,500 detainees had been killed since 1997 as part of a "prison cleanup campaign."
- French President Jacques Chirac, states that, "The (US-British) air strikes did not resolve anything so the UN Security Council should regain its full role. The main lesson of this crisis is that no one should weaken the Security Council because it cannot be replaced." He says the goal of the UN should be "to ensure security in the region and give the Iraqi people the means to lead normal lives," and calls for, "a lifting of the international embargo coupled with a strict control of funds Iraq receives from exports. That is the only reasonable solution."
  - Prime Minister Lionel Jospin also criticizes Desert Fox and the air strikes and says France is working on new proposals to solve the crisis and lift sanctions. Jospin says the air strikes showed Washington to be "acting unilaterally and to be at pains to keep up with its ambition of leading the international community. We went from a situation in which...the UN was reminding Iraq of its obligations, to a direct confrontation between the Baghdad regime and our American and British friends."
- 99-1-8: General Henry Shelton, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, says that Desert Fox killed several key advisers and up to 1,600 Republican Guard troops and others, "When you look at some of the intel (intelligence) reporting that has come in, (there are) several key individuals that were right in the upper structure that are no longer available to him, to advise or to lead." He refuses to elaborate but, but says that up to "several times" as many may have injured with almost no damage to civilians. "We know who protects the center of gravity. And so that's who was targeted. I think that Saddam is feeling the pressure, is becoming more desperate." Shelton refuses to name of top or to the source of the intelligence: "I can't, because it relates to the sources that we have and I don't want to reveal that. That would hurt us." Shelton reiterates earlier claims that U.S. and British missiles and bombs had hit 64 out of 66 planned targets and had caused minimum collateral damage to civilian sites.
- General Zinni provides an updated damage assessment for Desert Fox. He says that 600 to 1,600 members of Saddam Hussein's Republican Guard may have been killed, as well as "several key individuals" in his leadership structure. He states that the strikes destroyed key pieces of equipment used to maintain, repair and improve Iraq's missile capability, and that Iraq's program has been put back two years, instead of one. He declines to name the individuals, cite their positions or what their importance might have been. He also states that his estimates of deaths is "based on unconfirmed reporting from a variety of sources," and that "I ... give you a range from about 600 to 1,600 that could have been killed and probably several times that ... that were killed or injured." Zinni says "We struck and damaged significantly" about 85 percent of all targets, and that the U.S. military didn't specifically use intelligence gathered by UNSCOM inspection efforts to select Iraqi targets. Zinni says the recent violations of the no-fly zones and the testing of U.S. and British aircraft are an indication of Saddam's desperation at being hit so hard. "I believe he is shaken."
  - The Baath Party newspaper *al-Thawra* accuses Egypt and Saudi Arabia of undermining the Arab summit, "On orders from America, the Saudi foreign minister (Prince Saud al-Faisal) visited Egypt secretly and discussed how to contain Arab anger against the aggression. This has led Egypt to change its official stand towards Iraq, and then the Arab League Secretary-General (Esmet Abdel-Meguid) has found good excuses to postpone an Arab ministerial meeting. But Iraq knows such a wicked game and will not accept anything less than condemning the aggression and lifting sanctions."
  - The U.S. announces that UNSCOM inspectors are examining options for a less comprehensive system that would only monitor Iraq's known weapons capabilities. According to UN officials, one option would be a shift to a long-term monitoring program. The IAEA has made a similar shift in checking Iraq's nuclear weapons capabilities. This assumes that Iraq will never be 100 percent disarmed, and that the issue is how well monitoring can do under such conditions. France has suggested a similar system. The U.S. has states that it would prefer to contain Iraq than allow a weakened UNSCOM. Russia's ambassador, Sergey Lavrov, has indicated that he feels Butler should go and has suggested other organizations, such as Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. "We just have to leave our minds open, and not concentrate entirely on UNSCOM as The mechanism which we can rely upon."

- Butler says that, "I think UNSCOM certainly has got a fairly heavy dose of the flu at the moment. But I don't think we're the dead that won't lie down. We're a long way from that. The way in which that cooperation may be able to be elicited is, I suspect, the Security Council designing a new approach to get this ship relaunched. They're on the case." Butler is under increasing pressure to resign -- or leave after end of his term on June 30th."
- Butler meets U.S. envoy Peter Burleigh to discuss reported U.S. efforts to use his inspectors for its own intelligence purposes. "At no point have I given authorization to place any part of UNSCOM's operation under the control of the U.S. or any other supporting government."
- Scott Ritter tells the French daily Liberation that had made agreements to provide the five countries with information it collected in return for the sharing their intelligence. He says that UNSCOM was not forbidden from passing on the information it gathered to other governments, so long as its head Richard Butler authorized the arrangement. He said he met officials of the French secret services to propose such a deal with France, but that France rejected the offer -- "by helping us, they would only help UNSCOM discover that Iraq was cheating, and that, according to them, would not take things any further forward." Ritter names the U.S. but does not name the four other nations. He also says that, "Russia is a hopeless case. The Russians are working for the Iraqis."
- Massoud Barzani of the Kurdistan Democratic Party and Jalal Talabani of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan met in Barzani's headquarters for their first meeting in the Kurdish autonomous zone in northern Iraq since 1994. Delchad Mirani, a KDP official says, "They will be discussing the peace process and implementation of the Washington agreement. There are some major issues that have not been solved, such as the question of forming an interim government between the two parties."
- 99-1-9: Saddam Hussein praises the Iraqi military forces for their performance in confronting U.S. and British warplanes patrolling Iraqi skies. "The President hailed...the high morale of the air hawks (pilots) and our brave anti-aircraft men." Iraqi air defense commanders pledge to continue their effort to confront U.S. and British warplanes patrolling the No Fly Zones
- British Prime Minister Tony Blair says in Kuwait that, "The only way to deal with Saddam is to make it clear that if he attempts to threaten anybody in this neighborhood, he will be beaten back by force and we will do this again if necessary."
- Hassan Ibrahim al-Mahdawi, chairman of the legal committee of the Iraqi National Assembly, says a special session that, "The countries who allow America and Britain to use their territories in order to launch their aggression against Iraq should be regarded as hostile states...and they should be punished." Speaker Saadoun Hammadi says, "We reject all UN Security Council resolutions including Resolution 687." Ibrahim Yousif Turki, says, "Demarcation (of borders between Iraq and Kuwait) is an alien and tyrannical decision...and Iraqi deputies reject it." Hamoudi says this is premature, but that, "The (UN) resolution imposed a savage and illegal demarcation of borders on Iraq...It (demarcation) cut off Iraqi waters and territory and handed them to Kuwait."
- President Clinton meets with his senior national security advisers on the situation in Iraq
- 99-1-10: Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz writes that, "Certain Arab circles are uttering dubious calls that Iraq should apologize for the (occupation of Kuwait) in order to open the way for Arab reconciliation Those making such calls, i.e. those collaborating since 1990 with the American-Zionist scheme to destroy Iraq and control the region, are distorting facts of history."
- The Iraqi parliament adopts a resolution calling for further discussions on all UN resolutions concerning Iraq. The resolution makes no mention of demands by members for withdrawal of recognition of Kuwait, Iraq's invasion of which in August 1990 led to the Gulf War. In 1994 the Iraqi parliament voted to recognize Kuwait within its UN- demarcated borders. It does for Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to pay reparations for damage inflicted by recent air strikes by the U.S. and Britain.
- Massoud Barzani and Jalal Talabani meet in northern Iraq to discuss progress in a four-month-old US-brokered peace deal and tension between Iraq and the US. A joint statement simply says that, "In

discussing the current situation in Kurdistan and Iraq, both sides agreed to unify their positions toward current events and developments.”

- Saudi Arabia announces it plans to propose an initiative to lift UN sanctions on the import of food and medical supplies by Iraq to the foreign ministers of Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait meeting in Jeddah and will seek Arab and international support. A Saudi official says the initiative “aims at lifting the suffering of the Iraqi people by adopting Security Council resolutions allowing for the import of humanitarian goods from food to medicine and educational tools. Why should the issue of rice in Iraq be linked to the approval of an employee in Geneva? There should be no restrictions on the entry of humanitarian goods to Iraq.” The official says Saudi Arabia will not ask for the lifting of sanctions on the imports of weapons or any military equipment.
- French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine says UNSCOM had been highly efficient “but there is a new situation and we cannot progress further...with the methods used by UNSCOM and by Mr. (William) Butler, We therefore consider we now have to set up a new control tool...a sort of new UNSCOM. It is clear today it was an error (to carry out air strikes) and it weakened the authority of the Security Council. The main lesson of this crisis is that no one should weaken the Security Council because it cannot be replaced” He says France will propose a new monitoring framework but gives no details.
- 99-1-11: Secretary-General Annan says, “There are lots of noises coming out of Iraq and I think we need to wait a while to assess what is actually happening, including the threats against Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.” Annan said of the vote by the Iraqi parliament that, “I think this will pose a major challenge for the Security Council and the UN. I do not know if this will be followed through; it has happened in the past that the Revolutionary Council has not always gone with the parliament.” He says of possible ties between U.S. intelligence and UNSCOM that, “I don't think the issue is (UNSCOM executive chairman Richard) Butler and I don't think the issue is UNSCOM. In the scheme of things we are dealing with much larger issues, about compliance of Iraq and stability in the region that we should focus on. I have absolutely no evidence and I think Mr. Butler's statement has been forthright and the U.S. itself has said they gave him support that he required for his work.”
- Secretary of State Albright will announces she will visit Saudi Arabia and Egypt a three-day trip to Moscow which ends on January 27th.
- Secretary Cohen warns Iraqi withdrawal recognition of Kuwait would be a "flagrant violation" of Security Council resolutions. “We are watching it very closely.”
- U.S. fighter jets open fire on an Iraqi missile site after they are targeted by an Iraqi missile site near Mosul while they are patrolling the northern zone. Two F15-E's drop two precision-guided bombs and a U.S. F16-CJ fires a HARM missile. Damage to the Iraqi site is uncertain, but there is no damage to U.S. planes.
- Kuwait puts some of its military units on maximum alert because of Iraqi threats.
- Iraq rejects a Saudi proposal to ease UN economic sanctions as inadequate and accusing the Saudis of aggression. The foreign ministers of six Persian Gulf states supported the Saudi proposal, which sought to persuade the UN to lift the embargo on Iraq for all goods except those that could be used for military purposes. The Gulf foreign ministers discussed the Saudi proposal on the 10th, and gave it “general preliminary approval.” Iraq replied by stating that it, “categorically rejects the so-called Saudi initiative. Saudi Arabia has been a party to the aggression against Iraq since 1990. Therefore it is not expected that it will come up with positive and fair proposals in favor of Iraq.”
- Iraq exports 2.04 million barrels per day during the previous week. This the first time Iraq has exported more than two million barrels per day (bpd) for three straight weeks since the "oil-for-food" program began in December 1996.
- Iraq says it plans to rebuild shelters, restaurants and other facilities at a border crossing with Saudi Arabia to better accommodate pilgrims and other travelers from both countries.

- Iraq's largest bill -- the 250-dinar note -- is now worth about 13 cents. Before the invasion of Kuwait, a dollar bought 20 dinars on the black market and the largest bill was the vivid red-and-blue 25-dinar note. Today, a dollar is worth about 1,800 dinars.
- 99-1-12: Richard Butler confirms that all UN monitoring of Iraq has stopped, including high surveillance flights by American U-2s, but says, "UNSCOM is not dead. We've had one (monitoring system) there since 1994, but clearly in the future it will have to be bigger in scope, range, staffing, We'll be back under this new dispensation."
- The Security Council's permanent members -- Britain, China, France, Russia and the U.S. -- meet to discuss proposals to resume the oversight of Iraq's weapons program. France proposes to Security Council that it ease weapons inspections and economic sanctions against Iraq shifting the role of UNSCOM from conducting surprise inspections of Iraq's weapons sites to monitoring the sites using such tools as surveillance cameras, and for easing of the oil embargo to p improve conditions for ordinary Iraqis. U.S. Ambassador Peter Burleigh says, "any change in the sanctions regime that says that Iraq has met its disarmament requirements is unacceptable. There have essentially been no inspections in Iraq for six months Since August, neither UNSCOM nor the IAEA have been able to see what is going on in Iraq." Russian ambassador Sergei Lavrov says key council members must first make a decision to discuss new ideas "before we can work on the concepts of them."
- State Department spokesman James P. Rubin says the UN resolutions requiring disarmament of Iraq before monitoring can begin "can't be leapfrogged (but) We have always been open to ideas to improve the professionalism, the competence and the effectiveness of the UNSCOM regime and we will continue to be willing to discuss any such ideas with our partners in the Security Council."
- British officials dismiss French proposals to change UNSCOM. "The French want a monitoring mission in Iraq but without a disarmament role. This is absolutely not acceptable to Britain because it rewards Iraq for not cooperating with UNSCOM. It doesn't make sense."
- The sixth clash since December 28 occurs in the no-fly zones. A USAF F-16 fighter plane fires a HARM at an early-warning radar site in northern Iraq's no-fly and returns safely to base in Incirlik. The encounter takes place at 3 a.m. EST, or 11 a.m. Iraqi time, near the city of Mosul in northern Iraq.
- Secretary Cohen, says the U.S. will continue to give enforce the no-fly zones and Iraq would pay a price if it challenges the U.S. and Britain. He declines to say whether repeated Iraqi missile threats against U.S. and British jets, or violations by Iraqi warplanes of the no-fly zones, might lead to wider U.S. attacks.
- Bulent Ecevit, Turkey's new Prime Minister, says the U.S. has no clear policy for dealing with Iraq, "I don't understand what the U.S. wants to achieve. They have tactics, but no policy or strategy. On one hand we want Iraq to be more conciliatory with the world, on the other we want the U.S. to consider and implement more peaceful methods." He states, however, that he does not see any change in the status of a joint US-Turkish airbase used to patrol the northern no-fly zone.
- Turkish trucks keep up the illegal trade in diesel fuel. The fuel is around the Iraqi city of Kirkuk and transported to northern Iraq where a Kurdish faction organizes its sale to Turkish drivers. The Iraqi fuel sells at the pump for around 100,000 Turkish lira (\$0.31) in Turkey. Official diesel fuel sells for at over 150,000 lira. As a result, total official diesel sales are 31 percent lower in 1998 than in 1996. The decline in diesel sales over the last two years is estimated to have cost Turkish official sellers close to \$19 million in gross profits. The government makes around 12 million lira from each ton of the Iraqi diesel. There are some 42,000 trucks licensed to make the crossing between one and three times a month. Each can carry more than four tons of fuel.
- Mohammad Baqer al-Hakim, who heads the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI) based in Tehran, states that efforts to overthrow Saddam Hussein must be organized from within Iraq without a direct foreign role. He says the U.S. of helping Iraq suppress previous attempts, "Our study of realities inside Iraq and the region...dictates that change inside Iraq must be by the hands of the Iraqi people from within." He says that outside help should include humanitarian aid mentioned in UN resolutions and recommendations, but not direct involvement. "Three times we were close to change but

the foreign factor (US) strongly interfered to stop the change, that is why we are seeking to make the change within Iraq in harmony with general international stands and political circumstances around us. In the 1991 intifada (uprising), the Iraqi people were close to the point of change...and taking over Baghdad but the U.S. intervened in the face of this change and placed obstacles before this change. It provided (Baghdad with) aid in addition to wide political and media support to quell the intifada...Another well-prepared operation in 1995 also faced (US) intervention to stop it and exposing it in addition to other (attempts) which I do not think is appropriate for me to detail.”

- The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) says, “The international community should enhance Iraqi Kurdistan's security by extending the no-fly zone to cover the 40 percent of Iraqi Kurdish territory not presently patrolled.” The PUK is based in the town of Sulaymaniyah, south of the 36th parallel and outside the No Fly Zone.
  - Kuwait's parliament on Tuesday holds a closed session to discuss military and other measures to protect the country against Iraq.
  - Egypt's Foreign Minister Amr Moussa announces that, In the next few days there will be a consultative meeting of foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Syria, Yemen, Oman and Egypt” to prepare for Arab League talks on Iraq.
- 99-1-13: The French Foreign Ministry issues a statement that, “France thinks that it is time for the Security Council to consider that no progress can be made by an illusory resumption of previous methods.” It explains more details of the plan it presented a day earlier to the other four permanent members of the Security Council. The three-point plan includes the lifting of the long-standing oil embargo in conjunction with surveillance both within Iraq and at the borders to ensure Iraq meets its commitments not to build weapons of mass destruction. Under the plan, a new control team will be set up to take the place of UNSCOM. It would not hunt for evidence of existing weapons of mass destruction or missiles, and would have a “preventative rather than a retrospective role under a reformed control commission, in order to guarantee its independence and re-enforce its professionalism. The present situation is damaging for the Security Council's pursuit of its objectives, for regional stability and for the Iraqi people.”

The text of the French proposal is released and says, “France proposes to the Security Council an approach vis a vis the Iraqi question in order to open new perspectives, to ensure on a long term basis regional stability and security, while improving the fate of the population. After seven years of UNSCOM (UN Special Commission) and IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) control and disarmament activities, the recent bombings may have weakened the Iraqi military potential but they have also created a new situation that renders further investigations on the past programs almost impossible.

“France considers it is high time for the Security Council to recognize that no additional progress on disarmament work can be reached by an illusory resumption of unchanged previous methods. Such an attempt would only create a new cycle of tensions, provocations and bombings, which would be detrimental to the Security Council and would have no positive effect on security and stability. Moreover, it is doubtful that Iraqi authorities, in such a case, will show the indispensable spirit of full cooperation. Therefore, international vigilance should take new forms.

“In this spirit, France proposes to its partners the three following ideas to contribute to a way out of this crisis and to a solution to the Iraqi question:

“1. A long term monitoring and prevention of any effort aimed at developing again weapons of mass destruction by Iraq either through the use of remaining stocks that may have escaped the current control or destruction, or through new prohibited programs. The control would no longer be retrospective but would become preventive. This task would be accomplished under the responsibility of a renewed control commission so that its independence will be ensured and its professionalism strengthened. A plan will be established to fit the operational control to the situation on the field and to reaffirm the extended rights of access and investigation the renewed control body will have in order to conduct efficient surprise inspections. Personnel and financial resources should be increased and the control body endowed with autonomous operational budget. The current system which prevents Iraq to import dual

use items should be tested and, as necessary, strengthened in particular through physical controls on the borders.

“2. Such a system contributing in an effective manner to the regional stability and meeting the legitimate concerns of Iraq's neighbors would allow the lifting of the embargo on oil and petroleum products exports. This embargo has no more *raison d'être*. It hurts the people of Iraq and keeps them as hostages of their authorities. The Security Council already did accept important exemptions to this embargo when it adopted the so-called “oil-for-food” programs. These programs have in some way showed the path. However, as oil exports remain prohibited, these mechanisms can only generate smuggling which is obviously not benefiting the Iraqi people. This embargo has become a wrong tool to achieve the goals of the Security Council. It needs to be lifted. At the same time, one should ensure that revenues generated by oil exportations are not used for military purposes.

“3. In order to complement these two first proposals, the following economic and financial monitoring measures should be adopted: Each oil contract should be notified to the UN Secretariat by buyers and Iraq. Oil movements should be controlled on the field. The objective would be to ensure an economic and financial transparency, so that Iraq can develop its economy and proceed with the commercial transactions related thereto, in the respect of its international financial obligations (compensation for war damages, financing the Ongoing Monitoring and Verification), and without distracting these resources for the reconstitution of weapons of mass destruction.

Regarding imports, the prohibition on arms established by resolution 687 would remain. A prior authorization regime would be implemented for the dual use items included in the annexes approved by Security Council resolution 1051. Other Iraqi imports of goods and services would not be submitted to any restrictions. Should Baghdad fulfill its other international obligations, in particular regarding the missing persons during the Gulf War, remaining sanctions on Iraq, under this new mechanism, would be progressively lifted. Conversely, should Iraq not comply with its undertakings and obligations under the Security Council resolutions or under this new mechanism, the Security Council could at any moment decide to adopt new sanctions.”

- State Department spokesman James Rubin says, “We have a number of questions and concerns that we are going to address to France about the proposal. In addition, let me say there are some positive elements in the French proposal that deal with the essential task of ensuring that Iraq does not rearm and is disarmed.”
- UN Ambassador Peter Burleigh says, “We have questions about some important aspects of the French proposal. This will trigger an ongoing debate here in the (Security) Council for many days...The U.S. government does not believe that it is documented that the disarmament process for Iraq has been completed. And it appears that the French proposal makes that assumption -- either that Iraq is disarmed or that there is nothing further to be known.... biological weapons file as the most dramatic case in point.” He says the U.S. “believes that UNSCOM and the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) should go back to Iraq, certainly. The U.S. fully committed to the implementation of all the body of resolutions regarding Iraq since 1990. And we want to clarify our understanding of the French position that the government of France agrees. We appreciate the fact that the French government has put together a proposal that has refocused attention here in the (Security) Council.”
- An Iraqi spokesman says “Iraq sees a need for a balanced dialogue based on good intentions under the umbrella of the Arab nation...to find practical solutions to the situations. The Arab nation's interest, they should be based on pan-Arab security.” The spokesman calls for Arabs to condemn supporters of the U.S. and British strikes, and that Arabs should, “consider any aggression from a foreign faction upon any Arab country as an aggression on the Arab nation as a whole.”
- Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan rejects any attempt to revive inspections by UNSCOM and Arab and international initiatives designed to change the arms inspection regime and end sanctions: “There are Arab and some international movements whose general direction is a call to lifting the sanctions, but they carry conditions that lead to exchanging eight-year-old sanctions with a new embargo...Any talk about the future of this commission, whether it has to do with beautifying the ugliness of this commission or to change one of its spies, its make-up or the role of one of its members, we say it's a waste of time... We will continue to confront this violation with all of our capabilities, regardless of the cost.”

- British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook says, "We have to deal with how we can maintain an effective inspection regime. We both feel full compliance is necessary... and an effective inspection regime and probably a modification of the inspection regime is necessary. That would seem to be the logical first step. We have sought dialogue for eight years... and he gives undertakings freely. The best way is for him to accept his obligations, particularly regarding weapons of mass destruction." Cook is meeting with his Dutch counterpart and says Britain is delighted the Netherlands is now a member of the Security Council, "I would particularly welcome its appointment to the chair of the sanctions committee on Iraq... I hope together we can form a partnership which will isolate Iraq."
  - Iraq attacks a meeting of Arab foreign ministers from Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Oman and Yemen in Cairo to discuss the Iraqi crisis. Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf, says the meeting of ministers from was being held "on the pretext of continuing consultations. (It) can only be described as the insistence of some of the so-called Damascus Declaration states not to follow a sound Arab course in the framework of the Arab League and to continue a policy of creating axes and blocs."
  - U.S. planes flying over Iraq's no-fly zone are illuminated with ground radar and fired upon. The U.S. aircraft respond, score two direct hits on Iraqi air defense batteries near Mosul and return safely to their base at Incirlik. A U.S. spokesman says, "We responded with a series of precision-guided missiles including Harm missiles. We think we had some success with our precision-guided munitions and struck the radar sites." This is the eighth military confrontation since Desert Fox. Iraq possesses over 1,000 surface-to-air missiles.
  - An Iraqi spokesman says that several formations of U.S. and British planes entered Iraqi air space at 0951 (0651 GMT). Iraqi air defenses "opened fire on one of those enemy formations and our border observation post saw one of the enemy planes hit. One of these formations approached one of our air defense sites and they were engaged and fired upon by one of our missile units at 1045 (0745 GMT)."
  - Egypt's Foreign Minister Amr Moussa denies a report that he gave an interview and said that Iraq is in need of new leadership.
  - The U.S. selects Geneva-based Cotecna Inspection S.A, whose chief executive is under investigation for money laundering s, to replace the British Lloyds Register as the UN monitors for goods entering Iraq on February 1, when the current contract with Lloyds expires. Cotecna's managing director was indicted for alleged money laundering on behalf of former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and her family. Cotecna has denied the charges. There are nearly 50 UN border monitors in Iraq to inspect imports bought with Iraq's oil revenues at four major posts -- near Syria, Jordan, Turkey and the Umm Qasr in Iraq. They must approve imports before suppliers can be paid.
- 99-1-14: Ambassador Peter Burleigh presents five proposals to the UN for changing the sanctions process. The first is, "to eliminate the ceiling on funds for oil exports which can be used for food and medicine imports to Iraq." The U.S. proposals an apparent reaction to a more liberal plan presented by France to the council on Wednesday to break the impasse on Iraqi policy. In practice, the U.S. plan would maintain the status quo because Iraq is already allowed to sell \$5.25 billion in oil every six months to buy food, medicine and other supplies, but is only able to sell about \$3 billion worth of oil in that time frame because of its dilapidated oil industry and low oil prices, and cannot raise its export level until March 2000 because of the limits imposed by its pipelines and oil fields.
- Burleigh says the U.S. will review the spare parts contracts to revamp Iraq's oil industry, but that the U.S. opposed to approving equipment relating to oil refineries because this related to smuggled goods that did not find their way into food or medicine for ordinary Iraqis. Burleigh's other proposals include streamlining approvals for Iraqi contracts for food and medicines, allowing Iraq to borrow money for food and medicine from an escrow account and asking UN agencies to expand programs for children. France had proposed a trade policy that would allow Iraq to import all civilian goods so it could revamp its economy, while the U.S. plan maintained the current tight UN controls on all products except food and medicine.
- Burleigh says Iraq's applications for food and medicine should be approved automatically and not go through the Security Council's sanctions committee, and that Iraq could borrow for food and medicine from an account set up in October 1992 in which governments that owed Baghdad money for oil sales could deposit the funds and use it to repay Iraq's debts. Burleigh also cites UN reports that indicate Iraq is

not making proper use of the funds it receives to help its children, and had not submitted contracts for the nutrition and welfare of small children. "There are even some reports that Iraq is exporting grains. If it is the case, it again raises questions of what is the Government of Iraq is up to."

Burleigh says the U.S. insists that UNSCOM be able to return to Iraq. France had proposed a restructured inspection group that would make sure Iraq did not acquire new arms. "The U.S. government does not believe that it is documented that the disarmament process for Iraq has been completed. And it appears that the French proposal makes that assumption -- either that Iraq is disarmed or that there is nothing further to be known."

- State Department spokesman, James Rubin, proposes lifting limits on oil sales and says, "Another revenue stream has to be created if the Iraqi people are not to be without food and medicine. Iraq will not spend its scarce resources on food and medicine. Let me emphasize, this is not a lifting of sanctions. It is an expansion of the humanitarian program known as the oil-for-food program. All present controls on the collection and disbursement of revenues generated by the sale of oil would remain in place... We are not near a time when sanctions are going to be lifted. We need to create a more improved system that will last for a long, long time."
- Iraqi Trade Minister Medhi Saleh criticizes the U.S. proposal and demands that all UN trade sanctions be lifted. "Iraq will not accept anything short of a comprehensive lifting of the unfair embargo."
- Russian Ambassador Sergey Lavrov suggests to a closed session of the Security Council that UNSCOM has ceased to be of use and proposes an alternative system made up of outside experts. He says that, "Revitalizing UNSCOM would be like revitalizing the Soviet Union." The Russian proposal calls for a new assessment team to go to Iraq and report to the Council. The team would be made up of current inspectors but would include experts from the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, based in the Hague, Netherlands. The Council would then agree to a long-term arms monitoring program and lift the oil embargo imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990. A new Council committee would oversee the monitoring, and would ensure that Iraq wasn't importing supplies to rebuild its weapons programs. The Russian proposal does call for the IAEA to continue monitoring Iraq's nuclear weapons, but suggests that the Hague group monitor suspect chemical and biological sites. The U.S. and Britain immediately reject the proposal, and state that UNSCOM and the IAEA should return to Iraq rather than be replaced.
- Canada suggests the UN do an overall assessment of the humanitarian and disarmament elements before proceeding.
- The Security Council reaffirms its support for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Kuwait in response to Tariq Aziz's article questioning its borders.
- Arab foreign ministers from Egypt, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Yemen meet in Cairo and agree to ask the Arab League to agree to try to help Iraq's people without aiding its government. A spokesman says, "They decided to differentiate between the humanitarian issue and the Iraqi regime. They are also trying to develop something more concrete to relax the constraints on Iraq."
- Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz says of the meeting that, "If the aim of such successive meetings is to ease the plight of the Iraqi people, why have they not contacted Iraq and discussed their ideas and proposals? Those 'brothers' who claim they are maintaining Arab and international legitimacy have posted themselves as guardians of Iraqi people."
- Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz describes Kuwait's borders as "a bombshell that may explode in the future." in *al-Thawra*, the newspaper of the ruling Baath Party. He says the 1994 borders were selected by the UN, "to expand Kuwait's coasts at the expense of Iraq," and mean that Kuwait intentionally wants to inflict more harm on Iraq and the Iraqi people who at the end of the day are owners of the land and the coasts."
- Kuwait complains to the Arab League in response, saying Aziz's comments are "full of lies and deliberate fabrications of history."

- Saddam Hussein is quoted as saying that, "it is necessary to lift the sanctions on Iraq completely and immediately. Iraq must also be compensated for "aggression. The statement issued by the Iraqi News Agency puts forth several other demands, including putting Israel under a system of disarmament and weapons monitoring and making the UN forces, U.S. and Britain pay reparations for the Desert Fox raids.
  - An article by the Saudi Press Agency's political editor calls Saddam Hussein a "disease that should be removed so peace and security can return to Iraq and its people...The holding of an Arab summit or a ministerial meeting in which Saddam Hussein and his gang take part will not be successful under the circumstances..."
  - About 4:15 a.m. Eastern time, a U.S. F-16CJ jet detects ground radar activity while on patrol northwest of Mosul, in northern Iraq, and fires an anti-radar Harm missile at an air defense site. About 90 minutes later an F-15E warplane fires an AGM-130 laser-guided missile at a suspected surface-to-air missile site. The planes return safely to their base at Incirlik, Turkey. No official assessment is provided of damage to the Iraqi air-defense sites.
  - Turkey announces that the U.S. is prepared to send Patriot missiles in case of a major escalation in the air war with Iraq. "It is felt that Patriot missiles could have a useful role to play and the U.S. has been asked whether such missiles could be brought to Turkey. The U.S. response has been positive."
  - Iraq buys 50,000 tons of French soft wheat under the oil-for-food program.
  - An Iraqi newspaper says that about 1,000 Iraqi prisoners of war taken during the Iraq-Iran War are to return after the Eid al-Fitr holiday.
- 99-1-16: Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Sadr says during a visit to Kuwait that Iran will try to put an end to the international crisis over Iraq by an Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) initiative. "We are seeking to contact other Arab states to listen to their views so that we can do something. We have also talked with France which presented to us its initiative and also the Russian initiative."
- Saddam Hussein denounces UN sanctions for their "mischief and damage" in a speech on eighth anniversary of the outbreak of the Gulf War. "On this day (in 1991), some have committed the crime of striking Baghdad with their missiles. Those evil doers will be defeated and driven to despair." Some 6,000 people march through Baghdad in a government-organized demonstration against the U.S. proposal to Security Council.
  - The Iraqi parliament issues a statement stating that Iraq was committed to Kuwait's borders as defined by the Security Council resolution. This counters the article published by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz.
  - The U.S. sends a Patriot missile battery to Turkey as a precautionary measure to deal with Iraqi threats made after Operation Desert Fox. Secretary Cohen signs orders deploying units of the 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, based near Frankfurt, Germany. At least three Patriot launchers and about 150 soldiers will deploy to Turkey and become part of Operation Northern Watch, conducted from Incirlik Air Base, a Turkish facility near Adana. At present, 38 U.S. aircraft patrol the no-fly zone over northern Iraq, along with British and Turkish forces.
- 99-1-17: Iraqi official news sources state that Saddam Hussein has chaired a meeting calling for a dialogue with friendly the governments that have made proposals to ease UN sanctions. A spokesman says that Iraq, "will continue dialogue with the proposers (of initiatives) who do not have bad intentions in order to correct the ideas and directions about which we have another opinion. The meeting confirmed what Iraq has previously announced, that we reject and resist proposals made by those with premeditated bad intentions." The statement repeats demands that any deal should include an immediate lifting of the embargo completely and respect Iraq's sovereignty and calls for Iraq to be compensated for UN aggression since 1991. It says that Israel should be required to meet the same controls of weapons of mass destruction as Iraq.
- Some 2,000 Iraqis march near the UN Development Program headquarters in Baghdad in a government-organized demonstration to protest the anniversary of the start of the Gulf War.

- Iraq's ambassador to the UN, Nizar Hamdoon, returns to Iraq. He is replaced by his deputy, Dr. Saeed Hasan.
- 99-1-18: *Babel* celebrates the Eid with an editorial stating, "Let U.S. satellites, monitoring cameras and spy cameras take pictures of Iraqis in their homes, markets and schools, and see the happiness and joy of their lives while under sanctions and despite the brutal U.S. attacks....(this will) upset those who hate us, the Americans, Zionists, Britons and those treacherous Arab officials who follow them."
- *Al-Thawra* attacks Saudi Arabia because it "bore more responsibility than any other Arab party for the American...aggression on Iraq in 1991 and all its effects and consequences. This regime can no longer retreat from its treacherous policy. The Saudi regime has begun to behave like a frenzied dog deepening the harm to Arab Moslem Iraq, and putting itself at the service of the American plot aimed at destroying and dividing Iraq and killing its sons."
- The Eid al-Fitr begins with the end of Ramadan, This is ninth time Iraqis have had to celebrating it under UN sanctions since the end of the Gulf War.
- 99-1-19: President Clinton designates seven Iraqi opposition organizations to receive U.S. support under the 1998 Iraq Liberation Act. They include the Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq; the Iraqi National Congress -- an umbrella organization of Kurdish, Shiite and leftist groups based in London, and the Iraqi National Accord. Other groups include three Kurdish factions based in northern Iraq: the Kurdistan Democratic Party, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan and the Islamic Movement of Iraqi Kurdistan, and the Movement for a Constitutional Monarchy, based in London.
- Denis Halliday, the former coordinator of the UN oil-for-food program, appears before the French National Assembly's Franco-Iraq Study Group. He praises a French plan to ease sanctions and urge the Group to help finance Iraq's reconstruction, at a cost of \$50-60 billion. He also urges a delay in reparation payments, "until the death of Iraqi children ceases. I don't like the word genocide. I think it's perhaps too dramatic. But the fact is, can you find a better word to describe this sort of catastrophe? If the embargo was removed, Saddam Hussein would be weakened and in due course an opposition can perhaps grow within the country." Halliday endorses Iraqi charges that sanctions have caused the death of 5,000 to 6,000 Iraqis a month, and up to 600,000 children since 1990.
- 99-1-20: Secretary-General Annan refutes allegations that he is failing to enforce the terms of the UN resolutions dealing with Iraq, "Whatever means I have employed in my efforts in dealing with Iraq, my ends have never been in question, By precedent, by principle, by charter and by duty, I am bound to seek those ends through peaceful diplomacy...With no enforcement capacity and no executive power beyond the organization, a secretary-general is armed only with tools of his own making. He is invested only with the power that a united Security Council may wish to bestow, and the moral authority entrusted to him by the Charter."
- The UN reports that Iraq has sold about \$700 million worth of crude in the latest phase of the "oil-for-food" up to the week ending January 15, The statement says in the week to January 15, Iraq exported 13.3 million barrels of oil worth an estimated \$124 million. In the same week, the sanctions committee approves 23 contracts for spare parts worth \$6.52 million, while other contracts worth \$4.71 million were put on hold. It said the total value of contracts received for repairing Iraq's oilfields reach \$261.14 million out of the \$300 million available under phase four of the oil-for-food deal. The Sanctions Committee approves 17 contracts worth \$81.7 million for electrical equipment. One contract is for \$74.9 million for six gas turbine generators and related equipment from China to replace old, unreliable generators at the Mullah Abdullah power plant, 30 miles south of Baghdad
- The Tehran-based Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq, a group of several Shiite Iraqi opposition groups, rejects any support from the US. It says that, "receiving such support from America would harm the opposition's reputation inside Iraq."
- A U.S. Embassy official in Ankara, Turkey, says the U.S. has delivered Patriot anti-missile batteries to Turkey and the missiles have arrived at Incirlik Air Base.

- Saddam Hussein makes what may be his first publicized trip outside of the Iraqi capital since Desert Fox to celebrate the Eid al-Fitr at a village feat.
- 99-1-21: Iraq says it will attend an Arab League ministerial meeting on January 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday to discuss the UN sanctions imposed on Iraq, and that Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf will head the delegation that will attend the meeting, Nineteen other foreign ministers of the 22-member Arab League have said they would join the meeting. Libya and Morocco have not confirmed attendance.
- Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf says, "We do not say that the Arab conference is a conspiracy. What we are saying is that the U.S. is conspiring against Iraq. I am not going to prejudge or prematurely say what the result will be. We will wait and see Whether a minority or a majority will, in any case, go along with the American hostile position against Iraq, we will refute, we will condemn it and we will consider it from the very beginning completely rejected...The Arab League represented by the meeting of foreign ministers is asked to condemn this aggression. We call for a lifting of the embargo from the Arab side. We will continue dialogue with Russia, France and China. Our position is clear and our dialogue will be clear and frank to secure the full right of our country and people towards any proposal or solution presented to the Security Council "
- The Iraqi official weekly *Al-Thawra* attacks the U.S. for dividing the UN, "If we want to be frank, the reason for the division is really due to the attempt of one state, the US, to impose its control on the council and on the world through it... So (the US) focuses all its efforts on maintaining the embargo and practicing military aggression on Iraq, whether the Council approves or objects."
- The BBC reports that Iraq is moving troops and tanks into southern Iraq towards the border with Kuwait and the southern no-fly zone. BBC correspondent Humphrey Hawkesley says he has seen armor and guns moving towards the southern city of Basra, and dozens of positions equipped with anti-aircraft guns and mobile surface-to-air missiles.
- Iraqi General Ahmed Ibrahim Hamash, the military governor of Basra region, says Iraq is reinforcing its defenses, "We'll not give up fighting aggressors everywhere and we'll not give up Basra as long as we are alive. We will fight them from house to house."
- The U.S. names Frank Ricciardone to the new post of special representative for transition in Iraq, with a mandate to encourage the opposition to Saddam Hussein. Secretary of State Albright says, "He will be assisted by a team that will include both a military and a political adviser with extensive on-the-ground experience in the region. With the aid of Frank Ricciardone and his team, we will persist in helping the Iraqi people re-integrate themselves into the world community by freeing themselves from a leader they do not want, do not deserve and never chose."
- The U.S. approves 43 contracts worth \$11.7 million to rehabilitate Iraq's oil fields and refineries under the oil-for-food program. Some 115 contracts worth nearly \$45 million are still on hold
- French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine says, "We cannot imagine the return of UNSCOM as it was and without changes in how it conducts its work in Iraq after the air strikes and as if nothing has happened... We see that international monitoring should continue but in different ways, and the Security Council must have the courage to adapt to the new situation...The situation may need new international resolutions, but we cannot know this until discussions going on now are completed. " He says the U.S. proposal to allow Iraq to export as much oil as it wants, "only offers a partial solution to the situation. What we have proposed goes beyond the humanitarian issue, as we consider that previous monitoring measures do not allow for progress and will not achieve anything new, even if UNSCOM returns to Iraq - which we doubt, The first step is to think about the future through the Security Council. None of the Council's members should impose a policy on others and none should prevent others from presenting ideas showing that there are other ways of dealing with the reality than military strikes." He says of the U.S. policy to replace Saddam that, "This proves that the U.S. does not believe in the policy of monitoring, sanctions or military strikes. This policy does not conform to Security Council resolutions."
- Al-Zawra quotes General. Hazim Abdel Razzaq Shihab, the chief of Iraq's missile forces during the Gulf War as saying Iraq fired 93 Scud missiles at Israel and Saudi Arabia during the war. He calls his book

Forty-three Missiles on the Zionist Entity. It is published to mark the eighth anniversary of the outbreak of the Gulf War and contains a copy of Saddam Hussein's order to begin firing missiles: "Start, with God's support, the strikes on targets in the criminal Zionist entity as heavily as possible and be careful about the possibility of being detected." Shihab states another 50 missiles were aimed at targets in Saudi Arabia.

- 99-1-22: Security Council members discuss Iraqi disarmament issues including a Canadian proposal for two separate meetings of technical experts to assess the status of Iraq's disarmament and the humanitarian situation in the country. The disarmament file would be studied by a meeting attended by commissioners of UNSCOM and the IAEA. There would also be a review of the humanitarian situation in Iraq by UN officials under the chairmanship of the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs. The U.S. and Britain support the proposal to ensure that UNSCOM retains a role. Russia and France have proposals replace UNSCOM and concentrate on monitoring, rather than challenge inspections. France suggests lifting the oil embargo, but retaining controls to make sure the proceeds aren't used to buy and rebuild banned weapons and creating a long-term monitoring system designed to prevent the acquisition of new weapons rather than continue the retrospective work of trying to root out what arms Iraq may still have. China, Russia, Gabon and Malaysia express support for the proposal Argentina proposes that the embargo could be lifted after Baghdad had demonstrated cooperation with an "intrusive" monitoring system with tight border controls on items that may be used for military purposes, and financial controls on the income from oil exports.
- The Director General of the IAEA, Mohamed El Baradei, proposes inspections of Iraq's weapons capabilities be carried out by an organization independent of the Security Council. He issues an informal paper that makes reference to charges of U.S. spying. The paper reflects many of Iraq's criticisms of UNSCOM, but does say that, "information provided by various governments is essential for weapons verification, rigorous control and analysis are required to separate credible information from unfounded allegations and disinformation. The flow of information has to be in one direction only: from the state to the verification organization, but not the other way. An international organization needs all the information available to be able to make its own independent judgment. It cannot, however, 'reciprocate' and become part of a web of intelligence agencies." the paper says that the inspection process, "should take into account, without compromising its objectives, the inspected state's political and economic concerns as well as its cultural sensitivities...more use should be made of long-term career staff drawn from a wide geographical distribution and selected on the basis of character and integrity."
  - A spokesman for Iraq's Culture and Information Ministry says Kuwait's leaders have "turned Kuwait into an American military base," and had become a threat by allowing U.S. and British planes to fly patrols from its territory to police the no-fly zone imposed over southern Iraq. He Kuwait for allowing its bases to be used during Desert Fox.
- 99-1-23: Kuwaiti government sources say that Iraqi military reinforcements to the south have been normal, although Iraq has moved some military equipment and troops into the south of the country, apparently to deal with internal Moslem Shi'ite opposition. Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah says, "Our information is that it is an ordinary (Iraqi) build-up and one has to be cautious towards rumors and reports by news agencies and others. Kuwait is prepared to defend itself and is cooperating with its friends to defend itself... We are supporters of all efforts to lift the suffering of the Iraqi people but within international legality resolutions."
- A UN Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKON) official says, "There is nothing unusual inside Iraq's 10 km (6.3 miles) of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), and visually it also looks normal (just) north of the DMZ." The UNIKON secures the border between Iraq and Kuwait, and secures the 15-km-wide (9.4 miles) DMZ.
  - Saddam Hussein issues a statement attacking Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. He says they are creating a glut in the oil market and betraying the Arab cause. "Saudi rulers have caused great calamities to the Arab nation and committed aggression against its rights ever since they became a bridge for the foreigner." They have given "America and Zionism knives to pierce the Arab nation with." They have led to

- increase in OPEC oil quotas “which led to the collapse of oil prices ... inflicting great damage on the interests of member countries, including those of the Saudi people.”
- Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz says Iraq is in constant contact with France and other states to put an end to sanctions and urges the Arab foreign ministers to lift the sanctions and condemn Desert Fox. He says of the French proposal, “There are several proposals and ideas to find solutions to the so-called Iraq issue and among them the French initiative. We are holding continuous dialogue with these states about their ideas. Until now America and Britain are against the French initiative.” He says the Arab foreign ministers should, “decide to lift the UN sanctions. Iraq's position is that the foreign ministers' meeting should condemn the American aggression. By these two decisions, they could reflect the genuine opinion of the Arab masses, Arab nation and at the same time show their genuine solidarity with Iraq.... Who are harming who? Are we harming Saudi Arabia and Kuwait? No, they are harming us...Turkey.”
  - Aziz says of the Kurdish issue that, “We are ready to hold dialogue with the Kurdish leaders to reach a peaceful solution and we are holding dialogue with them... We are ready for a dialogue with the Kurdish leadership to achieve a peaceful and democratic settlement... Iraq recognizes the autonomous rule for the Kurds within the framework of Republic of Iraq...`Let us adopt a responsible attitude on the threshold of history ... It is not in Iraqi Kurd interest to follow the US, which does not care for anything but its own interests.”
  - Uday says in Babil that the Arab Foreign Minister's meeting is, “born dead because there are parties who undermined it before its start.” Foreign protesters appear outside the UN headquarters in Baghdad, demanding an end to sanctions.
  - Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf says in Cairo that, “There is no military build-up on the Kuwait and Saudi border and these reports are lies.” He also says that Iraq demands that the Arab ministers t condemn Desert Fox, that. “This is the least Iraq will accept, and that Iraq will demand compensation for the “aggression.”
  - Iraqi Speaker of the National Assembly, Saadoun Hammadi, says “The government of Kuwait participated in the recent US- British aggression on Iraq by allowing these forces to use its lands. This is in addition to admissions by its rulers that it (Kuwait) contributed to the cost of this aggression.”
  - Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa says, “We hope to move the Iraqi issue to a point that is reassuring to everyone, including Iraq and its neighbors... We hope to wrap up the disarmament file...and decide on the many proposals aimed at ending the sanctions... There must be international agreement, not just Arab agreement concerning the Iraqi issue.”
  - Saudi Arabia and Egypt are reported to have made proposals to liberalize trade and help the Iraqi people, but maintain monitoring and controls on military and dual-use purchases.
  - Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq al-Shara, says efforts should be made to lift the embargo and that, “We want this meeting to reflect positively on all participants, including Iraq.”
  - Gulf newspapers comment before the Arab Foreign Ministers meeting. Al-Khaleej calls the “probably one of the most important Arab gatherings...The ministers who are heading to Cairo are required, while discussing the Iraqi issue, to think beyond the present moment...to think about the future of security in the Gulf region and about the future of the 'Arab regional order' and the independence of the Arab decision-making process both on both the national and local levels.” Qatar's al-Watan publishes an editorial that says, “All Arab officials must enter the meeting with clean hearts and open minds so that they would perhaps see a little of what obstinacy had camouflaged during nine years. If no dramatic development comes out from this consultative meeting, which should publicly condemn the Anglo-American aggression against Iraq and call for lifting sanctions, it must at least make a step forward to restore the lost Arab solidarity.”
  - U.S. fighters are threatened by Iraqi MiGs and anti-aircraft ground fire, dropped laser-guided bombs on two surface-to-air missile sites in southern Iraq. Two U.S. F-18 warplanes carry out the attack after Iraqi MiGs violate the no-fly zone. The southern zone stretches from the border with Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Jordan to the 33rd parallel just south of Baghdad.

- 99-1-24: The Arab League begins its foreign ministers meeting in Cairo. A draft declaration is prepared by Egypt, Syria, Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Oman which calls on Iraq to recognize Kuwait and put an end to the issue of Kuwaitis considered prisoners of war or missing, and which says the Arab states will work with Security Council to lift sanctions once Iraq implements UN resolutions.
- Syria's Foreign Minister Farouq al-Shara says the raids in Desert Fox, “{did not produce any clear outcome, except to aggravate the suffering of the Iraqi people. How much longer can we live with this situation?”
  - The Arab League foreign ministers then issue a statement calling on Iraq to implement all UN resolutions on weapons inspections and to avoid taking any provocative action towards its neighbors, including Kuwait: “The ministers expressed total solidarity with the Iraqi people and their suffering from the embargo and stressed there should be international efforts to lift it... They call upon Iraq not to follow provocative policies towards its neighbors...and they asked the Iraqi government to prove its peaceful intentions towards Kuwait and neighboring countries verbally and practically.. .They decided that Arab governments should all exert efforts within the UN and the Security Council to lift the sanctions according to a timely program.... The meeting stressed the Arab stand against violations of Iraq's sovereignty, the unity of its lands and interference of its internal affairs “The statement calls for a follow-up committee with members from Saudi Arabia, Syria, Egypt, Jordan, United Arab Emirates, the Arab members of the Security Council and Secretary-General of the Arab League head. It says there should be no “double standards” in enforcing the Security Council resolutions dealing with weapons of mass destruction, and refers to Israel's “possession of weapons of mass destruction as well as threatening Arab lands.”
  - The communiqué of the Arab League foreign ministers is given to reporters by Arab League officials after Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahhaf walks out in apparent anger after the ministers to refuse to denounce Desert Fox as aggression and only express “deep concern at the use of the military option against Iraq.” Al-Sahhaf says that the Arab League statement is “a cover for resuming the US-British airstrikes” and claims the ministers have reacted to U.S. pressure and Saudi and Kuwaiti plots.
  - The ministers continue their talks after the Iraqi protest. The statement also expresses regret that Desert Fox took place, “The ministers expressed sorrow and displeasure over the military option against Iraq. They called for diplomacy and adoption of Security Council resolutions.”
  - State Department spokesman James Foley says that, “The walkout ... underscores Iraq's isolation in the Arab world...The U.S. is particularly pleased with the Arab League's rejection of Iraq's threats to its neighbors, and to its call on Iraq to improve its peaceful intentions toward Kuwait and the other neighboring countries.”
  - Khalid al-Douri, the head of the foreign relations committee of the Iraqi National Assembly, says “The National Assembly will hold an extraordinary session to debate a number of issues, among them Iraq's recognition of Kuwait and borders between the two countries. Kuwait is continuing to commit aggression against Iraq, therefore why should we unilaterally stick to our commitments.”
  - A U.S. F-15E launches an AGM-130 missile on an Iraqi SA-3 surface-to-air missile installation in the Northern No Fly Zone after aircraft in the area reported they were illuminated by the Iraqi unit. The missile scored a direct hit and the site is reported to have “suppressed. The incident takes place at 10:45 a.m. Iraqi time, or 6 a.m. EST. The northern no-fly zone is above the 36th parallel. Less than an hour after the first attack, a U.S. Marine EA-6B Prowler and two U.S. Air Force F-16s fire HARMs after their aircraft were illuminated by Iraqi systems. All of the American aircraft return safely to Incirlik.
  - The U.S. says it will soon rotate some of its forces in Kuwait which patrol the southern no-fly, The 104th Fighter Squadron with A-10s will start deployment on the 26<sup>th</sup> and additional F-16s will deploy, bringing the total number of U.S. aircraft almost 200. There are also 12 British Tornados in Kuwait and six in Saudi Arabia.
  - Ahmad Ibrahim Hammash, the governor of Basra, says that Iraq is boosting its air defenses in the south, “We are prepared for all eventualities. The reinforcements are there. They are air defense reinforcements.

Everything we can reinforce, we are reinforcing. More than that I cannot say.” He says that some aspects of the moves are exceptional, but are a defensive reaction. “We will challenge this aggression, and will continue to challenge it. We will not accept a mandate of anyone upon us. Regarding Kuwait, they are our neighbors. If we wanted to take Kuwait, we could take Kuwait in one night and a day despite the presence of Americans now, or others. We did not threaten anyone, and we will not threaten anyone.”

Major-General Esa Tarvainen, commander of the UN observation mission says Iraq has postponed the talks normally held on the border under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross. The UN Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM). These tasks are usually every month to discuss prisoners and the roughly 600 Kuwaitis missing since the Gulf War. He says that the last meeting was held in November. He says, “The DMZ (demilitarized zone) has been calm and quiet all the time...even during the bombing operations.” He says there have been no serious violations of the DMZ during the past 18 months and that the violations that have occurred have largely involved Iraqi fishing boats. He also says that any U.S. and British planes patrolling the southern no-fly zone, violated the DMS if they routed their flights over the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border. The U.S. and British planes normally fly over the Saudi-Iraqi border to the west.

- The Kurdistan Democratic Party issues a statement stating that it does not want to be among opposition groups President Clinton has named as eligible for \$97 million in aid. Massoud Barzani is reported to have said that he does not favor toppling Saddam.
- 99-1-25: A White House spokesman welcomes the statement from Arab foreign ministers meeting in Cairo on Sunday in which they urged Iraq to comply with UN resolutions and refrain from “provocative acts” against its neighbors. “It represents just how isolated around the world and in the region Saddam Hussein is. I think the Iraqis went in with the intention of trying to break the international solidarity on that issue and they failed miserably. The Arab League puts the blame for this situation on Iraq and Saddam Hussein and it demonstrates how frustrated and isolated they really are.”
- British Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Derek Fatchett tells a news conference in Cairo that Britain welcomes the outcome of an Arab League meeting on Iraq, “It seems to me to be a very wise statement and totally consistent with positions taken at the Security Council. It's a reinforcement of Security Council resolutions, and we expected the countries in the region to do that. Iraq has no friends among the governments within the region. The governments in the region wish to see compliance with Security Council resolutions, and Iraq will only win the respect of other governments in the region if it cooperates with the UN.” Fatchett meets with Egyptian President Mubarak and Foreign Minister Moussa, and says, “We both made the point that the failure of Iraq to comply with Security Council resolutions is the source of our current problems and it is important for Iraq to cooperate and comply. There has to be Iraqi agreement on disarmament and there mustn't be a threat from Iraq to regional stability. We also discussed our concern about the suffering of the Iraqi people. We agreed to keep in touch with each other to look for ways in which we can push forward the discussion of the Iraq issue at the UN, particularly in the Security Council.” He says of the clashes in the south that, “If the build-up in the south is seen as the condition for and creating the opportunity for an invasion of Kuwait, then Baghdad needs to be properly warned that that will be an action that will be seen as totally hostile within the region. You can see that from yesterday's Arab League statement. If the movement in the south is going to be used as a challenge to the no-fly zone, then Baghdad understands that if there is a challenge to the UK and indeed to the US...we will respond accordingly.” He says of Saddam that, “It would be a perverse person who did not recognize that the possibility of a change of regime in Baghdad would be in the interests of the ordinary people of Iraq. But it is not our policy to support the opposition militarily.”
- Iraqi Culture and Information Minister Humam Abdul-Khaleq Abdul-Ghafur says U.S. and British warplanes attacked two residential quarters in the *al-Jumhuriya* neighborhood of Basra, “I do not have the exact figure now but I have been told that...tens of people were injured and several were killed, among them children and women and at least two residential sites were bombed... We think that this new communiqué by the foreign ministers is a green light to the American and British to attack Iraq again.”

- Mike Huggins, a CNN producer in Basra says local officials told him 11 people were killed and four wounded in one attack. He said the scene was one of widespread devastation, and that he had been to the scene of the attack in a poor residential area of Basra and that there were no Iraqi defense sites in the neighborhood.
- The U.S. confirms that its planes had attacked targets in the no-fly zone of southern Iraq "as a result of provocation." Britain says its planes were not involved. The U.S. says the raid took place at about 9:25 a.m. local time/1:25 a.m. EST when U.S. planes responded after four Iraqi MiG planes initiated "threatening activity" and Iraqi air defense systems fired anti-aircraft artillery. It says it no confirmation of any Iraqi casualties and all U. planes returned safely to their bases.
- USCENTCOM says , "Since Operation Desert Fox, the Iraqi military has been increasing both the pace and severity of no-fly zone violations. Despite repeated warnings, Iraqi actions and intentions pose serious threats to our aircrews and our actions today are an appropriate response to these threats."
- The official Iraqi News Agency reports another strike 40 minutes later. It accused the U.S. of targeting "heavily populated areas" and says they hit the village of Abu al-Khaseeb near Basra, the Basra airport, and an oil field. It claims that civil defense teams were ferrying wounded to hospitals and trying to recover bodies from the ruins of buildings. "Planes of the American and British aggressors continue their air raids against residential quarters and economic targets in Basra governorate. The indiscriminate and savage bombings have led to the martyrdom of more civilians, and civil defense units rushed to the sites to search for bodies of martyrs and to rescue the wounded and take them to hospitals. The criminals bombed a number of residential areas at 10.10 a.m. local time (0710 GMT) in the morning in Abu Flus, Basra airport and the northern Rumalia field."
- A reporter in Basra said he saw a house that was destroyed and three others that were damaged. He said he was taken to a hospital where he saw severely injured children. Greg Palkot of Fox News reports that he saw civil defense teams searching for people in the rubble. Abdel-Khaliq said at least two residential areas were hit, several people were killed, and dozens were wounded. Cable News Network reports 11 people were killed and four injured.
- Tariq Aziz condemns the attacks in the southern region of Basra, saying "Iraq holds American and British aggressors and their Kuwaiti and Saudi partners responsible for this cowardly and treacherous aggression. It (Iraq) will continue to challenge the no-fly ban imposed by force in the south and north," Aziz said the attacks follow the "shameful statement adopted by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and those who collaborate with them during an Arab League meeting held in Cairo and which was welcomed immediately by Washington because it suits its policy." He says that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait took part in the attack. "Those who allow America and Britain to use their territory and space to kill Iraqis and pay for the aggression do not represent the Arab nation but they serve their masters in Washington and London."
- Iran reports that a stray missile fired in US-led attacks landed in Iranian territory. The governor of the city of Abadan in southwestern Iran tells the television that the missile landed inside the oil city but there were no casualties. Iran had protested to Britain and Switzerland, which represents the U.S. in Iran, after a stray missile landed in Iran's southwestern border city of Khorramshar during Desert Fox. It damaged property, but there was no report of injuries.
- A spokesman for Operation Northern Watch based at Incirlik air base in Turkey, said that after an Air Force F-15E encountered anti-aircraft artillery fire, two other F-15Es dropped one laser-guided bomb each on the air defense system. The U.S. planes operate from Incirlik. In a separate incident near Mosul, a Marine Corps EA-6B electronic warfare plane fired a missile at an Iraqi surface-to-air missile installation that "posed a threat" to U.S. and allied aircraft. An Air Force F-16CJ plane later attacked a different SA-2 surface-to-air missile site that also was deemed to pose a threat. A spokesman with U.S. Central Command says the American jets fired at an Iraqi surface-to-air missile site and associated air-defense systems north of Basra "in response to Iraqi incursions in the no-fly zone." He says the U.S. jets were threatened by Iraqi ground artillery and four Iraqi MiGs. All aircraft involved returned safely to their bases..

- The U.S. reports later that its warplanes attacked three separate anti-aircraft facilities in northern Iraq following two clashes earlier in the day in southern Iraq. A Pentagon spokesman says planes flying a routine surveillance flight over the northern no-fly zone were tracked by ground radar and fired on by surface-to-air missiles and artillery and responded with bombs and missiles. Shortly before 2 p.m. Iraq time (6 a.m. EST) aircraft flying with the Northern Watch patrols were illuminated by ground radar and fired on. Two U.S. Air Force F-15 fighter planes dropped laser-guided bombs on an anti-aircraft artillery system. Separately, a U.S. Marine Prowler fired a High speed Anti-Radiation Missile (HARM) at a missile site that was threatening the flights and an Air Force F-16 fired a HARM at a different missile site. In addition an Iraqi SAM missile was fired at an F-15. U.S. officials say they have no confirmation of Iraqi casualties. All U.S. planes return safely to their bases.
- Gen. Anthony Zinni says later that, "We have the possibility of one missile that may have been errant...Our targeting and execution of strikes are done in a manner to minimize any civilian casualties or damage to civilian property. No one can guarantee that these strikes will not have errors or we might not have errant ordnance but we do make every possible attempt to make sure this doesn't happen...We deeply regret any civilian casualties regardless of what the cause might be but these exchanges have been initiated by Saddam Hussein." He adds that the U.S. is reviewing intelligence determine if an errant U.S. missile might have caused civilian casualties reported by Iraq.

On January 27, Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon admits that an AGM-130 missile launched from an Air Force F-15E strike aircraft U.S. missile fired at air defense targets near the city of Basra on the 25th missed its target by miles and struck a residential area. "It created some damage," spokesman Kenneth Bacon said Tuesday, referring to the errant. "We realize that and we regret any civilian casualties. But this was done in response to a provocative attack against our planes by Saddam Hussein." Iraq has now reported that five civilians were killed, 42 were injured and several homes were destroyed, but Bacon says he cannot confirm the missile killed any civilians. "I don't think I have any independent confirmation whether it did or it didn't." He says that the USAF will continue using the AGM-130 in no-fly zone enforcement missions and describes the weapon as "generally very accurate, but there are many reasons it might miss a target. He would not offer any examples." He also says that, "I think that we are having a grave impact on the Iraqi air defense system, and a grave impact on the number of weapons they have to bring to bear against our planes, and we will continue to do that until the threat goes away."

- The AGM-130, the Air Force missile that missed its target Monday in Iraq, is a newly modified weapon with a 2,000-pound, high-explosive warhead. It is equipped with a guidance system that enables the crew of the launching aircraft to watch the missile's path on a television monitor and steer it to its target. It also can be used with automatic weapon guidance.
- A U.S. spokesman says that the U.S. now has about 240 aircraft, 31 ships and more than 28,000 forces massed in the Gulf region to patrol the northern and southern no-fly zones in Iraq. There are about 28,000 U.S. forces stationed on ships or at bases in the Gulf region which monitor the southern exclusion zone in Iraq. About 200 U.S. aircraft are involved in the operation. The aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson is in the area, along with a total of 31 ships, of which 16 were combatant vessels and six of those could fire Tomahawk missiles. There were about 45 coalition aircraft and 1,300 US, British and Turkish forces at Incirlik Air Base in Turkey, from where U.S. and British forces monitor the northern no-fly zone.
- Saudi Arabia rejects Iraqi charges that U.S. and British warplanes used its territory as a launch pad for attacks that hit a residential area of the southern Iraqi city of Basra. "These allegations are untrue and unfounded." The official Iraqi News Agency (INA) had said the missile came "from a westerly direction, Saudi Arabia."
- Gennady Seleznyov, speaker of the State Duma, Russia's lower house of parliament on Monday expressed his outrage to U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright about reports of a new U.S. missile attack on Iraq and said she had no reply. "I told her about (the attack). I said, again peaceful people have been killed. But she said nothing. It seems that she still does not have confirmed information about what has happened there." Deputy Duma Speaker Mikhail Gutseriyev, also a Middle East specialist, tells Itar-Tass that the attack on Basra was "unacceptable and impermissible in a civilized world."

- Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit says Turkey is preparing proposals to ease the escalating tension between its neighbor Iraq and its NATO ally the US.
- Chief Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls says, "This new incident confirms once again what the holy father has said, even in the past few days, that military measures do not resolve problems by themselves. In fact they just make things worse. Pope John Paul II and the Vatican has previously described Desert Fox as a breach of international law, and called the strikes "aggression."
- 99-1-26: Sandy Berger, the president's National Security Adviser, says that American warplanes patrolling the skies over northern and southern Iraq are operating under new guidance that authorizes more aggressive action against Iraqi air defenses. "We're acting here in self-defense and in response to concerted attacks by Saddam Hussein (in response to) a distinct increase in the challenges to enforcement of the no-fly zones". He says that the attacks on the 25<sup>th</sup> illustrated the more aggressive approach that U.S. military commanders requested, and that President Clinton approved them after Desert Fox. "The president has responded to requests by the military for more expansive rules of engagement. Our pilots understand, and our air force understands, that if there are violations of the no-fly zone, that our response be not simply against the particular source of the violation or source of the threat but our response, as appropriate, will be against any of the air defense systems that we think makes us vulnerable." The Department of Defense had previously refused to confirm the change in approach.
- British junior foreign minister Derek Fatchett says in Abu Dhabi that, "The walkout by the Iraqi foreign minister was clearly pre-determined. It was part of the Iraqi tactics -- those are dangerous tactics in the sense that an isolated Iraq is potentially even more dangerous. What we have to recognize is that we now have a regime which is weakened and a regime which is much more likely to behave in ways that we need to control. We need to be vigilant and we will continue to be so with our colleagues here in the region."
- UNSCOM sends copies of a report to members of the Security Council that defends the need for its own expertise compared to inspectors it procured from foreign governments or a new staff that would replace it. Limited copies of the report were given to members, but Russia blocks public distribution of the 230 page document, which summaries the history of UNSCOM's work and lists the key areas where Iraq has not supplied sufficient data. The report is submitted by Richard Butler, and says that said governments may have many experts in the chemical, biological and ballistic weapons field, but, " additional knowledge of Iraqi-specific programs and activities is required." Over the long term it will be necessary to recruit experts and other inspection personnel who will be engaged in the monitoring activities in Iraq for expensive period,." The report states that a small committee of high ranking officials, chaired by Saddam's secretary Abed Hamid led Iraq's efforts to conceal information about its arms programs. "The committee directs the activities of a unit which is responsible for moving, hiding and security the items, which are being concealed from the Commission. The Special Security Organization plays a key role in the operation of this unit and in tracking and surveillance of commission activities." The report refutes Iraq's claims that it has fulfilled its disarmament obligations and does not possess banned weapons or the ability to make them. It says. UNSCOM is convinced Iraq has documents that would reveal "the full picture", but refuses to provide them. It says Iraq still must provide a full accounting of its biological warfare program, and account for its production of deadly VX nerve agent, the discovery of chemical residue from VX on missile warhead fragments, 550 shells filled with mustard gas, seven indigenously produced missiles, imported missile propellants and other items. The report says the highest priority areas in which Iraq had failed to account for its dangerous weapons included explanations of the deadly VX nerve agent on warheads, the development of germ warfare, missile propellants, artillery shells filled with mustard gas and R-400 aerial bombs.
- Russia, China and Malaysia refuse to officially support the Butler report. It is not circulated as an official document, and Brazil's Ambassador Celso Amorim, president of the Security Council gives each of the 15 council members a copy.
- Saddam Hussein threatens to retaliate against the U.S. and Britain, "Your blood will not be shed in vain. Be patient, our beloved and brothers. Victory will be with those who are patient. Your blood will blossom ... in the tree of freedom, resistance and victory."

- The Iraqi daily *Al-Jumhuriya* says, "We maintain our full right to hold the evil aggressors in America and Britain and their partners...in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait fully responsible for this heinous aggression. We say that our Arab masses are called today to revolt against this unjust (aggression)...after those unjust (US) aggressors exceeded their limits... No sooner the deliberation meeting of the Arab foreign ministers ended and the issue of the statement in a suspicious way...than aggression was repeated on Iraq from the lands of Najd and Hujaz (Saudi Arabia...The collaborators gave a cover for the Americans for aggression on August 10, 1990 and they gave the same justification for aggression today."
  - Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwait's foreign minister, issues a statement saying, "I would like to praise the positive atmosphere of the Arab League meeting."
  - Pentagon spokesman Ken Bacon confirms that a U.S. missile Iraq exploded in a residential area of Basra. "We have analyzed yesterday's information and found that an AGM-130 (missile) did miss its target and explode in a residential neighborhood several kilometers away from its target. We do not have any independent estimate of casualties or fatalities. I want to repeat that we are not targeting civilians. We are in fact taking every step we can to avoid targeting civilians ... or avoid creating collateral damage in civilian neighborhoods, because we are not attacking the people of Iraq."
  - Iraqis in Abu Fullous mourn their dead after missiles fired by U.S. warplanes hit small village, 25 km (15 miles) south of Basra. Residents say the missile struck the house of Fadl Abbas Mansour, gouged out holes in the roof and moved on into other homes. Two stone-walled houses collapsed and two others were badly damaged. Reporters who visit the village see the 6-foot barrel of the gray missile on the street, minus its nose and tail
  - Members of the Iraqi parliament accuse Saudi Arabia and Kuwait of taking part in Desert Fox and demand an Arab tribunal to try them. Some call for revoking recognition of Kuwait and/or the new border demarcation. Saadoun Hummadi, the speaker of Iraq's Parliament, says, "The Saudi and Kuwaiti regimes have become the head of a venomous snake."
  - The Russian Foreign Ministry says, "Nothing can justify new deaths among the civilian population of Iraq, which has already been bled dry by the hardships of many years of blockade. Russia renews its longstanding criticism of the no-fly zones, "The latest tragic events have confirmed the pressing need for all problems connected with Iraq to be resolved exclusively in a political context, all the more so since the no-fly zones were established unilaterally, without the sanction of the UN Security Council." The statement is issued while Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is in Moscow.
  - Iraq is reported to have signed contracts worth \$3 billion to develop the country's transport sector, including manufacturing and importing Volga-brand cars and developing Iraq's railways and air transport. Moscow supports lifting all curbs on Iraqi exports and hopes Baghdad would be able to repay debts worth billions of dollars. Russia is reported to have rehabilitating the Nasiriya power plant.
  - U.S. fighter jets are involved in three incidents between 1:25 p.m. and 1:50 p.m. Iraqi time/5:25 a.m. EST and 5:50 a.m. EST (1025 and 1050 GMT) near the city of Mosul in the northern no-fly zone. Iraqi surface-to-air missiles and anti-aircraft artillery systems targeted aircraft on routine patrols for the fourth consecutive day. All aircraft and crews returned safely to Incirlik. Two violations were also reported in the southern no-fly zone when two Iraqi MiG planes conducted fly into the exclusion area. U.S. and British planes are not patrolling the area at the time and there are no engagements.
  - The U.S. sends 8 more F-16 jets to Kuwait, bringing the number of U.S. aircraft patrolling the Western-imposed no-fly zone in southern Iraq to almost 200, along with 12 British Tornado bombers in Kuwait, and 6 Tornados in Saudi Arabia. A scheduled rotation of A-10s also begins for a three-month deployment at a Kuwaiti desert air base.
  - The official Iranian news agency IRNA reports that a foreign ministry spokesman "condemned the recent attack by American aircraft on Iraq which killed a number of civilians and destroyed residential districts."
- 99-1-27: Iraq's vice president, Taha Yassin Ramadan, says "Iraq will continue to challenge with all its capabilities and means American and British planes which violate our air space. Iraq holds the (UN) Security Council

- and Arab rulers responsible for the dangers and damage Iraq is facing through these aggressive acts...Iraq will continue dialogue with any Arab government who wants dialogue, within the context of Arab integration, unity and independence.”
- Iraq's parliament issues a statement says, “Arab masses who stand against the aggression...are urged to revolt against these (Saudi and Kuwaiti) regimes...The governments of America and Britain and the rulers of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are responsible for the aggression and the human and material losses caused by it.”
  - The Iraqi newspaper al-Zawra, which is owned by Uday, says the U.S. missile strike near Basra risen to 18. During this cowardly act 18 people met martyrdom and 59 were injured, most of them women and children,” said. Seven houses were destroyed and 27 slightly damaged.”
  - The Security Council discusses means of assessing the status of Iraq's disarmament and its humanitarian situation. Deputy U.S. Ambassador Peter Burleigh says there is a “strong consensus” for panels to study disarmament, humanitarian issues and the status of looted Kuwaiti property and hundreds of Kuwaitis missing since Gulf War. He says that Council members have not yet reached agreement on the composition of the panels and whether UNSCOM should be included. Canada's UN ambassador had submitted a proposal on the composition of the panels. The disarmament panel would include the 22 commissioners who oversee UNSCOM, experts from the International Atomic Energy Agency and the UN undersecretary-general for disarmament. It would assess existing information on Iraq's disarmament and make recommendations on re-establishing an effective disarmament regime. Russia's UN Ambassador Sergey Lavrov questions the inclusion of UNSCOM commissioners and says any assessment must include an evaluation on the ground in Iraq.
  - Several members of the Security Council agree that the UNSCOM report will be issued as an official UN document, at the request of council members Slovenia and the Netherlands. Russia opposed its formal circulation since Moscow wants to dismantle UNSCOM
  - Scott Ritter says the U.S. had taken control of UN intelligence gathering activity in Iraq. “I was charged with carrying out sensitive activities in Iraq on behalf of UNSCOM and in April 1998 the U.S. intervened in this activity, shut down what had been an UNSCOM-controlled operation and recreated this as a US-controlled operation. I advised Richard Butler that this was not wise to do as we could be open to charges of unilateral intelligence collection. He disregarded my advice and instructed me to carry on.... So while the U.S. prepared the (listening) device to be sent into Iraq, I was authorized to go to the Australian government to seek to get them to provide us with personnel who would operate this equipment.” He says Australian officials “were given assurances that their personnel would not be misused.” It was only later we found out the fact their personnel were misused.” A spokesman for Australian Defense Minister John Moore says Ritter's claims are “not based on fact.” Ritter replies, “Your government is telling the truth. All Australian personnel provided were working for UNSCOM. And Richard Butler is telling the truth insofar that the operations he authorized, even though they were under the control of the U.S. government, he was led to believe they would only be doing the work of helping to further the disarmament mandate.”
  - Madeline Albright says in Cairo that. “Iraq's questioning of Kuwait's sovereignty and its call for the overthrow of Arab governments are just the most recent indications that Saddam Hussein seeks only to make trouble. The US, the Arab nations and the international community have no choice but to continue to contain his potential aggression.”.
  - Iraq's Oil Minister says Saudi Arabia for caused last year's oil price collapse and calls for OPEC to reduce the Saudi quota.
  - *Babel* says, “King Hussein's decision to change the crown prince and return this position to his son Abdullah is considered one of the most intelligent political decisions which King Hussein as taken, particularly in the 1990s. Prince Abdullah possesses a brave character and is accepted by the military and has good relations with them... Will we see Jordanian policy move towards pure nationalism and leave aside the blatant dealing with American and British policy or will it go the other way? ...The answer to this question...could indicate that this is an intelligent policy of his majesty King Hussein in misleading

the English under the cover of appointing the son of their sister and pushing the son of the Americans' sister into the Jordanian political arena on the other side.”

- Secretary of State Madeleine Albright meets with Saudi Arabia's King Fahd in Riyadh.
- 99-1-28: Gen. Anthony Zinni told the Senate Armed Services Committee that the Clinton administration's strategy of U.S. support for Iraqi opposition groups is ill-conceived and could further destabilize the region. “The last thing we need is another rogue state. Even if we had Saddam gone, by any means, we could end up with 15, 20, 90 groups competing for power. I will be honest. I don't see an opposition group that has the viability to overthrow Saddam at this point...(Such efforts) could further destabilize the area and could be very dangerous. The last thing we need is a disintegrated, fragmented Iraq. Because the effects on the region would be far greater, in my mind, than a contained Saddam...Now Saddam is dangerous. Saddam should go. There's not a doubt in my mind. But it is possible to create a situation that could be worse. And that's my concern. These groups are very fragmented. They have little if any viability to exact a change of regime in and of themselves. Their ability to cooperate is questionable.” Zinni says that Iraq had violated no-fly zones in northern and southern Iraq more than 70 times since Desert Fox, I think it's clear that Saddam has been a loser and his air defense system has been a loser in these engagements. I would emphasize, though, our pilots are still at risk. This is not an undangerous mission.” He says that that Iraq still may have Scud missiles capable of reaching Israel and retains the capability of manufacturing biological and chemical weapons. He says of Desert Fox that, “We're seeing more damage -- damage that we were very conservative in estimating until we had more proof or more evidence.”
- State Department, spokesman James Foley defends the Administration's policy, “The administration is determined to redouble its efforts to work closely with the members of the Iraqi opposition in order to promote regime change in Iraq. ... And we will be reviewing the possibility of different ways of working with them in the coming weeks and months. But I would fully endorse Gen. Zinni's conclusion that we believe that this is not going to be an easy or short-term effort,” Foley added.
- Defense Undersecretary Walter Slocombe supports the current policy, saying, “We believe we have a comprehensive strategy.”
- Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf says that Iraq still wishes support from other Arab states, “We ought to continue paving the way for dialogue...in order to push those who are standing against us to convince them that they will pay a high price for their position... There is a real need the reorganize the joint Arab work...(and to avoid the) methods of conspiracy and plots adopted by the Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers.”
- Ten U.S. F-15 and six F-16 fighter-bombers, two escort “Prowler” radar-jamming aircraft and two AWACS radar and control aircraft as well as four tankers took off on routine patrols in the course of the morning. They attack five targets in northern Iraq after they are been targeted by Iraqi anti-aircraft systems.
- Two F-15 fighter-bombers on a routine patrol of the northern “No-Fly Zone” are targeted by anti-aircraft artillery north of the city of Mosul and attack an Iraqi anti-aircraft battery in northern Iraq with three precision-guided bombs before returning to Incirlik. The incident comes shortly after the base at Incirlik is put on a state of alert on fears of a missile attack from Iraq. Allied sources in Ankara said a U.S. tracking station had picked up a possible launch from northern Iraq in the direction of the Turkish border. But the 'target' disappeared from radar and the alarm was lifted. The Turkish stock market falls by more than three percent on accompanying rumors of an Iraqi missile exploding in the southeastern city of Diyarbakir.
- A statement by the Turkish General Staff said there had been an explosion northeast of Mosul at the time Incirlik was put on alert and that this may have been interpreted as a missile launch. It did not say what caused the blast. Troops at Incirlik don protective gear, the gates are closed and traffic halts Four British Tornado aircraft are at the time of the alert. They returned to the base shortly after the all-clear was given. The battery of Patriot missiles at Incirlik is not readied for action during the alert.

- Richard Butler describes Scott Ritter's charges that Australia was involved in U.S. spying efforts tied to UNSCOM, as "completely false. I have no idea why Scott Ritter is doing this. I say it to you plain and clear. What he has alleged is completely false. It didn't happen. Australians were provided to us to work on our staff, as were staff from 40 other countries. All of them did our disarmament work. No spying. And that's the end of it." Ritter had said the U.S. prepared a listening device and "I was authorized to go to the Australian government to seek to get them to provide us with personnel who would operate this equipment.." Australia's foreign minister, Alexander Downer says in Dubai on Thursday that Ritter's allegation is a "rehash of an old allegation that UNSCOM has been used to spy for the US, and because there are Australians who work for UNSCOM, he has tried to focus that on Australians being used."
  - Iraq says the U.S. is still holding up spare parts for its oil industry. A U.S. official confirms that the U.S. has put 12 contracts on hold so experts can review them but that the U.S. had released 77 contracts it previously put on hold since January 15, and had a policy of expediting such contracts. The U.S. had lifted objections to 43 contracts the previous week, leaving another 114 contracts worth \$45 million on hold according to the UN, but Iraq says there are a total of 142 contracts are on hold. The U.S. has objected to some contracts because they were for parts to repair refineries from which Iraq smuggled oil rather than using it to purchase food, medicine and other goods. Iraq has been permitted to buy \$600 million worth of oil industry parts since June 1998. A total of 293 contracts worth \$163 million have been approved since then.
  - A UN official reports that hoof-and-mouth disease has crippled at least 1 million sheep and cattle in Iraq and the lack of vaccines for the highly contagious disease threatens the country's livestock, The outbreak was first reported 1 1/2 months ago. Since then, 982,000 sheep and 50,000 cattle have been reported infected. In addition, 48,000 newborn lambs and 3,000 calves have died. Many of Iraq's remaining 7 million farm animals are likely to become infected: The virus is so contagious that once an animal is infected, there is no escape for its companions in the herd. Nearly all of Iraq's 18 provinces are reported have suffered outbreaks of the sickness, known also as foot-and-mouth disease. Because grazing herds wander across borders, the danger extends beyond Iraq and into neighboring countries. The virus also clings to clothes and farming equipment and can drift as far as 30 miles in the air. The disease is seldom transmitted to humans. The government has exhausted its reserve of 250,000 vaccine dosages. To prevent an epidemic, Iraq claims it needs 3 million doses -- worth \$3 million -- as an emergency quick-fix, plus an additional 12 million doses later, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization. The UN body is trying to organize delivery of at least 1 million vaccines. Iraq had eradicated the virus years ago and even produced its own vaccines for it. However, the vaccine laboratory was destroyed in 1993 by the UN commission set up after the 1991 Persian Gulf War to ensure that Iraq eliminated its weapons of mass destruction. The commission feared the facility could be used to help manufacture biological or chemical weapons.
- 99-1-29 The Baath Party newspaper *Al-Thawra* says, "The Saudi government is a full partner in the conspiracy and aggression on Iraq's leadership and people. This is the truth... We condemn the deviant and deceitful Saudi positions with facts and evidence, and expose how the custodian of the two holy shrines (Saudi King Fahd) conspires against our country, people and leadership... The Al-Saud and Al-Sabah face the harmful consequences of (the conspiracy) which results in the violation of our airspace under the cover of what is called the no-fly zones... continues until today by allowing American and British planes to fly from Saudi bases to violate Iraqi airspace and bomb Iraq and its peaceful people."
- Security Council members fail to agree on the composition of three expert panels that would review all aspects of Iraq's relations with the UN. The U.S. has not made long-term proposals of its own. Canada has devised a procedural plan whose purpose is to get discussions moving on Iraq rather than devise a new policy on the future of arms inspections or sanctions. This includes panels to assess disarmament, the condition of the Iraqi people living under sanctions and an accounting of missing Kuwaitis and others during Iraq's occupation of the emirate it invaded in August 1990. The U.S. and most Council members have endorsed the Canadian proposal. The dispute focuses on the term "UNSCOM participation," which the U.S. and its supporters prefer, and "UNSCOM experience," which Russia, France, and others want. The role of any official representation by UNSCOM poses a problem for Russia, which, along with France and China, wants the commission abolished as soon as possible, and Russia has called for

UNSCOM to be replaced by a “Monitoring Center” in New York with an office in Baghdad. Its duties would be farmed out to various disarmament bodies, including the IAEA and the Hague-based Organization for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons...

- Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov demands the dismissal of Richard Butler in a letter to Secretary-General Annan on Friday. The Ivanov letter refers to Butler's “behavior and his unacceptable statements against the position of the Russian Federation and personally against the permanent representative of Russian Federation here in New York.”
  - Butler accuses senior Russian UN diplomats like accused Lavrov of making false statements to the Council, and says claims are “absolutely untrue.” and cites a case where Lavrov said Iraq had blocked only five inspections out of 300, which Butler said was not the case. He refutes Russian allegations that he had ordered a halt to UNSCOM inspections six days earlier than planned to give the U.S. time to bomb before the Moslem holy days. He does say that that he had briefed U.S. National Security Adviser Sandy Berger two weeks before the bombing and other U.S. officials three days before his report was completed. But he says he had also briefed envoys from other countries.
  - Turkish President Suleyman Demirel discusses the situation in Iraq during a meeting with Egyptian leader Hosni Mubarak .A Turkish newspaper later quotes Demirel as saying he warned President I Clinton against supporting Iraqi opposition groups in a bid to overthrow President Saddam Hussein, “Let me tell you one thing -- this business resembles Vietnam. I said this to President Bush and I said it to Clinton.”
- 99-1-30: U.S. fighters attack four Iraqi anti-aircraft missile sites and one surface-to-air missile site near Mosul in the no-fly zone over northern Iraq. U.S. aircraft fire missiles in separate incidents in self-defense between three and 4.30 p.m. Iraqi time (1200-1330 GMT. The first incident takes place shortly after 3 p.m. Iraqi time, when a group of F-15Es drop two GBU-12 munitions on an Iraqi Skyguard surface-to-air missile site after being targeted. A few minutes later, F-15Es dropped two more GBU-12s on an anti-aircraft artillery system and associated radar. A further F-15E attack on an anti-aircraft artillery site occurs close to 3:30 p.m. A U.S. Marine EA-6B Prowler fires a HARM missile at a radar-guided anti-aircraft artillery around 4:30 p.m. Moments later, F-15Es dropped GBU-12s on another anti-aircraft artillery site.
- Iraq states “ Twelve hostile formations coming from Turkish air space supported by an early warning plane (AWACS) implemented 22 missions using 17 missiles and bombs. Planes of the aggressors have violated our air space in northern Iraq at 1325 p.m. local time (1025 GMT) on January 30. The aggressors returned at 1630 p.m. local time (1330 GMT) by violating our national air space but this time coming from Kuwaiti and Saudi air space. Fourteen hostile formations supported by an early warning plane (AWACS) violated our air space coming from Saudi skies as well as an EC2 plane coming from Kuwaiti skies.”
  - Iraq claims to have defused an unexploded cruise missile near Kirkuk. It has previously said that it defused 58 unexploded bombs dropped during Desert Fox. It now claims 18 people were killed and 59 injured in Basra during the AGM-130 strike five days earlier.
  - The Iraqi government newspaper *al-Jumhuriya* says “We are surprised at what a Saudi source had said that his country was not able to prevent so-called international monitoring of Iraqi airspace. Doesn't this Saudi regime's weakness and loss of will mean that it is in fact under American military occupation? Those who have (political) goals in Iraq and their supporters have prevented Iraq importing weapons and prevented it improving its conventional military abilities while Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iran and Turkey were allowed to do so.”
  - *al-Jumhuriya* also claims that Iraq has lost three to five billion dollars in 1998 as a result of low oil prices which, adjusting for inflation, are at 25-year lows largely because of an oil supply glut.
  - Security Council members agree to set up three panels to review all aspects of Iraqi policy. The agreement is the first formal council action on Iraq since Desert Fox. The U.S. and Russia agree that the panel on disarmament would involve the “participation and expertise from UNSCOM” as well as other UN disarmament agencies. Three panels are to study Iraqi adherence on disarmament, humanitarian issues, looted Kuwaiti property and the status of Kuwaitis missing since Iraq's 1990 occupation of the

country. The question of what to do with the panels' recommendations remains open. The panels are to submit their recommendations to the Security Council by April 15 on re-establishing an effective disarmament program in Iraq, on improving the humanitarian situation in the country, and on looted Kuwaiti property and missing Kuwaitis. The debate had focused on the role of UNSOM in the disarmament panel. The U.S. and Britain want UNSCOM to play an important part. Russia and China openly criticized UNSCOM and accused Richard Butler of being biased against Iraq. The compromise agreement includes UNSCOM's participation. Ran Fengchen, the spokesman for China's delegation, says, "The Council still has a long way to go towards finding a final solution. The Council still has to face the serious consequences ... posed by the unilateral military strikes on Iraq." Ambassador Sergey Lavrov repeats Russia's call for Butler's resignation.

- U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Martin Indyk and Frank Ricciardone, the newly appointed special U.S. representative for Iraq transition, go to the Gulf to discuss efforts to overthrow President Saddam Hussein. Indyk says in Bahrain that the U.S. would look for ways to support Iraqis who want to change their government, and would not impose a solution. "The change must come from the Iraqi people themselves... It is their task and their responsibility and not ours."
  - Ahmed Allawi, spokesman for the London-based Iraqi National Congress says that a broad-based democratic movement is the best option for removing Saddam Hussein from power, and that General Anthony Zinni "clearly does not have a full understanding of the political and social situation in Iraq. General Zinni's view that Iraq would splinter and that Iraqi society will not withstand the removal of Saddam's dictatorship is widely off the mark and shows a real lack of knowledge and misinformation about Iraq. The general claims to have studied the Iraqi opposition, yet neither the general nor anyone from his staff has ever been in contact with the Iraqi National Congress." Allawi accuses Ellen Laipson, Vice-Chairman of the National Intelligence Council of the CIA, of saying that many Iraqis supported a form of leadership that does not meet Western standards for democracy and calls her statement "immoral... This person voices the prevailing view that Iraqis and Arabs are unworthy of democracy and incapable of pluralism and participatory government. We find this view offensive if not blatantly racist. We hope that the Clinton Administration will disavow the comments of these two officials and move swiftly to implement the Iraqi Liberation Act."
  - Mohammad Baqer al-Hakim, head of the Shi'ite Moslem Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI), which is based in Iran, says, "(Iraq's) neighbors have a strong desire to see the day when Saddam is no longer in power... and they have been making efforts for a long time to achieve this target."
  - The British aircraft carrier HMS Invincible arrives in the to help patrol a no-fly zone over southern Iraq. The destroyer HMS Newcastle and the store ship Fort Austin accompany the Invincible. The duration of Invincible's deployment is not announced, but it is expected to stay until late spring. The carrier has a crew of around 1,200 and its aircraft includes Sea Harrier vertical takeoff and landing jets and Sea King. The Invincible's Harriers will take part in Operation Southern Watch. The helicopters will be involved in enforcing trade sanctions against Iraq, monitoring shipping in and out of Iraqi waters. Twelve British Tornado bombers in Kuwait and six in Saudi Arabia already participate in Operation Southern Watch. Britain also has aerial refueling tankers based in Bahrain.
- 99-1-31: U.S. and British fighters fly patrols from Incirlik. The patrol group includes 20 U.S. F-15 and F-16 fighters, British Tornado jets, AWACS and tankers. A U.S. F-16 based in southern Turkey fires a HARM missile at a radar system north of Mosul at around 3:20 p.m. Iraqi time (1220 GMT). It was a part of a patrol group of more than 20 U.S. F-15 and F-16 fighters, British Tornado jets, AWACS radar and control aircraft and tanker planes had taken off earlier into blue skies above the complex of red-brick buildings set behind wire near the southern Turkish city of Adana. All of the aircraft returned without damage.
- U.S. and British aircraft, including two U.S. Navy F-14s, two FA-18s, one EA-6B, one U.S. Air Force F-16CJ and two British Royal Air Force GR-1 aircraft, attack two Iraqi communications facilities after an Iraqi MiG 23 enters the southern no-fly zone, The attacks occur at about 2:20 a.m. EST and strike an Iraqi communications repeater station in Talil, about 170 miles southeast of Baghdad and a radio relay

station in Al Amarah, about 120 miles southeast of Baghdad, The eight American and British aircraft involved in the attack return undamaged

- Iraq introduces cheese to the ration card distributed to Iraqis each month to ease the effect of UN sanctions.
  - The INA says a meeting chaired by President Saddam Hussein -- and attended by Vice Chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council Izzat Ibrahim, Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan as well as RCC members and senior officials condemned the Security Council decision to review all aspects of relations with Iraq, "The work of the three panels on Iraq set up by the Security Council will take months and will mean nothing but procrastination and maintaining the unjust embargo on Iraq. Iraq demands a condemnation of the aggression...and the unconditional and immediate lifting of the embargo. Baghdad has not been consulted on setting up these panels, therefore such a measure does not mean anything to us."
  - *Babel* says the U.S. wants to "foil French and Russian proposals and pushed the others to submit draft The American game has been exposed and there is no more room for procrastination and there is no option but to lift the unjust embargo. The Security Council should shoulder its historical and moral responsibility and grant Iraq its right by exposing and confronting the American aggression....continuous American aggression in its north and south."
  - *al-Qadissiya* attacks Secretary of State Albright's visit to the Gulf, saying, "Albright returned back home carrying fruits of her recent tour which is waving a false Arab cover for a new wicked American aggression against Iraq."
  - Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi, speaking in Switzerland says the U.S. and Britain should stop using force against Iraq and try to create an international consensus on how to end the crisis. "No unilateral action will be helpful. What the American and British governments have done so far has not been quite helpful because it has created more of a gap inside the Security Council. Therefore I believe the international consensus is the most valuable instrument (leading) out of the crisis. I believe there should be a change of policy toward Iraq to be more practical and at the same time to take into consideration the concerns of the...countries in the region." He says of the patrols over the no-fly zones, "Yes. I believe that is not justified."
  - Frank Ricciardone, special representative for transition in Iraq, visits the region and asks all regional states to cooperate with the U.S. and Iraqi opposition groups. He says, "Iranian inability to speak (with the US) is unfortunate but we hope that all neighboring countries have the same stake in seeing Iraq get back on its feet, to be free and independent. We have no plans to have a dialogue with Iran (on Iraq). We are open to dialogue as we have said many times. The goal of the US, we really believe is an Iraqi goal, and we think it ought to be the goal of all of Iraq's neighbors. The goal is much bigger and much harder than that and much more strategic than that." Ricciardone is traveling with Assistant Secretary of State Martin Indyk in talks with Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, and the UAE..
  - The speaker of Iraq's National Assembly, Saadoun Hammadi, is quoted by as saying Saudi Arabia and Kuwait collaborated with the U.S. to "destroy the Iraqi economy," He says Saudi Arabia's oil policy cost Arab oil producers some \$919 billion in potential revenue over the past 12 years. "These funds went to the economies of the advanced industrialized countries instead of being useful in development programs in these states. The Saudis with this behavior wanted to implement what America wanted." Several days earlier, Iraqi Oil Minister Amir Muhammed Rasheed announced that Iraq would ask the OPEC to cut Saudi Arabia's 8.0 million barrel per day quota by more than a third in order to raise oil prices.
- 99-2-1: Deputy Information Minister Hamid Saeed says the U.S. replacement program is "a loser looking for failure. We feel strong. I say it with confidence: Iraq shall stay, the government in Iraq shall stay, Saddam Hussein shall stay and the others will fail." He says of Frank Ricciardone, the U.S. official given the task of coordinating Iraqi opposition groups, We know that this hooligan is in charge of directing groups of traitors, agents and aging mules who call themselves opposition

- Lieutenant-General Mohammed Abdel-Qader, the Iraqi governor of Nineveh province says he has prayed Iraqi air defense crews would shoot down a plane, "All of us hope that an American plane comes down...We call on God that an American plane, or planes, come down because of the flagrant aggression on our country, our people and national security. In the northern area, there are Iraqi people. Kurds, Arabs and people of different religions living in the area. It is natural that any country exposed to aggression, will challenge the aggression with all its means. Iraq is a country being attacked by America and Britain. There are many civilian places that were hit, the latest in Basra. It is very likely that missiles or bombs will fall upon civilian areas.
  - The weekly Iraqi newspaper Nabdh al-Shabab (Pulse of Youth) reports that Saddam has offered a reward of \$14,000 to any Iraqi who shoots down an enemy plane. "In accordance of the leader's order, the Presidential Office will grant 25 million dinars to those who shoot down a hostile plane and 10 million (5,000 dollars) for gunning down a missile." Defense Secretary William Cohen replies, "It reflects just another example of Saddam Hussein flailing out."
  - The Security Council discusses ways to establish expert panels to assess Iraq's disarmament and adherence to other UN resolutions. Ambassador Celso Amorim, who will chair the three panels, talks with Secretary General Annan and the ambassadors of Iraq, Kuwait, Russia and Britain. The Iraqi leadership has rejected the Council's decision, saying Iraq was not consulted and the assessment efforts will only lifting sanctions. The French Ambassador Alain Dejammet says t Iraq's reaction is not unexpected and will have "no weight". The panels are expected to submit recommendations on re-establishing an effective disarmament program in Iraq, on improving the humanitarian situation in the country, and on what to do about looted property and hundreds of people who disappeared after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait. They are to report to the Security Council by April 15. Amorim is to decide such issues as the composition of the panels, how technical or political their work might be, and whether panel members might seek to visit Iraq.
- 99-2-2: Assistant Secretary of State Martin Indyk has talks with leaders of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates and says that that there is "a consensus about the continuing danger that Saddam Hussein poses to Iraq's neighbors and to its people... The leaders here argued strongly that change needs to come from within Iraq and we agree with that. They also expressed concern about maintaining the territorial integrity of Iraq and we agree with that. We made clear that this policy cannot succeed without their support as well as ours.. Leaders here argued strongly that the change needs to come from within Iraq, and we agreed with them. They also expressed concern about maintaining the territorial integrity of Iraq, and we agreed with them."
- U.S. warplanes attack and seem to destroy a new anti-ship missile site in southern Iraq that could have threatened shipping in the oil-rich Gulf. The anti-ship missile launchers were deployed in recent weeks on the al-Fao peninsula, which juts into the Gulf at the mouth of the Shatt al-Arab waterway. Four attack jets from the carrier Carl Vinson in attack a Russian-made CSSC-3 missile battery. The missiles, with a range of about 60 miles (100 km) and a 1,100-pound (500 kg) warhead, were apparently moved within the past week to the coast just southeast of Basra and would have posed a threat to U.S. warships and commercial shipping. The attack takes place about 12:30 p.m. Iraq Time (4:30 a.m. EST/(0930 GMT) and two F-14 and two F/A-18 attack jets launch four laser-guided 500-pound (800 kg) bombs
  - Other U.S. jets make at least four bombing strikes against anti-aircraft missile and radar sites in the northern no fly zone after the jets are targeted anti-aircraft artillery sites and a radar associated with an SA-2 surface-to-air missile battery. At 2:20 p.m. Iraqi time (6:20 a.m. EST/1120 GMT), two U.S. F-15Es drop two 500-pound (800 kg) laser-guided bombs on an anti-aircraft artillery battery in response to being targeted by Iraqi radar near the northern town of Mosul. In a second incident about 15 minutes later, a Marine Corps EA-6B electronic warfare plane fires a high-speed anti-radiation, or HARM, missile at an SA-2 missile radar site. In a third incident about five minutes later, an unspecified number of F-15Es drop GBU-12 precision-guided munitions on an anti-aircraft artillery site. Some ten minutes later, F-15Es drop an unspecified number of GBU-12 munitions on another anti-aircraft artillery site There at least two other attacks by American jets in the area near Mosul. All of the U.S. aircraft returned safely to their bases.

- The official al-Iraq newspaper publishes front-page editorial Iraq saying, "Our decision to prevent the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) from returning and to resist the so-called no-fly zone is irreversible."
  - Iraq bans any product carrying a picture of the American flag.
  - Turkey's Defense Minister Hikmet Sami Turk says the government is considering changes in rules of engagement for warplanes patrolling the northern no-fly zone. "There is work (going on) now on the rules of engagement. The rules of engagement are to be redefined. Both sides are working on that,." He also says that Turkey will react to any Iraqi move to launch a Scud missile attack on Incirlik.
  - The UN says Iraq has exported 107 million barrels of crude oil under the latest phase of the oil-for-food deal/Saddam Zeiban al-Hassan, head of the Iraqi State Organization for the Marketing of Oil (SOMO), says "Iraq exported 107 million barrels of crude oil under the fifth phase of the oil-for-food and medicine deal." (Which began in November and ends in May). He says average daily oil exports had risen during this phase, but that only a few spare parts have arrived in the country to repair its worn-out oil installations. Hassan says 563 contracts were signed to buy spare parts under the fourth phase of the deal while it had not yet signed any under the fifth phase.
  - The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) says Iraq has refused to attend the latest session of the talks it holds four times a year on the fate of 610 missing Kuwaitis and Saudis because Iraq refuses to sit with U.S. and British officials while their planes bomb Iraq. Kuwait's Defense Minister Sheik Salem Sabah al-Salem al-Sabah says, "The reason in the letter the Iraqis wrote (to the ICRC) was they don't want to come to deal with the U.S, British and French. These are UN resolutions...these are humanitarian questions." Prince Turki bin Mohammed bin Saud al-Kabeer, head of the international organizations department of the Saudi Foreign Ministry, says, "We feel very sorry that the Iraqi delegation is not participating in this meeting. I hope they will revise their decision, This is a commission dealing with humanitarian issues and it has no political orientation. The British and U.S. are members and therefore Iraq doesn't want to participate. We think this is totally unacceptable because all members of the commission have signed an agreement and it has to be honored." The ICRC says it is consulting with other members of the commission looking into the missing: France, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Britain and the U.S. and the Iraqi authorities.
  - An Iraqi military spokesman says that U.S. and British aircraft carried out 26 missions inside Iraq's national air space and attacked a position in Najaf province and a food ration center. "It has been confirmed to us clearly that Saudi pilots have taken part in these formations."
  - Saudi state television says, An official Saudi source at the Ministry of Defense and Aviation denied a report issued today....by some news agencies quoting the Iraqi News Agency that Saudi pilots had participated in an air raid on a food distribution center in the Najaf Province in southern Iraq. The source said that the report was totally fabricated and that such a thing was impossible to happen in any form," the television added.
  - Kuwaiti Defense Minister and deputy prime minister Sheik Salem Sabah al-Salem al-Sabah, says, "My reaction is Iraq should not disturb its neighbors by threatening them all the time."
- 99-2-3: Iraq moves missile launchers from the "no-fly" zones in northern and southern Iraq to central Iraq, where they pose less of a threat. Iraq had added air defense forces to the northern and southern sectors after the four-day U.S. and British bombing campaign in mid-December. It is not clear whether the withdrawal means Iraq reduced its challenge or is changing tactics.
- Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Shara says to Robin Cook, "The bombing is futile, it only hurts the Iraqi people. Only the Iraqi people are paying the price. After eight years of sanctions, the picture hasn't changed on the ground except more suffering."
  - Sheik Mohammad bin Rashid al-Maktoum, the UAE defense minister, expresses strong reservations about U.S. efforts to overthrow Saddam Hussein. The official news agency WAM reports that he said he "considered that any political change in Iraq imposed from outside could lead to the division of (the country) and internal civil war" after meeting with Indyck. The *al-Khaleej* newspaper says, "It is clear

that the U.S. is seeking to market its policy and positions sometimes by force and sometimes by deception.”

- A government statement in Oman says Sultan Qaboos stressed the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries to Indyk, and the need for continuous efforts to help ease UN economic sanctions against Iraq and to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people.
  - A senior Foreign Ministry official in Qatar says, “It is an internal matter for Iraq. We would prefer this matter should be left to the Iraqi people to decide whether they want a change or not or whom they want as their leader. Any outside interference will not be in the best interest of anybody.”
  - Indyk does not visit Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia, has stated it does not back foreign involvement in changing the Iraqi government.
  - al-Joumhuriya says, “Indyk's visit...to the region is one of a chain of conspiracies against Iraq," the paper said. “Iraq will remain a difficult target for all kinds of conspiracies. The tour of the so-called coordinator of American efforts is a failure. Washington is deliberately escalating its campaign (against Iraq) by bombing more Iraqi targets in the south and the north as a response to (President Bill) Clinton's failed policy on Iraq (after) American newspapers and television networks began to criticize (Washington) for its so-called liberation of Iraq policy and the unsuccessful dependence on a fragmented opposition.”
  - Iraq's ambassador to the UN, Saeed Hasan, presents his credentials to Secretary-General Annan. He has been Iraq's deputy UN representative since 1994. From 1992 to 1993 he was deputy director of the Iraqi foreign ministry's department of international organization affairs. He joined the foreign ministry in 1987 after serving in the education ministry. Hasan holds a degree in geography from the University of Baghdad and was a high school teacher from 1969 to 1979. He later earned a doctorate in regional planning from the Sorbonne, in Paris.
  - The UN orders American and British employees out of after Iraq refuses to guarantee the safety of UN workers from those countries. Iraq says it can only vouch for the safety of three American workers: Darlene Bisson, deputy director of the World Food Program, the secretary to Prakash Shah, Secretary-General Kofi Annan's special representative to Iraq, and Abdullah Odeh, the head of the UN Development Program. Before Desert Fox there were 12 to 15 American and British nationals among the 400 UN employees in Iraq.
  - Richard Butler meets with Secretary General Annan. There is growing speculation that he will not be part of the new panel to assess Iraq's disarmament being established by the Security Council.
  - The UN World Food Program (WFP) calls for contributions of \$21 million to help Iraqis suffering from food shortages and poor water supply. It claims about one million people are in need, including 200,000 acutely malnourished children. Jean-Jacques Graisse, the agency's assistant executive director, says, “These children have not had proper drinking water or sanitation since they were born. In the most crucial years of their development, they have never known the basic good health that children in many other countries simply take for granted.” The WFP wants the money to finance a year-long operation to distribute a highly nutritional blend of wheat, soya and milk to the Iraqi children, some 800,000 of relatives of the children. as part of a strategy to encourage participation in the program and to benefit the children's mothers. The project will complement the oil-for-food program.
  - Press reports come out of Iraq that a merchant class has grown rich under sanctions and is a new source of support for Saddam Hussein's regime. This includes newly wealthy farmers and newly rich merchants that are war profiteers. The regime has also encouraged merchants from key families and tribes to ensure their loyalty. In rural areas, the government gives land, seed, fertilizers and farm machinery to tribal leaders, who patrol the countryside for the government. The farmers also get government price supports. Saddam's closest associates seem to have profited from the cross-border trade, including his son Uday. It is estimated thousands of merchants -- if not tens of thousands -- are involved in the cross-border trade.
- 99-2-4: The Iraqi foreign ministry says it will continue to investigate the fate of Kuwaitis and others missing since the 1991 Gulf War. “Iraq will continue investigating the fate of the missing Kuwaitis and other

nationals in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross. We hope that the concerned states announce in return their commitments to keep on investigating the fate of missing Iraqis.”

- *Al-Thawra*, a Baath party newspaper, says of U.S. efforts to overthrow President Saddam Hussein, “The new thing in the comedy is the inability, failure and bankruptcy of all previous attempts. Military aggression did not succeed in destabilizing Iraq .. nor did the sanctions manage to twist its arm .. nor the spying, which was only useful to prove Iraq's credibility and failure of the Special Commission claims. The illusion which fills heads of some (Arabs) that American power could do anything to topple any regime unwanted by them is mere illusion. *Al-Qadisiya*, says of Indyk's visit, “This visit represents an affront to Arab dignity and determination to penetrate the Arab front in order to tear it up and (attain) the illegal ambitions of America (and) impose hegemony on the Arab Gulf and the Arab homeland.”
- Saudi Arabia says it will welcome Iraqi pilgrims making the annual Haj pilgrimage
- 99-2-5: UN spokesman Fred Eckhard says Secretary-General Annan takes, “note of Ambassador Butler's intention and wished him well... the Secretary-General had a professional working relationship with Ambassador Butler and had few if any differences with him on matters of substance....the issue before us is how to disarm Iraq as called for in Security Council resolutions.” He says Annan “urges us all to remain focused on that objective.”
- Iraq's most influential newspaper offered sympathy to neighboring Jordan on Saturday over the terminal illness of King Hussein and warned Israel might try to divide its territory.
- *Babel* expresses its sympathy to Jordan for the loss of King Hussein and says Iraq, which is the key supporting neighbor for Jordan, can give to Jordan without taking anything...Our hearts are with our brave people in Jordan who we hope will overcome this ordeal... We think Jordan will pass through difficult days which will not be easy to overcome as there are two parties in dispute... We advise our Jordanian brothers to be alert...as Israel will try to play a serious card namely finding an alternative home for the Palestinians. Therefore, instead of one Jordan it wants an eastern Jordan and a western Jordan..” It warns of, “Syrian ambitions in the north and Saudi ambitions in the south. king's brother and former heir Prince Hassan.
- 9-2-6: Death of King Hussein
- 99-2-7: Richard Butler refutes accusations that UNSCOM helped the U.S. and Britain choose targets for Desert Fox, “On the question of targeting during the bombing six weeks ago, what a joke,” said the controversial and outspoken Australian who is to leave his post in June. The very idea that the U.S. or UK armed forces would have relied on our information for precision bombing is a joke. Our information is much lower grade. The idea that they relied on us for targeting is a belly laugh.” He says of his relations with Secretary-General Annan. “I saw the reports that suggested people on his staff had been bad-mouthing us. I don't know the veracity of those reports. I was obviously disturbed by them...Kofi Annan and I are standing shoulder-to-shoulder in the business of getting Iraq back into compliance...Together we are working on getting that job done.”
- The Al-Iraq newspaper says Butler’s departure is not enough. Iraq wants an end to UN sanctions and world condemnation of Desert Fox and the no-fly zones.
- Saddam Hussein praises Iraq’s air defense troops. “I salute your effort to defend the sovereignty of great Iraq. It's an irony when the Americans say they are defending themselves while they make an...aggression on Iraq and air defense sites as if they are flying over Washington's skies, not Iraq's.” The Iraqi News Agency reports that Saddam met with Defense Minister Sultan Hashim Ahmed and senior air defense commanders involved in recent battles with U.S. and British warplanes over Iraq, and also said that he was proud that Iraq could confront the most advanced military technology in the world.
- Iraq announces that an Iraqi vice-president will attend the funeral of King Hussein, “Iraq will be represented in the funeral ceremony by a delegation headed by Vice-President Taha Mohieddin Ma'rouf and Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry Noori Ismael al-Wayis.”

- 99-2-8: The Arab League announces that it and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein exchanged views after last month's walkout by Iraq from a League meeting of foreign ministers. "The Secretary General sent on January 26 a message to the Iraqi president which included the League's opinion on the foreign ministers' meeting and what happened in it. Also the secretary general received on February 4 an answer from the Iraqi president...including the Iraqi view on the meeting." There are no details.
- Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf, meets with Algerian Prime Minister Ismail Hamdani, and delivers a letter from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to President Liamine Zeroual who is in Amman attending the funeral of Jordanian King Hussein. Algeria is one of few Arab countries which has called for the lifting of UN sanctions
  - The General Federal Prosecutor's office in Karlsruhe charges Karl-Heinz Schaab sold Iraq diagrams of equipment needed to develop fissile material in 1989. It said the engineer had already been handed a suspended jail sentence by a German court in 1983 for export violations but that new evidence had come to light, that the plans Schaab sold were not for an outdated "subcritical" centrifuge, but for a far more advanced and modern type. Schaab was working as a subcontractor with Urenco, a German-Dutch-British coalition for uranium-enrichment technology, in the late 1980s when he was approached by Iraqi scientists looking for help with their program. He reportedly sold Iraq the plans for \$1.2 million. He admitted helping Iraq but denies the information he provided was sensitive or critical enough to be considered treason. Schaab claims others were involved and his own role was minimal.
  - Iraq's media is silent on King Hussein's death.
  - British Defense Minister Robertson arrives in Kuwait from Qatar. Robertson had said in Qatar that several allies "consider military action as the sole way to (get) Iraq to comply with international resolutions..."
- 99-2-9: The Tehran-based Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI), Iraq's main Shi'ite Moslem opposition group, claims it knows nothing about a reported attempt to kill Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. It is reacting to a UAE newspaper article in daily *al-Ittihad* claiming Saddam had been injured in an assassination attempt by the Badr Legion, which it said was headed by SCIRI leader Mohammed Baqer al-Hakim.
- Security Council President, Canadian Ambassador, Robert Fowler, says members of the three panels to make recommendations on Iraq's future relationship with the UN will be named in a few days.
  - Faleh al-Khayat, director general of planning and studies at Iraq's Oil Ministry says Iraq hopes to maintain oil exports at 2.2 to 2.3 MMBD to the end of 1999 and increase exports to 2.8 million bpd by the second quarter of 2000 if spare parts arrive in time. He also says the Basra oil refinery bombed during Desert Fox is operational. "One of the two production lines of that refinery is operational and commissioning the second line is related to circumstances. What we hope is that we can maintain current production to the end of the year. The current export capacity is more than 2.2 to 2.3 million barrels per day." He says that Iraq is currently producing 2.6 to 2.7 MMBD. He also says that Iraq had sent a letter to the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries asking it to reduce the group's export ceiling by 1.5 million bpd and saying the whole amount should be cut by Saudi Arabia. Khayat says Saudi Arabia is deliberately flooding the market with oil in order to suit U.S. policy. Saudi Arabia raised its own production by more than two million MMBD after Iraqi oil exports were halted under the economic embargo imposed by the UN after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.
  - Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf meets with Tunisia's President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali,
  - Iraq claims that the U.S. and UK flew 21 sorties in the Northern No-Fly Zone and, "At 1240 today (0940 GMT), hostile formations approached one of our air defenses. Our brave air defense fighters fired at this formation and primary data indicate that one of the hostile planes was shot... the aircraft left our southern national airspace at 1305...heading back to the dens of evil that they came from." A Pentagon spokesman says, "I have every evidence that that absolutely did not occur. There have been no strikes taken by U.S.

- aircraft in the north or the south in the past four or five days.” The British Ministry of Defense says all British planes had returned safely from their missions.
- British Defense Secretary Robertson arrives in Saudi Arabia and meets with Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan bin Abdul-Aziz and senior army officials.
- 99-2-10: Mohamed Elbaradei , the director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, issues a 20 page report to the Security Council on its effort in Iraq. It estimates it would cost \$10 million a year to make sure Iraq does not build a nuclear bomb and says intrusive inspections must be part of its monitoring activities. The report says the IAEA has “no indication” that Iraq has nuclear-related equipment or other materials, but cannot say with any certainty that nothing further existed. Inspectors from the IAEA have not been in Iraq since the mid-December US-British bombing raids. Elbaradei, says a, “comprehensive, rigorous and as a result intrusive” inspection campaign is needed. He says the IAEA has, “no indication that Iraq possesses nuclear weapons or any meaningful amounts of weapon-usable nuclear material or that Iraq has retained any practical capability (facilities or hardware) for the production of such material... It is assumed that Iraq retains the capability to explore, for nuclear weapons purposes, any relevant material or technology to which it may gain access in the future.”
- U.S. aircraft fire weapons at two air defense sites in Iraq after encountering Iraqi violations in the southern “no-fly” zone. The incident took place at about 4 a.m. EST (0900 GMT) and was in response to Iraqi Mig-23s and MiG-25s flying in the southern exclusion zone. U.S. pilots fired precision guided bombs at air defense sites near Talil, about 170 miles (274 km) southeast of Baghdad, and an air defense radar site near an-Najaf, about 100 miles (160 km) south of the capital. No coalition aircraft are damaged.
  - Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz is head an Iraqi delegation to visit Turkey to discuss relations. Last month Iraq has asked Turkey’s new prime minister Ecevit to stop U.S. and British jets from using an air base at Incirlik.
  - Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, says, “We want to end the Iraqi dictatorship. This is our main goal... We need all the support ... which will enable us to reach the goals of the Kurdish people... It is not one of our goals to go and topple Saddam... We are not participating in outside conspiracy. I would be ashamed if America did it (oust Saddam). ... This is the task of the Iraqi opposition.” Talabani claims that the Kurds have tens of thousands of fighters who are building links with Shiite rebel force in southern Iraq. He acknowledged that any rebellion needs the support of Sunni Muslims, “The day we achieve unity, the second day there will be a change in Iraq.”
  - The Iraqi the weekly magazine *al-Illam* (Media), which is controlled by Uday, says Iraqis will start military training next month to meet foreign aggression, “Instructions have been issued to train the (Iraqi) people... as from March in Baghdad and the provinces and each training course will last a month... This jihad (holy struggle) is to prepare our brave people to confront any possibility of an imperialist-Zionist attack on our country.” The magazine claims there will be 12 monthly courses. Iraq had claimed last year that more than one million men and women received military training.
- 99-2-11 Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf arrives in Morocco to deliver a letter from Saddam to King Hassan.
- Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz says he is preparing to visit Turkey next week and will ask Turkey to stop U.S. and British air forces using Incirlik, “This is unfortunate because Turkey is a neighbor and we think neighbors should respect the security and mutual interests of each other... This is a flagrant aggression against Iraq. It is a flagrant violation of international law and it is a violation and act of disrespect for Security Council resolutions that Iraq will not accept.” State Department spokesman James Foley says, “We don't understand (Turkish) Prime Minister (Bulent) Ecevit's decision to host Tariq Aziz at this time. Obviously we'll be in diplomatic contact with the Turkish government on this matter. We expect that the Turkish government will make it clear to Tariq Aziz that the roots of the current confrontation with Iraq are Baghdad's eight-year-long refusal to meet its UN obligations and more recently its challenges to the no-fly zones.”

- U.S. forces strike at least seven Iraqi air defense targets in both the northern and southern no-fly zones ranging from Iraqi missile communication sites to radar sites. In the attacks in the north, U.S. planes bomb two communications sites, two surface-to-air missile systems and an Iraqi radar site near the northern town of Mosul. The attacks in the southern no-fly zone occurred in response to violations by Iraqi MiG-23 planes in the exclusion zone at about 10:45 a.m. EST (1545 GMT), several hours after the clashes in the north. The targets included radar sites and associated facilities near Al Habbariyah, about 135 miles (220 km) southwest of Baghdad, and near Al Amarah, about 170 miles (270 km) southeast of Baghdad. A Pentagon spokesman says, "In all cases, U.S. aircraft returned safely to their bases. We go to extreme measures to ensure that as we attack these targets we do so in a way that minimizes the risk to the civilian population." Doubleday said. The spokesman adds that U.S. and British attacks since December had had a "grave impact" on Iraq's air defense system: "We believe we have been effective in hitting the targets threatening coalition forces and our intention is that as long as they (Iraq) continue these provocative actions we will continue to respond." There have now been more than 90 no-fly zone violations since Operation Desert Fox and more than 70 incidents involving Iraqi surface-to-air missiles, anti-aircraft artillery and target-tracking radar illuminations' against U.S. and British planes. U.S. and British forces have responded by attacking more than 37 targets.
  - Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz says that Iraq would continue to challenge the no-fly zones "no matter what the sacrifices and consequences are."
  - Iraq says at least two people are killed in the attacks and several were injured. "They launched eight missiles and bombs against our air defense positions in the southeastern region, wounding a number of civilians."
  - French Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Anne Gazeau-Secret says the recent report from the International Atomic Energy Agency Iraq's nuclear program was consistent with French proposals for less rigid, long-term monitoring of Iraq, despite lingering uncertainties: "This approach is fully in line with the ideas which France put forward in January...It shows the agency now has a technically coherent picture of Iraq's nuclear program and that the uncertainties, which it highlights as inevitable, do not preclude full implementation of the long-term control plan." France continues to seek lifting of the oil embargo and replacement of UNSCOM with a looser monitoring system within Iraq and along its borders. It says these steps would ensure Baghdad would keep its promises not to build weapons of mass-destruction.
  - Iraq makes its first public reaction to King Hussein's death, and Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz says "First of all, we share (with) the Jordanian people their sorrow for the loss of the late King Hussein... We respect ... (our) relations with Jordan. Those relations are in the best interest of both Jordan and Iraq and we hope to maintain and develop those relations...Certainly, there is no change in our policy toward Jordan."
- 99-2-12: The UN names the members of the three panels to make recommendations to the Security Council on policy towards Iraq by April 15, as the Council called for on January 30th. The chairman of all three panels is Celso Amorim, Brazil's UN ambassador and himself a Council member. Amorim appeals to Iraq to cooperate with the panels although the Iraqi leadership has called the decision to create them "procrastination." Amorim says, "If Iraq cooperates, the work of the panel would be broader in scope, which could be interesting...I have not despaired of Iraqi cooperation. ... What I could detect was a wait-and-see attitude." Deputy U.S. Ambassador Peter Burleigh says, "We were looking and expecting a serious, professional group of experts who are recognized to be knowledgeable on Iraq and this disarmament panel meets that standard." A State Department spokesman says the panel will make "a substantive and factually based review of Iraq's compliance with its disarmament obligations."
1. DISARMAMENT PANEL (20 members): The panel does not include Richard Butler, head of the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) involved in scrapping Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. But it listed his American deputy, Charles Duelfer, four other members of his staff, and seven members of UNSCOM's commission.

UNSCOM staff members (5): Charles Duelfer of the US, deputy chairman of the UN Special Commission and an UNSCOM commissioner; Rachel Davies of Britain; head of UNSCOM's information assessment and its import-export section; Gabriele Kraatz-Wadsack of Germany, UNSCOM's biological warfare expert; Horst Reeps of Germany, UNSCOM's chemical warfare expert; Nikita Smidovich of Russia, UNSCOM's ballistic missile expert.

UNSCOM Commissioners (7). This is a board of directors that includes disarmament experts as well as government officials: Ron Cleminson of Canada; Gennady Gatilov of Russia; Hideyo Kurata of Japan; Johan Molander of Sweden; Jack Ooms of the Netherlands; GianPiero Perrone of Italy; Paul Schulte of Britain.

International Atomic Energy Agency or IAEA (3): Jacques Beaute of France; Kaluba Chitumbo of Zambia; Tom Shea of the US.

International disarmament experts (4): Jayantha Dhanapala of Sri Lanka, the UN undersecretary-general for disarmament; Roberto Garcia Moritan of Argentina; Liu Jieyi of China; Daniel Parfait of France.

Hague-based Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons or OPCW (1): Ichiro Akyiama of Japan.

2. HUMANITARIAN PANEL (4 members): Sergio Vieira de Mello of Brazil, the UN undersecretary-general for humanitarian affairs; Benon Sevan of Cyprus, the UN undersecretary-general in charge of the humanitarian program in Iraq; Joseph Stephanides of Cyprus, a member of the UN staff for Security Council's sanctions committee on Iraq; and Staffan de Mistura, a Swedish national, head of the UN information office in Italy and a former coordinator of the UN humanitarian program in Baghdad.

3. PRISONERS OF WAR AND KUWAITI PROPERTY: (4 members) Alvaro de Soto of Peru, assistant secretary-general in the UN Department of Political Affairs; Raymond Sommereyns of Belgium, director of the Americas and Europe Division in the UN Department of Political Affairs; Francesc Vendrell of Spain, director of the Asia and Pacific Division in the UN Department of Political Affairs; Ralph Zacklin of Britain, assistant secretary-general in the UN Department of Legal Affairs.

-- The Turkish Foreign Minister Foreign Minister Ismail Cem says Turkey has no intention of preventing U.S. and British aircraft from using Incirlik to enforce the northern no-fly zone. "It is a decision made by parliament and only the parliament can change it. The government cannot do anything about it and does not have the intention in any case." Turkey's defense minister has called for a revision of the rules of engagement for the planes patrolling the no-fly zone above Iraq's 36th parallel. Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit has said Washington has no clear policy on Iraq. But now says, "Those who are worried about this meeting will see their concerns are unfounded." The statements come after the U.S. criticizes Turkey for inviting Iraq's deputy prime minister, Tariq Aziz, to visit Turkey. Aziz has said he will complain about the Incirlik-based patrols during his visit. Turkey accepted the credentials of Iraq's new ambassador, Farouk Hejazi's, after months of delay because of his past as an intelligence officer.

-- A U.S. Air Force F-15E drops one GBU-12 precision-guided bomb on an Iraqi anti-aircraft artillery site Friday after the jet was fired on in the third clash in the no fly zones three days. The attack takes place over northern Iraq occurred at 1:30 p.m. local time (5:30 a.m. EST) north of Mosul, 250 miles north of Baghdad. The official Iraqi News Agency says one civilian is killed and another injured. The F-15E is not damaged and returned safely to base. Three pairs of Iraqi planes, including MiG-23s and Mirage jet fighters, violate the no-fly zone without incident.

-- Iraq rejects the proposal the UN Iraq Sanctions Committee to disburse \$44 million from Iraq's oil sales -- \$2,000 for each of the 22,000 Iraqis hoping to take part in this year's pilgrimage -- either in travelers checks or vouchers through a third-party. The government repeats its call to have the money sent directly to the central bank.

99-2- 13: The official daily *Al-Jumhuriya* recalls the Gulf War, "Today we remember details of that heinous crime, just as we have counted scores of similar crimes before and after it associated with the crime of the embargo. Iraqis reaffirm their intention to challenge all forms of aggression... The Ameriya Shelter, with its sorrowful memories... reminds us of the mean and treacherous aggression which killed the dreams and

bright futures of 421 innocents....In memory of the martyrs of Ameriya, we describe how their smooth bodies were incinerated by bombs of criminal America.” *Al-Qadissiya* says, “America is using sanctions to starve and kill the innocent. But in the end it will taste nothing but disappointment when Iraq and all humanity reap the fruits of our struggle, and our sacrifices are rewarded with victory.”

- U.S. military jets attack two Iraqi defense sites in southern no-fly zone on Saturday, including one that fired on coalition aircraft patrolling the area. No U.S. aircraft are damaged and all return safely to their bases. U.S. Navy F/A-18s and F-14s attacked an Iraqi missile site on the country's southern Faw peninsula in the Gulf at about 8 a.m. EST (1300 GMT) because the presence of the missiles violated the terms of the southern no-fly zone. An anti-missile site in the same area had been attacked by U.S. fighters aircraft on Feb. 2nd, with the Pentagon saying it could have threatened shipping in the oil-rich Gulf. At the time, it said American aircraft destroyed a Russian-made CSSC-3 “Seersucker” anti-ship missile battery. About 30 minutes after the attack on the Faw peninsula, U.S. Air Force F-15Es dropped bombs on Iraqi air defense sites near Tallil, about 170 miles (272 km) southeast of Baghdad. The bombing comes after the Iraqis fired anti-aircraft artillery at the Western coalition aircraft patrolling the southern no-fly zone.
  - An Iraqi military spokesman says of the U.S. attacks, “They committed another crime...when their hostile formations attacked a civilian installation in Dhiqar province (Nasiriya) killing three citizens and injuring many others. At 1505 local time (1205 GMT) fourteen hostile formations...coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti skies violated our national airspace and implemented 34 missions.“ Iraq claims the planes also bombed a fishing jetty in Faw and a residential quarter, The spokesman says U.S. or British planes flew over the southern provinces of Meisan (Amarah), Dhiqar, Najaf and Basra and returned to their bases at 1635 (0135 GMT).
  - Iraq's Culture and Information Minister Humam Abdul-Khaleq Abdul-Ghafur says, “We will continue protecting our borders and airspace and we are defending our country and skies.”
  - Iraq claims hundreds of people visited the al-Amiriya shelter on the anniversary of the Gulf War attack to mourn those who died. Iraq claims the victims included 52 children and 261 women.
- 99-2-14: *Babel*, a newspaper owned Uday, says of the new Security Council's panel on disarming Iraq, “With its new step the Council seems to make use of the false services of a number of saboteurs and spies who used to be in the UN Special Commission. The so-called experts chosen... are the worst of the Special Commission, and the best spies for America. Jumhuriya says, “Iraq will not accept (these panels). It has nothing to do with them and it will not accept any proposal before lifting the unjust embargo. The second panel which is concerned with the memorandum of understanding (Iraq's oil-for-food deal with UN) represents an American proposal to expand the memorandum, which means keeping sanctions in place.”
- The ruling Baath party newspaper *al-Thawra* says, “The Secretariat-General of the UN is invited to ask all parties involved in the aggression against Iraq to stop it immediately...The Arab League...is also invited to ask the aggressors and those who are involved to stop their aggression or taking part in it.”
  - The Iraqi News Agency INA reports that an oil ministry source said, “Representatives of the U.S. and Britain at Sanctions Committee 661, during the last 10 days suspended 12 more contracts Iraq has signed to buy equipment for the oil sector... Such behavior reflects the continued bad intentions of America and Britain to do harm to Iraqi people.”
  - Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz visits Turkey. A convoy of 10 cars crosses Turkey's border crossing from an area of northern Iraq in the no-fly zone. The delegation then flew on to Ankara. Turkish Foreign Minister Ismail Cem has already said, “We will meet Aziz with goodwill and the warmth of a host. But everyone should know that our policy does not change because of a visit.” Habur is the only operating border crossing. Turkey claims it has lost more than \$30 billion in trade because of the embargo. Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit has said “We know there are PKK terrorists on Iraqi soil. Of course we will bring this up tomorrow.”
  - The British *Sunday Telegraph* claims that Russia has signed a \$160 million deal to reinforce Iraq's air defenses and upgrade its MiG fighters, and that the agreements were signed in Moscow on Jan. 13 and 14

after a visit to the Russian capital by Ahmed Murtada Ahmed Khalil, Iraq's Transport and Communications Minister. Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov denies the report and says Russia is strictly meeting by its commitments to UN. The Telegraph had claimed the decision to give Iraqi President Saddam Hussein military help was approved by Russian Prime Minister Yevgeni Primakov on Dec. 7 in violation of the UN arms embargo on Iraq.

- Iraqi television says it is quoting President Saddam Hussein and senior leaders in making threats that Iraq could attack U.S. and British bases in the Gulf used to launch air strikes against Iraq. "We, by help from God and support from the sons of our glorious Arab nation, including true and sincere nationals ... in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, have the ability to attack the soldiers and means of aggression from whatever region. Once again ... we draw the attention of the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and tell them you are getting involved now in a vicious and aggressive war that the people of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have no interest in... We warn the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and tell them 'you are now involved in an aggressive war which the peoples of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have no interest in, but America and Zionism do... If you are helpless and you have no desire for the aggression, we are able to target sources and means of aggression, and from anywhere it is launched, after relying on God and the support of our Arab nation"
  - The Iraqi weekly, *Al-Musawir*, says the Revolutionary Command Council will allow Iraqi prisoners who have served at least half their jail terms can buy their freedom by paying \$1,000 for each remaining year to raise funds for the government and prison system.
- 99-2-15: The government newspaper *al-Jumhuriya* repeats Iraq's threats in a front-page editorial, "We warn the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait against allowing the warplanes of the American and British aggressors to violate our airspace and we are able, after relying on God...to minimize and harm the bases of aggression. The rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait should understand and read carefully what is inside the lines of the Iraqi leadership's statement (on Sunday.)"
- The Baath party newspaper *al-Thawra* says, "Iraq has the legitimate right to defend its sovereignty and national airspace. What is being launched by the U.S. and Britain against Iraq is an act of aggression."
  - Turkish Foreign Minister Ismail Cem says Turkey will not rescind permission it has given the U.S. to base its planes at the Incirlik air base. "We shall greet (Aziz) with the good will and warmth that suits a host. But everyone should know that our policies will not change because of a visit." Turkish officials are expected to ask Iraq not to harbor Turkish Kurdish rebels.
  - U.S. Air Force General Lloyd Newton and seven other senior Air Force officers visit Turkey and pay tribute to Mustafa Kemal Ataturk at his mausoleum.
  - U.S. fighters strike at Iraqi defense sites on two separate occasions. An antiaircraft artillery site north of Mosul fires upon two F-15E's, which is some 250 miles north of Baghdad. One F-15E drops a 500-pound bomb on the site. The fighter planes return undamaged to Incirlik. The incident occurs about 11:26 a.m. Iraqi time. In another incident, an U.S. fighter launches a missile at an Iraqi radar site that targets it about an hour later. U.S. National Security Adviser Samuel Berger says, "As they've challenged the no-fly zones, we've responded against their air defense system."
  - The U.S. says Iraq has violated the zones 90 times since it began challenging them in December. U.S. and British planes have retaliated by attacking more than 40 Iraqi air defense sites.
  - An Iraqi spokesman says Iraqi air defenses engaged Western warplanes coming from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia in the south. "At 0940 local time (0640 GMT) 21 formations supported by early warning planes AWACS and E2C ... violated our national airspace ... coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti skies... These formations returned to their evil bases in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia at 1140 local time (0840 GMT) after implementing 42 missions and flew over the provinces of Dhiqar (Nissariya), Meisan (Amarah) and Basra (in southern Iraq)." He claims five civilians were killed and 22 were injured when U.S. planes attacked sites in the southern no-fly zone, and that "evil aggressors carried out today ... 42 aggressive sorties against the souls and properties of Iraqi people... Our air defense weapons fired at the these

- aggressive planes which bombed both civil and military sites. The bombing resulted in the martyrdom of five civilians.”
- Iraq also says that fighters coming from Turkey violated Iraqi space in the north and that the planes came in two waves and conducted 23 sorties. The first wave came at 1000 local time (2 a.m. EST) (0700 GMT) and more U.S. planes entered Iraqi territory from Turkey in the north at 11:40 a.m. Iraqi time. It claims Iraqi air defenses opened fire but reported no damage or casualties.
  - Iraq later claims that at least 32 people have been killed in the series of attacks.
  - The strikes coincide with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz's visit to Turkey, and his meeting with Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit to voice displeasure at Turkey for allowing U.S. and British forces the use of Incirlik. Aziz, who traveled to Turkey through the Iraqi Kurdish areas, questions the validity of the no-fly zones. “They claim they are protecting the Kurds from Iraqi government,” he said. “Then how can an Iraqi deputy prime minister travel so easily?” He also tells Turkish officials, however, that Iraq has partially complied with UN disarmament resolutions and is ready for dialogue – even with the US. Turkish diplomats say Aziz is not confrontational. They said he had asked Turkey to help persuade foreign powers that Iraq was not bent on unending confrontation with the rest of the world
  - Iraqi Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan says Iraq will attack the Turkish base at Incirlik if the jets continue to patrol the skies over Iraq. Ramadan speaks in an interview with Radio Monte Carlo. And says that “if the Turkish base continues attacking Iraq it will certainly be (targeted) like other bases in the Gulf. We can reach the dens of evil in Turkey, just as we can those in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.” He speaks just hours after Aziz holds talks with Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit in Ankara.
  - U.S. National Security Adviser Sandy Berger warns Iraq not to attack Turkey and other regional states, “It would be extraordinarily counterproductive for the Iraqis to take such a measure because we would respond ... strongly and firmly.” Secretary of State Madeleine Albright says “We have made very clear that were there any attacks on our forces or on neighboring countries that our response would be swift and sure.”
  - Iraq and Iran discuss arrangements for visits to Iraqi Shi'ite shrines by Iranian pilgrims and ways to increase the number of visitors. Iraq's Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan meets with Iranian Charge d'Affairs Abulqassim in Baghdad. Iraq had opened its border with Iran in 1997, and created a checkpoint complex near the border town of Mundhiriya in 1998. Several thousand Iranian pilgrims have now crossed into Iraq.
  - The Russian government again denies a *Sunday Telegraph* report that Russia signed a \$160 million deal to strengthen Iraq's air defenses and upgrade squadrons of MiG fighters in mid-January after a visit to Moscow by Ahmed Khalil, Iraq's Transport and Communications Minister. “The fabrications in the British media have clearly been initiated by those who try to cast a shadow on Russia's policy for political settlement of the Iraqi problem.”
- 99-2-16: Iraq again warns neighboring states that they will pay a high price for basing U.S. and British warplanes that patrol the no-fly zones. In Ankara, Deputy Iraqi Prime Minister Tariq Aziz says, “The U.S. and British planes are killing Iraqis, are destroying Iraqi property and this is not acceptable. A Turkish airbase should not be used by the Americans and British to hurt Iraqis.” *al-Jumhuriya* says, “Time has run out for American and British aggressors and those supporting them. They shall pay a heavy price. We will tell them (Saudi Arabia and Kuwaiti rulers) and their evil masters the U.S. and Britain that their continuous aggression on Iraq and its airspace will be confronted strongly. It is too late now for the American and British aggressors and their evil supporters and they will pay a dear price.” *Al-Qadisiya*, the Iraqi military newspaper says that it “must be made clear and obvious to them that ... the price for their ongoing aggression will be very high.”
- Al-Riyadh newspaper, which has close ties to the Saudi government, rejects Iraqi threats to attack Saudi bases used by to patrol no-fly zones. It asks in an editorial how Iraq could attack bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait if its forces were unable to hit even one aircraft in breaching Iraq's air space. “He is definitely living moments of self-defeat which could force him to take revenge from those around him as

a result of...losing confidence even in those who are close to him." *Al-Nadwa*, another Saudi newspaper, says the only way to deal with Saddam is by "cutting the head off the snake. Instead of trying to digest the facts in an objective manner which may help it out of the swamp... we find him insisting on distributing threats right and left in a campaign aimed at preventing any attempt by Arab states to lift the suffering from the Iraqi people." *Okaz* says. "The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia... does not need to respond to the Iraqi regime's claims on the lie that U.S. and British planes use its territory as a launching pad...The response to these threats will be decisive and the kingdom will not shy from taking any measure to protect its territory and people and has the power to deal the Iraqi regime a new lesson..."

- U.S. Defense Department spokesman Ken Bacon says, "Any attack by Iraq against one of our allies in the region would be a severe mistake and would be met with a very swift and sure response. I think it is a sign of (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein's isolation and desperation that Iraq is making such threats. He has tried diplomacy with his neighbors. He has tried to cajole them in supporting his position and that has failed...We do maintain not only Patriot missiles, but a very significant counter-attack or deterrent capability in the region. And that is why any use of missiles or any other way to attack allied bases in this area would be a huge mistake on Saddam Hussein's part." Bacon and State Department spokesman James Rubin also deny the *Sunday Telegraph* that Russia agreed to sell some \$160 million in new air defense and warplane modernization services to Iraq. Bacon says, "I have nothing to suggest that report is true."
- Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf says the no-fly are outside the framework of UN resolutions. Their imposition is a continuous violation of Iraq's security and sovereignty." " he told the Iraqi News Agency during a visit to Khartoum, the Sudanese capital.
- Iraqi oil exports continued to run above 2 MMBD. The crude oil exports under the oil-for-food" program averaged 2.14 MMBD during the week, down from the previous week's post-Gulf War record of 2.53 MMBD but in line with the four-week average of 2.18 MMBD. The average price for exported Iraqi crude was \$8.60 per barrel, up 13 cents. Iraq's export rate averaged about 1.9 MMBD in the second half of 1998 but rose after the US-led bombing raids in mid-December because, experts said, the bombing caused the Iraqis to shut their four operating oil refineries for safety reasons and divert crude oil to export markets. Iraq's sustainable production capacity remains at around 2.5 MMBD, with exports expected to average about 1.9 MMBD assuming the refineries get back running smoothly. Iraq is allowed to export up to \$5.26 billion of oil in the six-month period ending May 24, but is more raise around \$3 billion because of low oil prices and an oil industry strained the Gulf War and sanctions. Iraq's oil exports averaged about 3.2 MMBD before the war
- 99-2-17: Kenneth Bacon again comments on Iraq's threats to Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey says that Iraq has three options: fire Scud missiles, attack by air with planes, or launch a terrorist attack. Bacon says, "All of these would be difficult, given the circumstances that Iraq faces today...Whether or not he means this threat to be taken seriously, we have to take seriously threats like this...It's a sign of Saddam Hussein's desperation and isolation that Iraq is making such threats." Bacon says that Incirlik is at "the very outer edge" of the range of the Scud and is protected by Patriot anti-missile missiles. He says that Iraq's depleted air force would stand little chance against U.S. and allied air defenses in Turkey, Kuwait or Saudi Arabia, "I don't think that they have significant air power to be able to launch a longer-range attack against bases deep inside another country's territory, and it would be extremely unwise for them to try to do that."
- Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz says in Ankara, "The U.S. and British planes are killing Iraqis, are destroying Iraqi property, and this is not acceptable...A Turkish air base should not be used by the Americans and British to hurt Iraqis."
- Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman Sermet Atacanli says Turkey ready to respond to any threat by Iraq. "We have shown in the past that we are ready to meet and respond to any threats that are directed towards us. The Turkish spokesman describes the Iraqi remarks as "inappropriate, incorrect and unsuitable for neighborly relations."
- Turkish forces advance into the Kurdish-held enclave in northern Iraq. A spokesman for Turkey's General Staff says, "It is a small-scale operation against the terrorists...it will would not last long."

Turkish forces are fighting the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) and Turkish special forces captured Ocalan in Kenya earlier in the week. Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit has called on PKK guerrillas to surrender and take advantage of an amnesty program.

- Witnesses at the Habur border point on the Iraqi-Turkish border says 3,000-4,000 troops with armored vehicles have crossed over in the last few days. More than 29,000 rebels, troops, militiamen and civilians have died in 14 years of fighting between the PKK and Turkish forces.
- 99-2-18: Turkish troops advanced more than 15 km (nine miles) into northern Iraq to attack Kurdish guerrillas loyal to Abdullah Ocalan. Clashes occur near the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) rebels' Haftanin camp in the Metina mountains. The Turkish forces are supported by fighters and Cobra helicopters. They include up to 4,000 troops supported by 1,000 members of a Kurdish pro-Turkish militia. Turkish officials say, "The operation will continue until its aims have been met. The terrorists are in a state of panic and don't know what to do."
- The Iraqi KDP and PUK ask that Abdullah Ocalan, the leader of the PKK, be given a fair trial in Turkey. Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), says Turkey, "must endeavor to conduct a fair hearing. Without such a tribunal...the ultimate verdict will be viewed with skepticism by the Turkish, Kurdish and international communities... Mr. Ocalan's arrest must signal the beginning of a meaningful international discussion on the issue of Kurdish rights... For more than 75 years, successive Turkish governments have attempted to assimilate their Kurdish citizens. They have denied their existence and stripped them of their rights, but to no avail." Turkey has accused the PUK of supporting Ocalan's guerrillas. The rival Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), which is led by Massoud Barzani's and is normally allied with Turkey, says, "It is not our wish to see any Kurd face such a fate. We hope that this development will help put an end to the violence and bloodshed and bring about a peaceful and political settlement for the Kurdish issue. We also hope for a fair and just trial." The PKK has conducted 14-year armed campaign for Kurdish self-rule in Turkey's southeast. More than 29,000 people have been killed in the conflict.
- Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz returns to Iraq from Turkey .
- The UN Gulf War reparations reports it has paid another \$814 million to individuals in 62 countries which were forced to leave Kuwait or Iraq during the conflict or who had proven property losses. The sum includes \$84.39 million to be shared by 223,817 Egyptian workers in Iraq who lost remittances at the start of the war. This brings the total amount of compensation to \$2.7 billion. It is funded from a 30 percent share of revenue derived from the oil-for-food deal. Egypt had filed a claim against Iraq with an asserted value of \$491 million on behalf of 1.24 million Egyptian workers, but independent legal experts who recommended far lower payment of \$84 million. Bangladeshis, Egyptians, Indians, Sri Lankans and Sudanese were the largest groups in the latest batch of forced departure claims, with more than 10,000 people each. The remaining \$187 million went to 76,720 people in 42 countries who proved property losses of up to \$100,000. They are each to receive an initial \$2,500 in compensation. The largest group, 25,487 people, were Kuwaitis, followed by Egyptians (13,274), Syrians (10,062), Jordanians (9,988) and Indians (9,753), according to the statement. The UNCC has received claims from individuals, companies and governments with an asserted value of more than \$250 billion. So far, \$7 billion in awards has been approved for payment.
- The U.S. denies an Iraqi report that U.S. planes patrolling a no-fly zone attacked anti-aircraft defenses in northern Iraq. An Iraqi military communiqué says, "In an aborted attempt on the will and endurance of our people, the killers did their cowardly act again and violated our national airspace...Ten hostile formations violated our airspace from the northern region coming from Turkish airspace at 11:05 a.m. (0805 GMT)...They involved F-14s, F-15s, and F-16s supported by early warning systems from inside Turkish airspace and implemented 21 sorties over regions in Ninevah and Dohuk... The crowds attacked one of our brave air defense units, which challenged them with different weapons and compelled them to flee..." A Pentagon spokesman says some flights were in operation in the northern no fly zone, and there were reports of some anti-aircraft fire from the ground, which was ineffective against the aircraft flying at around 30,000 feet (9100 meters). The weather was bad and the U.S. made no response.

- Iraq announces, "The Revolutionary Command Council issued a decree involving a special amnesty for 29 prisoners and reduced capital punishment for five convicts to life imprisonment." The prisoners are said to include those who volunteered to go to battle or donate their organs at the time of Desert Fox.
- 99-2-19: The Grand Ayatollah Mohammad Mohammad Sadeq al-Sadr and his two sons are killed in his Najaf, a holy city for Shiites 100 miles south of Baghdad. Al-Sadr was once thought to be close to the Iraqi government, but his relations soured after he issued an edict about six months earlier calling on the Shiites to attend weekly Friday prayers in mosques. The Iraqi government is known to disapprove of big crowds, which al-Sadr frequently drew. His edict, or fatwa, was seen as an attempt to distance himself from the government and establish himself as an independent leader.
- A London-based, Arabic-language newspaper, al-Zaman, quoting unidentified sources inside Iraq, accuses the Iraqi government of assassinating al-Sadr because he refused to issue a religious edict challenging "the legitimacy of Arab presidents and leaders" whom Saddam accuses of not supporting Iraq. It says Al-Sadr refused on grounds that he was a man of religion who would not interfere in politics.
- Iranian radio say al-Sadr defied official orders and entered a mosque February 5 in Najaf that the government said was being "rebuilt."
- Iraq says it is the victim of a plot to undermine unity; the Sunni-dominated government rules a country where 65 percent of the 22 million people are Shi'ite. There have been recurrent reports of unrest between the Shi'ites and the Sunni-led regime of President Saddam Hussein -- particularly in the south where government forces crushed a Shi'ite-led rebellion after the 1991 Gulf War. Sadr is the third Shi'ite cleric reported to have been killed in Iraq in less than a year. Two ayatollahs of Iranian origin were killed in Iraq last year. Grand Ayatollah Sheik Mirza Ali al-Gharawi, 68, was shot dead in June and Ayatollah Sheik Murtada al-Broujerdi, 67, was shot in April.
- Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz sends a letter to Secretary General Annan claiming the U.S. and UK are still intent on "implementing a policy of brutal aggression against the Iraq people, government, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq." He claims their aircraft are "continuing intensive strikes...against numerous Iraqi civilian localities, including cities, residential neighborhoods and populated areas." He says senior U.S. administration official told the Washington Post newspaper on Jan. 31 that this was "a way of pursuing an objective in a way that everyone's comfortable with," and that the U.S. followed Desert Fox with, "military operations of a different type involving low-intensity, high-technology strikes to enable it, in the long term, to achieve its objectives without arousing inter-Arab and international public opinion against it." Aziz said this policy had also been proclaimed by Peter Burleigh in a February 5th interview with the newspaper *Al-Hayat* in which he was quoted as saying U.S. policy was to replace the regime in the long term and that it would persist in maintaining the no-flight zones over northern and southern Iraq. Aziz says the silence of the UN would have "dangerous repercussions for international peace and security" and represent "the beginning of the collapse of the collective security system."
- Richard Butler says he fears that Iraq will succeed in stopping UN efforts to scrap its weapons of mass destruction and block its arms programs. He tells reporters he had expressed his "grave concern that I do hold about the prospect that this one recalcitrant state might succeed in facing down the law passed by the Security Council... the prospect that we won't be able to resume the business of controlling Iraq's weapons of mass destruction program." in a meeting with Australian foreign minister Alexander Downer. Butler says if Iraq agreed to cooperate with the panel's plan, due in late March, weapons inspections could resume some time in April at the earliest. He declines to speculate on whether the new monitoring plan would be less stringent than the rules that Iraq defied, but says, "we warned that under that set of circumstances, the monitoring system would have to be very heavyweight, very intrusive and continue to have elements that are not different from what we were doing under the disarmament system -- which is no-notice inspections at places of our choice at our time and so on."
- A UN committee authorizes the Red Cross to distribute travel expenses to thousands of Iraqis seeking to make the annual pilgrimage to Muslim holy sites in Saudi Arabia next month. It's not clear, however, whether Iraq will accept the proposal. Baghdad rejected an earlier plan to disburse \$44 million from Iraqi oil sales -- \$2,000 for each of the 22,000 Iraqis hoping to make the pilgrimage -- through a third party

- Army Gen. Henry Shelton, Chairman of the U.S. military's Joint Chiefs of Staff, begins a visit of Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Oman.
  - Richard Butler tells reporters he has expressed his "grave concern that I do hold about the prospect that this one recalcitrant state might succeed in facing down the law passed by the Security Council (and over) the prospect that we won't be able to resume the business of controlling Iraq's weapons of mass destruction program." in a meeting with Australia's foreign minister, Alexander Downer. Butler declines to speculate on whether anew monitoring plan will be less stringent than the rules that Iraq defied. He says that even if the UN ignores Iraq's past weapons programs and focuses only on Iraq's current activities, inspections must be just as demanding, "If that's the council's decision, we can do it. But we warned that under that set of circumstances, the monitoring system would have to be very heavyweight, very intrusive and continue to have elements that are not different from what we were doing under the disarmament system -- which is no-notice inspections at places of our choice at our time and so on." He says he would willingly quit before June if the a revised monitoring plan sets up a new inspection team.
  - Two U.S. Air Force F-16s fire missiles at an Iraqi site near the northern Iraqi city of Mosul after being targeted by Iraqi radar in the northern "no-fly" zone. There is no damage to the aircraft..
  - Turkey's army continues to attack the PKK in Iraq. The PKK offers to negotiate, but Turkey has rejects the offer. Turkish newspapers claim about 10,000. Turkish soldiers are in northern Iraq. Iraq has strongly denounced the incursion and demanded that Turkey withdraw. In Ceyhan, 330 miles south of Ankara, pro-PKK demonstrators fire on police, wounding three officers and a protester to an end to the conflict. Turkey claims some 37,000 people have died since fighting erupted in 1984. Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit says the government will renew its call to the rebels to surrender, and assure them that parliament would pass a law providing lenient punishment after elections in April. Ecevit also hints that Turkey received outside help in capturing Ocalan. When asked whether assistance from the US, Israel, or another country helped Turkey locate Ocalan, Ecevit said: "I can't reveal that. I can't give country name. But you can make your own guess." Three Greek Cabinet ministers, including the foreign minister, are forced to resign, and the Cabinet was reshuffled in Kenya. Kurdish protests in Europe go on for the third day."
- 99-2-20: Iraq denies a CNN report of tight security and unrest over Sadr's death in Baghdad's Saddam City, whose estimated two million inhabitants are mostly Shi'ite.
- Iraq says it has arrested some of those responsible for Sadr's killing and sees itself as the victim of a plot to try to disrupt the country's unity.
  - The Information Ministry takes reporters to Saddam City, a suburb of Baghdad, six hours after reports of unrest first surface. By the time reporters arrive, dusk has fallen and ministry guides refused to let reporters leave their cars or interview residents of the poor, Shiite neighborhood.
  - Fa'iz Shaheen, the Iraqi oil ministry's senior undersecretary, says French oil companies are in talks with the government "at a very advanced stage." France's two oil giants, Elf and Total, reopened their offices in Baghdad last year to pursue negotiations on developing giant fields in southern Iraq with reserves of up to 30 billion barrels. Shaheen says that, "numerous foreign oil companies are negotiating ... to develop a number of oil fields or set up oil industrial projects," and that Iraq is opening up its Western desert for exploration by foreign firms. The desert, extending from Baghdad to the Jordanian, Saudi and Syrian borders, may hold billions of barrels of oil in reserves. Both Russia and China have already signed deals to develop fields in southern Iraq. The contracts, however, cannot become effective until UN economic sanctions, imposed on Iraq for invading Kuwait in 1990, are lifted.
  - Iraqi Trade Minister Mohammed Mehdi Saleh asks Jordan not to reduce its oil-for-food barter agreement with the sanctions-hit country by 25 percent. The statement comes shortly after the Jordanian government said it was considering reducing its planned \$255 million trade with Iraq this year by \$65 million. The barter deal was approved in 1992 by the UN Sanctions Committee, which enforces the trade embargo imposed on Baghdad after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. In the barter deal, Iraq exports nearly 90,000 barrels of crude and fuel oil to Jordan. In exchange, Jordan exports food, industrial products and medicine to Iraq. Jordanian officials said recently that the state was considering reducing the value of the annual trade protocol because of the sharp drop in world oil prices.

- 99-2-21: The Iraqi government announces that President Saddam Hussein had sent a letter to Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdel-Meguid urging "a new page" in relations with the Arab world. Saddam expresses Iraq's willingness "to participate in any Arab meeting, whether it is on leaders' level or other levels, to discuss all issues... to improve Arab relations." Saddam calls for the League to delay a March 14 meeting of a committee created to study the Iraq situation until there is Arab reconciliation. He says such a meeting must "come out with a united position, with no doubts from any party." The committee was set up after the Arab League foreign ministers refused Iraqi demands to condemn UN trade sanctions and the mid-December airstrikes by the U.S. and Britain on Iraq. Iraq's delegation had walked out of the session in anger. The appeal follows Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahhaf's trip to eight Arab countries from North Africa to Syria and the Persian Gulf. "Iraq is ready to open a new page in Arab relations on condition that Arab countries come out with a united stance against the aggression and sanctions imposed on Iraq."
- Iraq's Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf says he has held useful talks with Syrian President Hafez al-Assad and Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq al-Shara about Baghdad's fight for an end to UN sanctions. "My visit to Damascus is useful and successful. It gave a good opportunity to exchange views on how to improve joint Arab action to achieve solidarity."
  - The Iraqi *Al-Jumhuriya* newspaper says the killings of Sadr and his sons were "motivated by the devil" and were "part of conspiracies against Iraq." It did not name any country, but indicated that the masterminds were Western powers and Israel. "Iraq will not be shaken by these types of attempts that are created by imperialism, Zionism and those who serve them."
  - Hundreds of Iraqi Shiite refugees march at the Sayida Zeinab mosque, a Shiite holy site near Damascus. Some carry a coffin in a mock funeral for al-Sader. "Saddam is the enemy of God."
  - US' representative to the UN, Peter Burleigh, says: "Just this weekend there have been many reports of Shi'a citizens being targeted by the regime in Baghdad and in the south following the assassination of a prominent Shia religious leader."
  - Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei issues a statement condemning the killings of Ayatollah Mohammad Sadeq al-Sadr and his sons. "Shi'ite Moslems of Iraq have been systematically persecuted in Iraq in recent years. The oppression of Shi'ites in that country has reached its peak now. Baghdad will be held accountable to the entire world, especially Moslem countries, for what has been happening in Iraq." Iran's state television later accuses Iraqi authorities of burying the bodies of the victims before announcing their deaths on Saturday. Theological schools in the holy Iranian city of Qom, as well as Tehran's powerful bazaar, are closed on Sunday in commemoration of the victims. Iranian television says relations between Sadr and the Baghdad government turned sour six months ago following the assassination of two other senior Shi'ite clerics in Iraq. It charges that Iraq had recently tried to bar Sadr from holding Friday prayers, but that he had refused.
  - SCIRI issues a statement dated Sunday that claims 18 people had been killed in Dhi-Qar's city of Nasiriyah, about 380 km (230 miles) southeast of Baghdad. It said the town was not under government control and was shelled by government forces. SCIRI also says there are clashes in *Babel* governorate and the city of Hilla, and that 300 had been killed in a Baghdad suburb. Iraqi opposition groups also claim demonstrations took place in the southern, largely-Shi'ite city of Kerbala. A group of travelers coming from the south claims that they had been told not to go through Najaf, Sadr's base and a center for Shi'ite pilgrimage and learning
  - A UN official says a group of UN observers traveled from Baghdad to the Najaf and Kerbala area on a routine visit to oversee the world body's humanitarian projects and there were no unusual reports from the team.
  - Travelers in Baghdad who drive through Revolution Street in Saddam City late Monday say that vehicle and pedestrian traffic is normal, there were no roadblocks or signs of police or other forces, and shops and cafes were brightly lit and frequented with patrons

- Jordanian security forces halt a demonstration in Amman protesting the murder of Sadr. Hundreds of protesters are dispersed peacefully after marching for five minutes in central Amman.
  - U.S. and British warplanes attacks an Iraqi missile base and two military communication sites after two Iraqi jets violate the no-fly zone, The strikes occur near al-Amarah and Tallil, about 170 miles southeast of Baghdad. All the planes return safely to their base. Earlier, the official Iraqi News Agency said Iraqi air defenses might have shot down a Western military plane in southern Iraq. The U.S. and Britain deny any planes are lost.
  - Gen. Henry H. Shelton, chairman of the U.S joint chiefs of staff, discusses Iraqi threats with Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan. The talks focused on the raised tensions following Iraqi threats against Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey earlier this month. Shelton is also visiting Oman and Qatar.
- 99-2-22: Iraqi News Agency Director General Uday al- Ta'ie says, "We emphasize once again (that) what the media and anti-Iraq groups call riots in a number of Iraqi provinces are a figment of the imagination. We once again confirm that what is being alleged by hostile media and circles on the so-called disturbances in a number of provinces ... is a figment of imagination. The enemies of Iraq want to stir trouble and undermine the country's unity. I confirm once again to you that all these reports are completely unfounded." Iraqi opposition elements claim at least 100 people -- and possibly up to 300 -- have died in the riots.
- The Ayatollah Mohammad Hakim, the head of the Tehran- based SCIRI, blames the Iraqi authorities for the murder of Grand Ayatollah Mohammad Mohammad Sadeq al-Sadr and his two sons. "The situation is moving toward an explosion." He says SCIRI had received news on Sunday of an Iraqi government decision in mid-February to "liquidate" Sadr, whose Friday prayer sermons commonly drew large crowds of Iraqi Shi'ites. The hurried burial of the ayatollah and the subsequent clashes, he said, were proof the Iraqi authorities were behind the murders.
  - SCIRI spokesman Abul Hassan al-Salah claims that hundreds of people had been killed in the capital's Shi'ite districts alone. "In the biggest district of Baghdad, which is mostly Shi'ite, 300 people have been killed in the last two or three days." According to the opposition account, clashes between the majority Shi'ites and Iraqi security forces are continuing and the city of Nasiriyah, 300 km (180 miles) southeast of Baghdad, is no longer in government hands.
  - Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf is snubbed by the speaker of parliament and attacked by a parliamentary committee on Monday because of the assassination of a Shi'ite ayatollah in Iraq. Deputy Ali al-Khalil, chairman of the committee for foreign affairs says, "The committee condemns the assassination of Ayatollah Mohammad Mohammad Sadeq al-Sadr and his family which was preceded by other crimes for which the Iraqi regime carries responsibility. As Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf is in Beirut, the committee demands the immediate release of Lebanese prisoners." He lists eight names. Lebanon's Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri cancels a meeting with Sahaf. A parliamentary source says: "Berri cannot meet Sahaf while Shi'ite blood is on the ground in Iraq and there are allegations Iraqi authorities are involved." Sahaf does meet President Emile Lahoud, a Maronite Christian and Sunni Moslem Prime Minister Selim al-Hoss.
  - " Sheik Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, a top Lebanese Shi'ite Moslem religious leader in Lebanon, says that protests in Iraq following the killings of a Shi'ite cleric and his two sons were unlikely to develop into an uprising. "I do not believe that there are circumstances that could make matters develop to the level of an uprising. Hardships have exhausted the power of the Iraqi people. "I believe there is an embryonic uprising (in Iraq) which could wait for (the right) circumstances to move from time to time." Fadlallah said the killings are not carried out by an individual criminal but by groups linked to the state. He say the incident raises fears about plans by Baghdad to liquidate Shi'ite clerics in Najaf, a city of Shi'ite pilgrimage and religious learning about 150 km (95 miles) south of Baghdad. "When we hear of this chain of assassinations we fear that the same could apply. Possibly, there is a plan to liquidate Hawzat (religious learning center) al-Najaf."
  - A report by Hans von Sponeck, the UN humanitarian coordinator in Baghdad, says Iraqi missiles aimed at U.S. and British planes flying over the northern no-fly zone have caused some civilian damage and

- hampered UN operations. The UN is concerned that continued aerial confrontations could affect food deliveries in northern areas and has restricted staff movements between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. local time -- the time when most incidents take place. Von Sponeck says the report was based on information from UN personnel and his own visit on Feb. 12 to the region around the city of Dohuk, 40 miles south of the Turkish border. The report says that 33 missiles landed in a 100-square-mile area around Dohuk between Feb. 2-12 and at least 21 exploded. The missiles appeared to be surface-to-surface artillery rockets fired from mobile, multiple rocket launchers. UN personnel in the area were not in a position to confirm any casualties. The UN World Food Program is concerned that the daily delivery of about 2,000 tons of food to Dohuk could be affected by continued aerial incidents.
- Iraq's UN Ambassador Saeed Hasan says during a Security Council debate protecting civilians in armed conflict, that the no-fly zones illegal and accuses Britain and the U.S. of shedding "crocodile tears over the Iraqi people whom they massacre every day. Two states, permanent members of the Security Council, consider themselves above the law." He claims that sanctions have cost the lives of a million-and-a-half Iraqi civilians, devastated the country's infrastructure for generations to come, and killed 10 Iraqi children every hour. He says Council members have a historic opportunity to save Iraqi civilians by immediately lifting sanctions and telling Britain and the U.S. to stop attacks in the no-fly zones. He says it "has a good opportunity to protect the Iraqi civilians through preventing the daily use of force by Britain and the U.S. against them through the imposition of the illegal no-fly zones."
  - The British and U.S. ambassadors reply that allied planes are responding to Iraqi threats and attacks and that the no-fly zones are justified under international law because they protect civilians from Iraqi government repression. Peter Burleigh says Iraq's difficulties rested solely with the Iraqi leadership, which had tried to "erase one of its neighbors," that the use of force against Iraq resulted from its refusal to comply with Gulf war disarmament requirements by giving up its weapons of mass destruction, and that the no-fly zones were created "for the express purpose of protecting Iraqi civilians from the depredations of the Iraqi regime...Just this weekend there have been many reports of Shia citizens being targeted by the regime in Baghdad and in the south following the assassination of a prominent Shia religious leader. The Iraqi regime is itself the perpetrator of calculated ongoing violence against Iraqi civilians. Until that violence stops, the international community, including the US, must continue to exert every possible effort to protect the citizens of Iraq from their brutal regime." Britain's Ambassador Sir Jeremy Greenstock say the no-fly zones were established "to help protect the civilian population in the north and south from repression by the government of Iraq." When details of Iraq's "continuing repression of its own population" were fully told, "that story will be a horrific one. Any actions taken by my government in the no-fly zones are taken purely in self-defense and as a direct result of Iraqi threats and attacks."
  - U.S. warplanes bomb Iraqi military sites after being targeted by Iraqi radar in the northern no-fly zone. U.S. and British planes also strike in the southern no-fly zone today after two Iraqi planes crossed into the zone. In the north, U.S. F-15s drop 11 precision-guided bombs on Iraqi anti-aircraft artillery and radar sites near Mosul. Mosul is 250 miles north of Baghdad, the Iraqi capital. None of the planes are damaged and all return safely to their base of Incirlik, in southern Turkey. In the southern no-fly zone, six U.S. F-15E fighters and an unspecified number of British Tornado jets attack two communications facilities and two weapons storage facilities near Basra. The attacks in the southern no-fly zone take place in response to two Iraqi MiG-23 planes that briefly crossed into the zone and retreated.
  - There have now been more than 80 incidents involving American and British fighter jets in the no-fly zones in the past two months.
  - A UN report indicates that some of nearly 1 million Iraqi Kurds have gone back to live in their own villages. A UN report indicates that between 1974 and 1991, Iraq's army evicted 780,000 people from nearly all of the 4,460 villages in the Kurdish region. The villages were razed and the people transported to live in cities. Now, more than 50 villages with 2,000 houses have risen from the ruins since April 1997, with the help of a UN program that has consolidated eight years of previous efforts of other aid groups to rebuild communities. The UN has spent \$45 million on resettlement. The money was given by

Iraq – reluctantly according to UN officials -- from the money it has earned since 1996 under the oil for food program.

99-2-23: The Iraqi weekly, al-Ittehad, says Iraq will not buy from the US, Japan, Britain and Switzerland under the oil-for-food program and that the government has prepared a list of 33 countries that will remain eligible to supply Iraq with food, medicines and other humanitarian goods. The list includes Saudi Arabia.

- Iraq again denies reports of Shi'ite unrest in the south of the murder of the Grand Ayatollah Mohammad Mohammad Sadeq al-Sadr and his sons. Officials in Nasiriyah deny there is unrest in the mainly Shi'ite south. Abdel-Baqr Saadoon, a ruling Baath party member for Dhi-Qar and Basra provinces, says, "Nothing happened and nothing will happen."
- Iraq's Shabab television network broadcasts two drawings of the suspect in the murder of a Sadr and his two sons. The suspect is wearing an Arab checked headdress in one and is bare-headed in the other. Iraq does not give the man's name, profession, nationality or any other personal details but told Iraqis to call a phone number to inform police if they were able to identify the man.
- Foreign Minister Mohammed Sadeq al-Sahaf says Iraq suspects a U.S. role, "You will all know soon the true facts surrounding the death of the great scholar, martyr al-Sadr...The martyr Mohammad Sadeq al-Sadr is a well known cleric and he was one of the supporters of the Iraqi national regime. The Americans have said openly that they have a \$97 million plan to liberate Iraq. I surely do not rule out that they (the Americans) have had a finger in this crime to create a sedition in Iraq that serves their criminal and colonial scheme to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs." He says Sadr's murder pointed to a plot to break down the unity between the country's Sunnis and Shi'ites.
- There is apparent clam in Southern Iraq after riots had erupted after the assassination of the Grand Ayatollah Mohammad Mohammad Sadeq al-Sadr, a popular Shi'ite Moslem cleric, and his two sons on February 19. Ahmed Saleh, the governor of Dhi-Qar province, says, "There is no opposition in this province. Life is more than normal. People are going about their business and are in the markets. The city did not see any attacks and will not see any attacks." Iraq denies reports of and takes a convoy of journalists to Nasiriyah in an attempt to disprove the claims. Dhi-Qar province has come under attack at least five times in February during Western patrols of the no-fly zone.
- The Iraqi government takes reporters on a tour of Nasiriya, 225 miles south of the capital of Baghdad, and go inside the governor's offices and past the security headquarters. They see no sign of fires that opposition groups had said occurred at those sites in the Shiite city. The journalists see no unrest in the town of 400,000. Iraqis filled the street cafes and central market square. There did not appear to be unusual security
- In Jordan, al-Sahhaf meets for half an hour with King Abdullah. A senior government official, speaking on customary condition of anonymity, said they discussed "bilateral relations and ways to consolidate them."
- Up to 3,000 Iraqi demonstrators converged on Iraq's embassy in Teheran to protest the killing of Grand Ayatollah Mohammed Sadiq al-Sader, and witnesses said Iraqi guards opened fire as some protesters scale the fence around the compound. Ten protesters entered the embassy grounds, but are quickly expelled. There are hundreds of thousands of Iraqi refugees in Iran. Most of them are Shiite Muslims expelled from Iraq after President Saddam Hussein's Baath Party came to power in 1968.
- Hundreds of Shiite Muslims marched in Beirut to protest the assassination. The demonstrators shout "Death to Saddam!" and stage a mock funeral for al-Sadr.
- U.S. State Department spokesman James Foley rejects the Iraqi suggestion that the U.S. was behind the assassination, "That is a baseless and shocking and completely erroneous accusation. That kind of charge is not going to fool anybody.... It's very clear that Saddam is becoming more and more rattled regarding his situation... We have been working with Iraqi opposition elements to include Iraqi Shia who support the ayatollah. Sources within the opposition as well as religious leaders outside Iraq have attributed the assassination to the regime... This is by all accounts another act of brutal repression on the part of the Iraqi regime. The ayatollah had reportedly been prevented from leading Friday prayers, he had been

interrogated and threatened by security forces of the regime, all of which point to the possibility of regime involvement. The information we received is that over the weekend demonstrations took place in the (Baghdad) neighborhoods of Saddam City, Saddamia, Jamila and al-Kifah. Reportedly 25 demonstrators were killed, 50 injured, 250 arrested, including 15 religious scholars," Foley said. Roads into Baghdad were reportedly cut off during the weekend. Some opposition sources have listed as many as 300 killed. We cannot rule out this number but we are confident with the numbers that I just indicated because we are talking to sources that have proven reliable in the past." Foley says that in Nasiriyah demonstrators reportedly occupied the town hall and security forces allegedly responded by shelling the city with artillery, killing 18 people. His account is almost identical to that of SCIRI, which is based in Tehran. He also says, "The military campaign in December and the enforcement of the no-fly zone have led to significant losses of his military capabilities. There is profound lack of support for him in the region and now there is growing consternation over his repression of his own people."

- Two U.S. F-15 fighters drop 2,000-pound "bunker buster" bombs on a command and control installation in Iraq after planes patrolling the northern no-fly zone came under anti-aircraft fire. In a separate incident, an unknown number of F-15s drop 500-pound bombs on a SAM launch site after they were fired on by Iraqi anti-aircraft guns. Both incidents occur near Mosul at about 6 a.m. EST. Weather curtails patrol flights over the southern no-fly zone over Iraq. Pentagon officials say that two months of raids against Iraqi air defences in response to air defense "provocations" have not led to any losses of allied warplanes but have destroyed about 20 percent of Iraq's anti-aircraft missile batteries.
- Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan rejects Iraqi threats to retaliate against Saudi Arabia and Kuwait for allowing U.S. and British warplanes to patrol Iraq from their air bases. "These threats are of no importance because they do not come from a sane person who values the interests of his country and those of the Arab and Islamic nation." His comments are the first official Saudi reaction to Iraq's demands that they stop allowing the U.S. and Britain to patrol a no-fly zone in southern Iraq, set up after the 1991 Gulf War to protect Shi'ite Moslems.
- Sheik Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabr al-Thani, Qatar's foreign minister, asks the UN to hold a conference to resolve international tensions with Iraq and move towards a gradual lifting of economic sanctions. He says that Qatar has its differences with "the guy in Baghdad," referring to Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, but is concerned about the hardship suffered by the Iraqi. "They are suffering and we are really upset."
- Secretary-General Annan says that Iraq has failed to distribute large quantities of medical supplies bought under the oil-for-food program and that \$275 million worth was in warehouses at the end of January. "In previous reports I have noted with growing concern the frequently long delays in the distribution of supplies after delivery to government warehouses. This is a matter that requires the urgent attention of the government. I should like to recommend that the government utilize the resources available to ensure efficient distribution of the goods provided under the program throughout all sectors.... the slow pace of distribution of medicine and medical supplies (to) the governorate warehouses. and further to health facilities, is a matter of serious concern.... As at January 31, 1999, approximately \$275 million worth of medicine and medical supplies had accumulated in warehouses."
- Annan reviews sales latest phase of the oil-for-food program approved on November 26, 1998. Iraq is permitted to sell \$5.256 billion worth of oil over 180 days but Annan estimates the total projected revenue for that period at \$2.9 billion. After deductions, including more than 30 percent of the total to cover reparations and other costs stemming from the Gulf war, about \$1.8 billion would then be available to finance humanitarian supplies and \$300 million worth of spare parts for Iraq's oil industry. This would mean a shortfall of some \$950 million in relation to a distribution plan for food, medicine and other goods approved in December, 1998. Annan welcomes actions to approve spare parts applications but says even with the expeditious approval of all applications, it was unlikely, in the view of Saybolt company oil experts, that the spare parts and equipment requiring a long delivery period will have a significant impact on the export capacity of the Iraqi oil industry much before March 2000."
- The 20-member panel the UN Security Council created on February 12th to advise it on how to revive the stalled disarmament of Iraq holds its first meeting. The panel is to report by April 15, includes a dozen staff and commissioners from UNSCOM. It also includes other weapons experts from a variety of

countries, representatives of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Hague-based Organization for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), and the UN under-secretary-general for disarmament affairs, Jayantha Dhanapala of Sri Lanka. The disarmament panel is one of three -- all chaired by Amorim, himself a member of the Security Council -- that the council decided on Jan. 30 to establish. All three panels are due to present their recommendations by April 15. The other two groups deal with the humanitarian situation in Iraq, still smarting under Gulf war sanctions, and the fate of Kuwaiti and other prisoners and property seized by Iraq after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, and each comprise four senior members of the UN secretariat.

- UN Committee 661, in charge of approving Iraq's trade with world firms, announces it has released 92 contracts allowing Iraq to buy spare parts for its oil industry since the Secretary-General's 29 December 1998 appeal. "At the end of 1998 there were 144 contracts worth \$45 million dollars on hold. An additional 34 contracts have been put on hold this year... Since the first oil shipments under Phase V on 4 December, Iraq has exported 154.94 million barrels of oil for an average export rate of two million barrels per day. The revenue raised was about \$1.317 billion." The UN statement also said they received further three oil sector contracts worth \$463,963 bringing the total number received to 516 worth \$275,974,445. Earlier this month, Iraq accused the U.S. and Britain of blocking 20 percent of the import of oil spare parts.
- *The New York Times* reports that Scott Ritter's new book, Endgame, says U.S. spies began working on the teams only a year after the end of the 1991 Gulf War and worked closely with the UN teams. He claims that a coup attempt against Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in June 1996 coincided with the presence of nine CIA officials on one of the teams.

99-2-24: Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz sends a letter to Secretary General Annan urging him to intervene to prevent Turkey from invading northern Iraq in pursuit of Kurdish guerrillas, "The UN should shoulder its responsibility and prevent the continuous (Turkish) threat and aggression against Iraq. We urge you...to call on the Turkish government to withdraw its armed forces immediately from northern Iraq...The Iraqi government reserves the right of compensation for the damage sustained by such illegal practices."

- The official Iraqi News Agency accuses the U.S. of participating in the assassination of Grand Ayatollah Mohammad Mohammad Sadeq al-Sadr, "Martin Indyk, the U.S. assistant secretary of state, spoke hypocrisy and lies when he said that this country condemned the killing.. It represents an attempt to distance the U.S. and its agents from suspicion...an attempt by the U.S. to beautify its image, stained with the blood of innocent Iraqis, to show Arabs and Moslems...How can the finger of accusation not be pointed at the US, whose Congress has allocated \$97 million under the title 'Liberate Iraq'?" *Babel*, owned by President Saddam Hussein's son Uday, say, "Those who fish in muddy water are losers. Recently the Western mass media circulated reports of riots in the Iraqi provinces. This came after (Sadr's) assassination by outlaw killers. The mass media made bogus allegations."
- Iraq's Oil Minister Amir Muhammed Rasheed says Iraq is about to agree with Turkey on how to build a gas pipeline to carry Iraqi exports to the Mediterranean port of Ceyhan. Iraq and Turkey had signed a preliminary deal in 1997 to build a gas pipeline with annual capacity of 10 billion cubic meters. The pact was concluded in Turkey during a visit by Rasheed.
- After a briefing by Oil Minister Amir Muhammed Rasheed, the Iraqi National Assembly issues a statement blaming low oil prices on Saudi Arabia and demands it cut oil production by two million barrels per day (bpd). "We ask this government to reduce its oil exports by two million bpd as a first step that should be followed by further reductions. There is an oil surplus of 2.5 million bpd mainly caused by Saudi Arabia and it has led to the collapse of oil prices." The statement calls for "fair oil prices which will preserve the purchase power of the oil barrel." And says Iraq will make clear the "danger of such a Saudi policy" to parliaments of Arab countries and members of OPEC. Rasheed, speaking to reporters after the session, says, "We are asking them and we have officially sent letters to all ministers of OPEC, including Saudi Arabia, to reduce oil production. The Saudis should decrease their production at least by 1.5 million barrels a day." He says low oil prices mean Iraq will lose \$6 billion between mid-1998 and mid-1999. He adds that he would like to see prices going up to \$14 or \$15 a barrel. He accuses Saudi Arabia of increasing its output to force prices lower to suit U.S. policy against Iraq and that the U.S. is

- pursuing "a political plot which aims at reducing Iraq's oil revenues... The only winner of this policy is America who is practicing such policy in order to increase its oil asset."
- Commodore Anthony Dymock, deputy commander of the British aircraft carrier 'Invincible' battle group in the Gulf, says Iraqi forces have violated the no-fly zone over southern Iraq more than 100 times since Operation Desert Fox. These violations range from "just nibbling across the zone to coming right down close to the Saudi border...It seems as if they are designed to avoid contact with coalition aircraft if at all possible, and certainly when chased they retreat back over the border It's a sort of teasing operation to test whether we still have the will to go on enforcing the no-fly zone and, of course, we do... So, although he doesn't represent a massive threat at any one time, his constant readiness to probe and look for weakness means that we can't afford to change our stance. He doesn't fly much at weekends... he's tended not to bring his aircraft within missile firing range and has tended to rely on the ground-based air defense system...We've had no direct engagements between our aircraft and Iraqi aircraft." He says. no Iraqi aircraft have crossed either the Saudi or Kuwaiti borders since late January. The Invincible carries a mix of 24 aircraft: Sea Harrier jump jets. The carrier and its escorts are also enforcing sanctions against Iraq by stopping and searching merchant shipping. "HMS Cumberland is currently, probably as we speak, boarding ships at the northern end of the Gulf checking that the oil-for-food embargo is working and making sure that the only goods that go in are authorized ones." The Invincible's tour of duty is due to end in April and no current plans exist to replaced it with Britain's two other aircraft carriers.
  - Jordan's Trade Minister Mohammad al-Hourani goes to Jordan to discuss renewal of an annual oil for goods barter deal which supplies Jordan's energy needs. Hourani and his Iraqi counterparts are expected to decide what goods Jordan would supply to Iraq in return for the 4.8 million tons of crude and refined oil it will receive from Baghdad. Jordan has been dependent on Iraq for its oil supplies since Saudi Arabia stopped the flow of an estimated 40,000 barrels per day (bpd) of crude to punish Amman for its pro-Iraqi sympathies during the 1990-91 Gulf War. Officials say this year the value of Jordanian goods sent to Iraq under the bilateral protocol is likely to be at most \$200 million, compared to \$225 million last year, reflecting low oil prices. Three years ago, Jordan had halved the value of goods it sent to Baghdad, which had stood at over \$400 million, saying Iraq was running up debts according to the agreed pricing.
  - Air raid sirens go off in Baghdad, and Iraq claims that U.S. and British fighter attacked targets on the outskirts of Baghdad, killing or wounding several people, the Iraqi armed forces said. Iraq claims 23 formations of aircraft from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait carried out a total of 48 sorties.
  - U.S. officials says USAF and Navy aircraft attacked two Iraqi surface-to-air missiles sites near Al Iskandariyah, about 30 miles south of Baghdad, in response to anti-aircraft artillery fire and an Iraqi aircraft violation of the southern no-fly zone. an unspecified number of F-15E and F/A-18 aircraft carried out the attacks. Attacks are conducted by U.S. Air Force F-15E and Navy F/A-18 against two surface-to-air missile sites near Al Iskandariyah, about 30 miles (48 km) south of Baghdad in response to an Iraqi aircraft violation of the no-fly zone and anti-aircraft artillery fire directed at coalition aircraft. U.S. Air Force F-16 jets fire two high-speed, anti-radiation missiles against an air defense radar site near Tallil in southern Iraq after the aircraft were targeted by radar. This is the fourth consecutive day of raids.
  - In Baghdad, a communiqué carried by the official Iraqi news agency says Western warplanes attacked Baghdad, killing one person and wounding others. It said the planes hit some targets in the suburbs of the capital but did not immediately say what the targets were. Pentagon officials, says no attacks had been launched against targets in Baghdad.
  - The director of Iraqi News Agency, Uday al-Ta'ie, says civilians have been killed and wounded in a "grave escalation. American jet fighters crossed tonight the 33rd parallel to a distance of 20 kilometers (12 miles) north in the direction to Baghdad. They "used for the first time new guided projectiles. Our anti-defenses were able to shoot one of the three projectiles and the two others hit one of our civilian sites...We reaffirm once again that Iraq will not and will never recognize the so-called no-fly zones... Iraq will maintain its full rights to legitimate defense of its airspace and it will confront anyone who dares to (attack) the sovereignty and security of Iraq."

- U.S. officials deny that U.S. planes crossed the 33rd parallel, designated by the U.S. and Britain as the border for the southern no-fly zone intended to protect Shi'ites after the 1991 Gulf war.
  - President Clinton says of Iraq that, "They're trying obviously for the symbolic victory of shooting one of these planes down and perhaps trying to intimidate us from enforcing the no-fly zone, which we're still bound to do... We have not given up on the prospect of restoring inspections."
- 99-2-25: The Baath party newspaper *al-Thawra* says, "The British-American aggression rumbles on! We ask those responsible in Arab countries -- Is it really possible to call what American and British planes are undertaking 'international monitoring'?" *Babel* says, "It's a shame the escalation can occur in this war of Anglo-American aggression against Iraq without a move from international organizations and those which moan about international law, and without a warning to the aggressors from this organization and its Security Council."
- Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Henry Shelton, denies U.S. and British aircraft attacked targets outside the no-fly zone and said they did not intend to do so at this point. "The report...is erroneous. We have not gone across the 33rd, nor south of the 36<sup>th</sup>. We operate only up to the 33rd parallel and do not go south of the 36th. We have not and at this point do not intend to do that as an enforcement mechanism." He states that U.S. and British aircraft acted in self-defense and in response to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's "provocation" and "aggressive acts... Anything coming out of Baghdad should be questioned in terms of its veracity since we have seen very little of the truth coming out of Iraq in recent years... He declared that no-fly zones would be null and void, and consequently has in recent days decided to violate the no-fly zone as well as to fire his anti-aircraft artillery, his surface-to-air missiles and light up our aircraft with radar which is an offensive action in itself."
- 99-2-26: The Iraqi government invites the chairman of the UN panel on disarmament, Brazilian Ambassador to the UN, Celso Amorim, to visit Iraq. It says it has delivered an inch-thick document outlining its view of the status of its disarmament program. Diplomats familiar with the new Iraqi disarmament report say it breaks no new ground. But Amorim says panel members had been briefed by UNSCOM and the International Atomic Energy Agency, who have handed in written reports, and would discuss the Iraqi document shortly. "It is their own views. I think since we heard the views from the agencies that are inspecting them, it is only fair that we look and consider those documents as well."
- Iraqi Oil Minister Amir Muhammed Rasheed says Iraq hopes that French and Italian firms will help Iraq and Turkey build a gas pipeline to carry Iraqi exports to the Mediterranean port of Ceyhan. "We will agree very soon on the consortium which will run the (Iraq-Turkish gas) pipeline and we hope a French and an Italian company will take part with us to implement the project. The complicated technical and contractual procedures of the project are in their final stages." Iraq and Turkey signed a preliminary agreement in 1997 to build a gas pipeline with annual capacity of 10 billion cubic meters. Rasheed concluded the pact in Turkey during a visit. He adds that the rehabilitation of an old oil pipeline to Syria was in its final stages. "We hope that the two sides (Iraq and Syria) will announce soon that the pipeline is ready to export Iraqi oil through Syria." He says that maintenance of the pipeline is continuing on both sides and spare parts are needed to complete the work. The pipeline was closed in 1982, and connects the Iraqi city of Kirkuk with the Syrian port of Banias. Iraqi officials have said \$80 million is needed to repair it.
  - Benon Sevan, the head of the UN humanitarian aid program in Iraq tells the Security Council that weak crude oil prices have undermined efforts to increase funding for humanitarian aid ions. Similarly, efforts to shore up Iraq's dilapidated oil infrastructure by allowing Baghdad to purchase equipment and spare parts through the UN oil-for-food program won't have any impact before March 2000. He says the program is supposed to be able to sell \$5.256 billion worth of oil over 180 days to buy food, medicine and other necessities and that this sum is supposed to yield some \$3.4 billion dollars for the humanitarian program, after deducting more than 30 percent for reparations and other Gulf war-related costs. However, less than \$3 billion in total oil revenues is now expected, which will yield only \$1.8 billion for the humanitarian program. From that amount some \$300 million would go to buy spare parts allowed by the council for the six-month period, while another \$180 million would go for oil pipeline fees. "In fact we are back to square one where the program used to be when the revenues were supposed to be \$2 billion.

So we are not really moving forward... Accordingly any suggestion to raise further the ceiling of revenues is simply an academic exercise, unless bold, imaginative and pragmatic alternatives for investment in Iraq's oil industry are considered...we don't expect any impact on the increase in oil exports before March 2000...We have to take some bold decisions...So therefore it is time for the Council and governments concerned to start looking for alternative methods of financing the requirements for the oil industry in Iraq in order to be able to increase their output and exports as speedily as possible. Otherwise there is no way this program can continue the way it is." Sevan declines to make specific suggestions, saying that was up to the Council. He calls the \$600 million a year authorized for upgrading the Iraqi oil industry "a pittance" and that it takes up to a year for some parts to be delivered. He notes that when the program was initiated, oil prices were over \$18 per barrel and are now between \$8 and \$9 a barrel.

- Qatar's foreign minister, Sheik Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabr Al-Thani, says Qatar's government favors ending Iraq's oil export limit and approving new equipment contracts to increase Iraq's oil production, and that if Iraq is allowed to make repairs to its oil industry to increase crude exports, other nations should cut their crude production to offset additional Iraqi oil sales. Sheik Hamad says countries within and (OPE should reduce crude production by amounts equal to any increased oil sales by Iraq. "It (an oil production cut) has to be from OPEC countries and non-OPEC countries. We don't want to put all the burden on the OPEC countries. It has to be shared by all the markets," and that countries such as Mexico and Norway, should be "fair" and share in oil production cuts.
- The Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI) reports Iraq executed its deputy army chief in the south for allegedly plotting against the government. It says Lieutenant-general Kamil Sachit al-Janabi was executed in late January along with eight other people for allegedly "planning a conspiracy in contact with the outside world. Two of the eight were Janabi's assistants. Janabi was deputy to Ali Hassan al-Majid, at present army commander in the south and governor of Kuwait during its 1990-91 occupation by Iraq, Bayati said. Janabi, in his mid-50s, was an army commander in the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war and later a commander of Iraq's Gulf forces in the 1991 conflict over Kuwait.
- 99-2-27: Iraqi Oil Minister Amir Muhammed Rasheed tells *al-Hayat* newspaper that, "We cannot ask producers from outside OPEC to cut large quantities and if output is not cut by two million bpd, prices will not regain a moderate level of \$15-16 a barrel. The way (to boost prices) is to return to the natural balance between supply and demand. In 1998, the oil surplus stood at two million bpd at the minimum and thus production must be cut by two million bpd." He says Iraq is expected to raise about \$2.9 billion during the current 180-day sale phase of the oil-for-food program which ends on May 24, and that Iraq was committed to providing neighboring Jordan with all its crude needs at preferential prices. He said Iraq was exporting around 75,000 bpd to Jordan. Asked if Jordan was getting a special price, Rasheed says, "Yes, there are preferential prices. This in addition to a gift from President Saddam Hussein worth around \$200 million in 1999."
- Iraq's Deputy Oil Minister Sami Sharif tells the Al-Iraq daily that: "Iraq has the right to demand compensation from the Saudi and Kuwaiti governments for its share, which the two countries benefited from in the last period." Saudi is currently is producing at a rate of about 8 million barrels a day. Kuwait produces about 2 million barrels. According to a recent UN report, Iraq is producing close to 2.5 million barrels and exporting about 2.07 million barrels a day.
- More theories emerge regarding the Sadr killing. UN human rights investigator Max van der Stoel had said in 1998 that the killings of two other clerics, Sheikh Mirzi Ali al-Gharawi and Sheikh Murdada al-Borujerdim, appeared aimed at silencing dissent. These two clerics were both of Iranian origin and were killed in Iraq in June and April. Exiled Iraqi opposition groups had claimed the Iraqi government had killed Sadr and his sons riots erupted in the south and that up to 300 were killed in a Baghdad Shi'ite area. Iraq has denied there were clashes. A Jordanian, pro-Iraqi opposition figure, Leith Shubeilat, now says that Shi'ite friends visited mosques in Najaf after the killing and that there were no protests. "Maybe a little bit happened in *al-Thawra* here. Some young people made some sort of demonstration but it was dispersed and I don't get the impression they (detained) anybody. It's not in their interest to make it

- bigger. As a matter of fact Sadr was pro-government. Followers of other religious leaders used to criticize him, calling him 'Mohammad Hakooma.'”
- Iraq claims U.S. and British aircraft strike military and civilian targets in the south and wounding 23 people. Iraq claims 11 formations of F-14, F-15 and F-18 aircraft carried out 28 sorties targeting civil and military targets in Basra, Dhiqar, Maisan, Najaf and Muthana provinces in southern Iraq and that the planes came from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. “Our anti-aircraft weapons have confronted the enemy formations, forcing them to flee to the bases of evil.”
  - The U.S. says U.S. Air Force F-15Es, and Navy F/A-18s and F-14s retaliate with precision guided munitions against anti-aircraft artillery fire directed at coalition aircraft on a previous mission. The planes attack two Iraqi military communication facilities in the no-fly zone southeast of Baghdad at about 1 a.m. EST (0600 GMT) on Saturday in response to Iraqi aggression.. The strikes were conducted near As Samawah, about 130 miles (210 km) southeast of Baghdad, and Al Amarah, about 170 miles (270 km) southeast of Baghdad. The aircraft return safely to base. The U.S. statement say Iraq had violated the southern no-fly zone more than 90 times since Desert Fox. It cites more than 30 incidents involving Iraqi surface-to-air missiles, anti-aircraft artillery and target-tracking radar illuminations against coalition aircraft. It added that coalition forces enforcing the southern no-fly zone have attacked more than 35 targets.
- 99-2- 28: The Baath party paper *al-Thawra* calls on the Arab League to work some Security Council permanent members to end the no-fly zones. “If there are major foreign countries...calling for non-interference in Iraq's affairs...the Arabs, therefore, should work with these (UN) permanent members...to stop aggression.... Russia, China and France call for non-interference in Iraq's internal affairs and consider America's imposition of the no-fly zones...a unilateral measure that contradicts international legitimacy. The Arab League...is needed to demand the UN to take necessary measures to stop the American-British aggression on Iraq.”
- Iraq's Oil Minister Amir Muhammed Rasheed claims at a news conference marking the anniversary of oil nationalization that Iraq is exporting 2.1 million barrels per day. “We are exporting around 2.1 million bpd and we think more or less we will maintain this ceiling during the rest of the fifth phase (of the oil pact).” He says Iraq could increase exports to more than 2.5 million bpd if spare parts arrive. He says that Iraq has exported more than 165 million barrels so far and is planning to export 350 million barrels under the fifth phase of the deal which began in November and ends in May. Rasheed claims that only \$11 million worth of spare parts have arrived in the country. “What has reached Iraq now is around \$11 million (of spare parts) which doesn't represent any thing to Iraq's needs. We are discussing with more than 30 companies the development of these 10 oilfields, some of them are giant, some others are medium and the rest in our term are small but they are regarded big by foreign companies. We give priority to those countries and companies who have taken positive positions in the Security Council regarding the lifting of the sanctions.” He repeats Iraq’s hope that OPEC will agree at its ministerial next month to cut oil output by two million bpd to boost oil prices, and press Saudi Arabia to cut its production of about 8 million bpd by 1.5 to 2 million.
  - Speaking on other topics, Rasheed says Iraq has sent disarmament documents to the UN “to make the Security Council aware of what Iraq has implemented in all the different areas of prohibited weapons...so that sanctions be lifted totally and immediately.” He repeats that Iraq has rejected the new panels set up by the Security Council. Our position is very clear,” he told a news conference. “We will not deal with any decision where Iraq was not consulted and did not take part in the consultation leading to that decision. These panels, we will not deal with. They do not concern us.” But, Rasheed says Iraq would welcome a visit by the head of the. disarmament panel, Brazilian UN envoy Celso Amorim, provided he came “as ambassador of Brazil to the UN, not as a head of any of these panels.” Rasheed also says, “We are hoping in the very near future that they are taught...a lesson. What is good about the Americans is that when they are taught a good lesson they will withdraw quickly... What they are saying are not the facts. They are failing in their action.”
  - U.S. warplanes bomb sites in northern Iraq after coming under Iraqi anti-aircraft fire. A flight of U.S. F-15Es are fired upon at 1:55 p.m. Iraqi time (5:55 a.m. EST/1055 GMT. In retaliation, the F-15Es fire

three air-to-ground missiles and three laser-guided bombs on an Iraqi air defense headquarters and radio relay. A short time later, F-15E aircraft dropped two 500-pound (230 kg) and three 2,000-pound (910-kg) laser guided bombs. Both incidents occur near Mosul, about 200 miles (320 km) north of Baghdad, and are over at 2:20 p.m. Iraqi time (6:20 a.m. EST/1120 GMT). No U.S. aircraft are damaged.

- Iraq said three people are killed by the warplanes in villages in the north of the country. "The crows returned today...and attacked with their malicious bombs a number of villages in Ninevah province (Mosul) and the bombings killed three innocent civilians. At 1300 local time (1000 GMT) of today 11 hostile formations violated our air space coming from Turkey...and implemented 21 sorties...(they returned) to the bases of wickedness and evil in Turkish territory at 1642 local time (0142 GMT). The black crows flew over the provinces of Ninevah, Dohuk and Arbil and bombed a number of civilian installations and villages in Ninevah."
- Faleh al-Khayat, director-general of planning and studies at the Iraqi Oil Ministry, tells a news conference U.S. planes bombed a pipeline used by Iraq to export oil via Turkey. "The attack resulted in the stoppage of crude oil pumping through the Iraqi-Turkish pipeline. The pumping has not been recommenced until this moment. At 1445 (1145 GMT) of today... Repeater Station Number 6 (RS6) which constitutes a vital link in the control of the operation of Iraqi-Turkish pipeline ... was subjected to a vicious aerial attack by American airplanes coming from Turkey" He one oil worker was killed and two were wounded in the attack and that the pipeline carried half of Iraqi crude exports to the Turkish port of Ceyhan in the Mediterranean. The strikes hit the Ain Zahla oil control complex, about 470 km (290 miles) north of Baghdad, on Monday, killing one person and injuring seven people
- A Turkish official at the Ceyhan oil terminal confirms that the flow has stopped and said an attack had hit "energy transmission lines of a communications center," which operates the pipeline. U.S. Army Col. Richard Bridges, the Pentagon's director of defense information, said the pipeline was neither targeted nor hit by allied forces. "We have no indication that we hit anything other than what we intended to hit, which is elements of Iraq's integrated air defense system."
- Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan tells an Arab meeting in Baghdad that Arab states should break UN sanctions, "We do not expect sanctions be lifted via the Security Council... If Arab countries decided to lift sanctions on Iraq, sanctions shall be over.... The Security Council is not asking America to stop violating Iraqi airspace...which contradicts the Security Council resolutions Iraq is fully ready not only to open a new chapter of relations and put the past behind, but also to consider any Arab formula without foreign hands that organizes relations."
- 99-3-1: Kerim Unal of the Turkish Botas pipeline company says Iraq will restore the flow of crude to Turkey by Monday. "They told me they were making an effort to have pumping start again this evening ' He says said he had spoken by telephone to Talal Ashur, the head of Iraq's Northern Oil Company, after the attack, and that a pipeline repeater station 35 km (20 miles) from Mosul was hit at 1500 (1200 GMT) causing a fire which was later put out. He say I Iraqi officials managed to restore pumping for two hours on Sunday evening using an emergency system which later collapsed. He says Iraqi Oil Minister Amir Muhammed Rasheed will visit the damaged station Monday morning.
- Defense Secretary William Cohen says that "We responded to attacks on our aircraft ... that placed our pilots in jeopardy...We did in fact target a communications facility which may or may not have interrupted the flow of oil temporarily to Turkey."
- U.S. F-15Es based at Incirlik drop more than 30 2,000-pound and 500-pound laser guided bombs on Iraqi communications sites, radio relay sites and anti-aircraft artillery sites near the city of Mosul. The attacks are the biggest of about 100 such incidents in the no-fly zones since Desert Fox
- Secretary Cohen says at a news conference that U.S. pilots have been given more latitude to hit a range of air defense targets in no-fly zones in northern and southern Iraq in response to Iraqi threats. "Pilots have been given greater flexibility to attack those systems that place them in jeopardy. They are not simply going to respond to a triple-A (anti-aircraft artillery) site or to a SAM (surface-to-air missile) site...They can go after command and control and communications centers as well that allow Saddam

Hussein to try to target them and put them in jeopardy. So they have some flexibility and they will continue to have that flexibility."

99-3-2: Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan says in Iraq's *Al-Qadissiya* newspaper that, "Iraq will continue to defend its sovereignty and confront the American and British planes which carry out daily aggressions."

-- *The Washington Post* reports that U.S. intelligence services infiltrated agents and espionage equipment for three years into UN arms control teams to eavesdrop on the Iraqi military. It reports that that UNSCOM's Australian chairman Richard Butler and his Swedish predecessor, Rolf Ekeus, were not fully informed about the U.S. spy effort. It says Butler's American deputy, Charles Duelfer, had been notified. The U.S. had admitted earlier that it placed eavesdropping equipment at certain locations in Iraq, the Post reports that the U.S. rigged UNSCOM equipment and office space to intercept a high volume of ordinary Iraqi military communications without permission. Those communications were carried between microwave towers and linked Iraqi commanders to infantry and armored forces in the field. They were of value to U.S. military planners but generally unrelated to UNSCOM. The activity began in May 1993, and grew to cover more than 300 arms installations and research facilities in Iraq. For the first three years of operation, the video images and logs of electrical power use were recorded onto magnetic tape at the remote sites. Inspectors based in Baghdad periodically drove out to collect the tapes. In March 1996, with Iraq's consent, UNSCOM began transmitting images from the cameras back to Baghdad using radio signals. The signals were boosted by relays, known as repeater stations, arrayed along the paths from the camera sites to Baghdad. The new system gave UNSCOM's inspectors a view in "near real time." Unknown to UNSCOM, the U.S. technicians who installed and maintained the system were intelligence operatives, and the repeater stations they built had covert antennas capable of intercepting microwave transmissions near important nodes of Iraqi military communications. Use of the remote camera system for espionage coincided with other eavesdropping known to UNSCOM's top leaders, code-named Shake the Tree, that used commercial scanners to intercept low-powered VHF radio transmissions used by Iraq to direct its concealment efforts against UNSCOM. The Post says the U.S. government decided not to inform Rolf Ekeus but notified Charles Duelfer, the American deputy to both men, to help ensure that UNSCOM's headquarters staff did not interfere with the operation. Ekeus says he did not believe the U.S. could have built covert antennas into the video relay system because Iraqi technicians should have discovered them. "I think it can't be true. This was stuff that was totally in the hands of Iraq. It was standing out in the rain, so to say. It's really very difficult to believe that anything serious could happen that way. [Iraqi counterintelligence agents] were dismantling these stations all the time, and they would have understood if there was anything that didn't fit" the ostensible task of bringing video signals to Baghdad... We have always stood against that."

-- Secretary-General Annan says he had no direct knowledge of any U.S. spying activities in Iraq and that he wished all UN disarmament officials had focused on dismantling Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. Annan is asked the Post. He says UNSCOM reported to the Security Council and not to him. "I personally had no direct knowledge of these things and as you know UNSCOM does not report to Iraq has always been the responsibility of the Council." Asked why he did not object to the US, Britain and France- no-fly zones that were imposed in 1991 and were not authorized by the Security Council, Annan says the question should go to the Council, "Has it acquiesced by its silence?"

-- A Pentagon official says that U.S. and British aircraft will completely destroy Iraq's air defenses in no-fly zones north and south if Iraq keeps trying to shoot down U.S. and British planes, "Our strategy of degrading Iraq's air defenses in recent weeks isn't new. But Monday's strikes should make it clear that tit-for-tat is over. The number of bombs and range of targets is growing. Even if he is now down to using ineffective anti-aircraft guns, we're going to hit back at his (air-defense) network. He isn't going to have much left in the way of defense in those zones...All bets are off if Iraq manages to shoot down a U.S. or British jet."

99-3-3: Iraq's Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf says, "Iraq rejects again the statement of ..the Arab foreign ministers...and the committee formed in accordance with it. The committee is the brainchild of the present Arab situation with its divisions and differences. Therefore, forming it cannot be in support of

- Iraq's just demands..." The Arab League foreign ministers had set up the committee to work on how to end UN sanctions during their meeting in January. The committee includes the foreign ministers of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco and Jordan, is due to hold its first meeting in Damascus on Sunday. Sahaf had walked out of the meeting partly because he said it did not give Iraq enough support in condemning Desert Fox.
- Iraqi President Saddam Hussein holds talks with his military officials, his second meeting in two days. The official Iraqi News Agency (INA) says the talks include the ministers of military industry, industry and minerals and the heads of the air forces and air defense. It gives no other details.
  - President Clinton sends a quarterly report to Congress saying that American and British warplanes have hit Iraq on more than 50 occasions since the major bombing campaign in December, substantially degrading Saddam Hussein's air defense system. "As long as Saddam Hussein remains in power, he represents a threat to the well-being of his people, the peace of the region and the security of the world. We will continue to contain the threat he poses, but over the long term the best way to address that threat is through a new government in Baghdad." He says the U.S. will support the forces for change in Iraq to help make the opposition a more effective voice for the aspirations of the Iraqi people." Clinton said that since Desert Fox, "We have seen a significant increase in the frequency, intensity and coordination of the Iraqi air defense system to counter enforcement of the no-fly zones" protecting minority Iraqis in the north and south. Since that date, U.S. and coalition aircraft enforcing the no-fly zones have been subject to multiple anti-aircraft artillery firings, radar illuminations and over 20 surface-to-air missile attacks. On over 50 occasions since December, U.S. and coalition forces have engaged the Iraqi integrated air defense system. As a consequence, the Iraqi air defense system has been degraded substantially further since December." He also says that the human rights situation in Iraq is a "cause for grave concern," with reports of hundreds of executions, including "summary prison killings."
  - Turkish President Suleyman Demirel says that Turkey cannot accept U.S. strikes in northern Iraq that led to the closure of a pipeline carrying crude from Iraq to Turkey.
  - Turkish Defense Minister Hikmet Sami Turk, does not criticize the US. "This is a self-defense operation ... It is quite natural that aircraft make use of the right of self-defense."
  - China's envoy to the UN, Qin Huasun, calls for a halt to air strikes against Iraqi targets by the U.S. and Britain at a closed-door Security Council consultations. He and the Russian representative repeat their long-held view that the no-fly zones were not authorized by the Council and were illegal.
  - U.S. Ambassador Nancy Soderberg tells Council members that U.S. forces in the region are acting to protect the vulnerable population of Iraq. She denies the U.S. targeted the northern Iraq pipeline and said neither it nor pumping stations had been hit. "The area that was hit was in our belief part of the Iraqi air defense system, the communications area. The Iraqi command and control is part of the area that is threatening our pilots and we will continue to move in our self-defense."
  - State Department deputy spokesman James Foley says, "We can state certainly that we don't intentionally target infrastructure associated with the oil-for-food program, but this matter is being looked into... We are targeting not only air defense radar and weapon systems, but also other parts of the Iraqi air defense command and control, early warning, and communications network. We targeted these facilities because we believe that they serve a function in the operation of Iraq's air defense system in that part of the country. As I said, we're conducting further analysis of those strikes, and we're cooperating with the Turkish government in the investigation of this matter," he added.
  - A U.S. military spokesman said there were no incidents in the northern no-fly zone over Iraq and all of the U.S. and British planes involved in the air patrols had returned safely to the Incirlik airbase in southern Turkey.
  - The reduction of Iraq's flow of oil by up to a million barrels per day (bpd) of crude exports still leaves a 500 million barrel surplus of spare oil that London's Centre for Global Energy Studies (CGES) estimates still hangs over world markets. While Iraqi officials claim it could take weeks to repair pipeline facilities to the Mediterranean, the Centre says the reduction would have to last a full year and a half to erode a

stock surplus which has grown again during peak winter demand months. A 31.6 million barrels build in January has almost entirely wiped out stock reductions in November and December, meaning that at the end of the winter stocks will remain at record levels for a second straight year. OECD oil industry stocks ended the year at a little more than 100 million above December 1997 but more than 200 million above year-end levels in 1995 and 1996, the International Energy Agency said last month. The OECD stock rise is matched by a 250 million barrels increase in non-OECD storage sites like South Africa, the Caribbean and China to put stocks 500 million barrels above their operational norm, said Leo Drollas of CGES. This puts increasing pressure on OPEC producers which in recent months have shown waning allegiance to a 2.6 million bpd output cut package.

- 99-3-4: Secretary Cohen leaves on an eight-day Middle East trip to visit U.S. forces in the Middle East and talks with senior government officials. Cohen will meet with officials in Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.
- An Iraqi oil ministry spokesman says "Oil exports were resumed early on March 4 through the Iraq-Turkish pipeline with its normal capacity. After relying on God, our brave fighters in the oil sector ... were able to repair the damage inflicted by the failing crowds of America." The spokesman says oil resumed flowing via the pipeline after the repair of a repeater station 35 kilometers (20 miles) from the city of Mosul and a telecommunications center in Ain Zala 50 km (30 miles) northwest of the city. Both sites were bombed by U.S. warplanes on Sunday.
  - Iraqi Oil Minister Amir Muhammed Rasheed says Iraq resumed crude oil via the Iraq-Turkey pipeline to the Turkish Mediterranean port of Ceyhan at a rate of 1.05 million barrels per day (bpd). Rasheed tells the official Iraqi News Agency INA that Baghdad had so far exported a total of 175 million barrels since the beginning of the six-month fifth phase of the oil pact which has started in November and expected to end in May.
  - Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf sends a letter to Secretary-General Annan claiming Iraq lost 1 million barrels of oil a day, worth \$9 million, as a result of recent U.S. air attacks: "The acts of aggression committed by the U.S. on Feb. 28 and March 1, 1999 have caused serious damage to Iraqi oil installations in the north of the country and have brought a complete halt to the flow of crude oil through the Iraq-Turkey pipeline system... the stoppage will mean a daily loss of resources ... in the order of 1 million barrels of oil a day, that is to say \$9 million for each day the exportation of Iraqi oil is halted under the 'oil-for-food' program... it is a glaring paradox ... that the aggressors themselves have been insisting that more than one-half of the quantity of oil established under the 'oil-for-food' program must be exported by way of the Iraq-Turkey pipeline and that it is they that are now turning their brutal military aggression toward halting the flow of oil through Turkey." Al-Sahaf says the attacks showed the U.S. was trying to "undermine Iraq's security and stability by interfering in its internal affairs."
  - John Fletcher, vice president of legal and corporate affairs at Canada's Ranger Oil Ltd. tells an Iran/Iraq energy conference in New York that Iraq's post-sanctions oil output capacity could rival Saudi Arabia's if development and exploration deals with Western firms are implemented and its war-damaged oil infrastructure is fixed. "This 10-year post-sanctions Development Plan requires foreign companies and the Iraqi Ministry of Oil to invest an estimated \$30 billion in the upstream sector," for the country to reach the officially targeted production level of 6.0 million bpd. Ranger Oil has negotiated a production deal in Baghdad. Dr. Fadhil Chalabi, head of the U.K.-based Centre for Global Energy Studies (CGES), says Iraq has negotiated contracts with a number of international oil companies from France, Russia, China and Italy to develop several oil fields after the lifting of the embargo, many of them in the Western Desert and presents a study to the conference stating that, "If implemented in a sanctions-free Iraq, these contracts could add a production capacity of 2.85 mbpd. In fact, Iraq could reach a much higher capacity than the government's target of 6.0 mbpd (million bpd) because the country has huge potential of additional discoverable oil." Chalabi says Iraq's undiscovered reserves are estimated to be as high as 200 billion barrels, which if added to the known reserves of about 112 billion barrels, "Iraq's potential could, in fact, parallel Saudi Arabia's. With such oil potential, Iraq's sustained capacity could easily go up to 8 and even 10 mbpd...If it is allowed to expand, Iraqi oil will make a radical change to the structure of world oil supplies...The UN may allow Iraq to import materials and equipment to increase its capacity

- and to rehabilitate its oil industry...For this purpose, Iraq may need two or three years at a cost of about \$5 billion.”
- Turkish Foreign Ministry Spokesman Sermet Atacanl says of the U.S. attacks on the Iraqi oil “This latest event was an opportunity to underline our sensitivity. No, it is not acceptable. There should be a solution to this tension which has been a bleeding wound since 1991. It is time now for both sides to deal with the issue.” He adds a call for Iraq to comply with UN resolutions.
  - Defense Secretary William Cohen says, “We are very sensitive to that and we want to make sure that we don't disrupt the flow of oil going into Turkey..There is some flexibility given to the pilots, but we are very careful about that. We are trying to stay within the bounds of making sure that we are sending a message but don't exceed the bounds...Our pilots now are trying to respond only to those instruments that present a threat to them...We have not targeted pipelines. We have not targeted pumping stations. They will continue to target only those facilities that pose a threat to them.”
  - Cohen will visit Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Jordan, Egypt and Israel before flying home on March 12. He says he will explain the increasing tempo of attacks in the southern Iraqi no-fly zone from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. “They want to make sure that we are acting appropriately and I think that we can demonstrate very clearly that (Iraqi President) Saddam (Hussein) has been consistently violating the no-fly zones Some 20 SAMs (surface-to-air-missiles) have been launched against our aircraft. It is a very dangerous mission flying over the north and the south, so we intend to take whatever measures we can to ensure the safety of those pilots. I will carry that message to all of the Gulf states and I believe they will be satisfied that we are taking appropriate action.”
  - British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook defends the UK's participation in air strikes on Iraq after talks with Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov. “On the issue of the no-fly zones, it should be very firmly remembered that the reason for the no-fly zones is to prevent Saddam Hussein from bombing his own people. We are in no doubt that if he were able to fly his planes in the zone, he would use this to repress both the Kurdish and the Shi'ite populations. The military action which has been taken by our planes to enforce that no-fly zone has been taken in self-defense when they have been targeted by anti-aircraft batteries.”
  - A British Tornado jet attacks an Iraqi military radar site in the southern no-fly zone in response to two Iraqi violations in the exclusion zone. The British jet strikes a radar site some 15 miles (22 km) south of the town of Al-Basrah near Ash Shuaybah in southern Iraq at about 8:15 a.m. EST (1315 GMT). The strikes are in response to two Iraqi violations of the southern no-fly zone and aircraft illuminations by Iraqi surface-to-air missiles. There have now been more than 95 Iraqi violations in the Western-enforced southern no-fly zone and 35 incidents involving Iraqi surface-to-air missiles, anti-aircraft artillery and target-tracking radar illuminations against U.S. and British aircraft patrolling the Western-enforced zone.
  - An Iraqi military spokesman says that U.S. and British warplanes attacked a private farm in the southern Western-imposed no-fly zone. “Hostile formations flew over regions in Basra and Dhi Qar and Muthanna provinces and dropped two bombs on a farm of a citizen in Basra. At 850 (550 GMT) and 1600 (1300 GMT) today, March 4, nine hostile formations violated our national airspace coming from Kuwaiti airspace and 11 formations from the Saudi one...these formations involved F-14, F-15, F- 16 and F-18 warplanes supported by the British Tornado. ...Those black crows carried out 44 sorties supported by the Early Warning plane AWACS and A-2C from the Saudi airspace...the hostile formations left Iraqi airspace at 1657 (13:57 GMT) returning to the dens of evil and aggression in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.”
  - British Defense Secretary George Robertson says, “Saddam has moved a lot of Sam missiles and anti-aircraft batteries into southern and northern Iraq and the Iraqi pilots are trying to lure our pilots into missile ambushes.” He says that there had been 100 incursions into the no-fly zones by 150 Iraqi aircraft in the past 11 weeks. Robertson insists operations were still “purely defensive” in nature and strikes on Iraqi sites were in response to precise attacks on allied pilots.
  - The Baath Party newspaper *Al-Thawra* says “Here comes British Defense Secretary George Robertson arrogantly announcing...that his government has directed its pilots to expand rules of engagement under the pretext of protecting them. They are ostensibly carrying out a legal act, as if Iraqi airspace were

British and as if the Iraqis were the aggressors, not the British or the Americans.” The Iraqi News Agency said U.S. and British planes, flying out of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey, had flown 3,703 sorties in the no-fly zones between December 21 and the end of February.

- Richard Butler says he never approved the use of his arms teams as a cover for American intelligence to spy on Iraq, “Can I know what I didn't know? No. Someone piggybacking on the back of us for their purposes? I don't know. I am going to try and find out what these facts are. I haven't yet got sufficient answers. If we lose the Iraq case, we will jeopardize the belief that people have in the verifiability of the main arms control treaties. We must not lose the Iraq case. The Security Council must be prepared to stand by the arms control treaties and in the face of serious violations, go to that state and say, 'We are on your case. We won't stand for it. Stop your behavior. They could have made a lot of that stuff. They can make aspirin before lunch and they can be making mustard gas after lunch.’” He is repeatedly asked about reports saying the U.S. had spied on Iraqi military activities under the cover of UNSCOM. He says if the reports are true, “then we have a serious problem. But what I am concerned about is the implications for our ability to keep safe the nonproliferation regimes. I didn't approve it nor did my predecessor Rolf Ekeus.” He attacks Scott Ritter for revealing many of the commission's secrets, saying that much of his information and he is “a loose cannon who has done us serious harm.”
- Ahmed Ben Hilli, the assistant secretary-general of the Arab League An Arab League, arrives in Baghdad to brief Iraq on Arab talks scheduled for Sunday in Damascus on the UN sanctions on the Iraq. The INA reports he says that attacks by U.S and British warplanes in Iraq's no-fly zones are “unjustifiable...There is no justification for what the U.S. and Britain are doing against Iraq....the Arab League on February 28 issued a clear statement expressing resentment at the US- British aggression on Iraq.” The INA says, “Ahmed Ben Hilli will hold talks with Iraqi officials on means of enhancing Arab solidarity.” Iraq has rejected the Arab committee formed at an Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Cairo in January to help end sanctions and which is headed by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq al-Shara and includes the foreign ministers of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco and Jordan and.
- The New York-based humanitarian group Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) says Mairead Corrigan-Maguire of Northern Ireland and Adolfo Perez Esquivel of Argentina will spend three days in Baghdad. “The purpose of the trip is to witness the humanitarian disaster in Iraq and to ask the U.S. government and the UN Security Council to lift the economic sanctions.”
- 99-3-5: The first meeting of a controversial committee formed to help remove economic sanctions imposed on Iraqis postponed indefinitely at the request of some of the committee's seven members who wanted more consultations before the start of the group's activities. Syria chairs the committee, formed by Arab foreign ministers during a meeting in Cairo in January. The other members are Egypt, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Jordan and Morocco. Syrian officials say the committee issue will be discussed at a meeting of the Arab League's ministerial council in Cairo on March 17-18.
- 99-3-6: French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine tells a news conference in Abu Dhabi that his country remains committed to finding a political solution to tensions with Iraq, which could lead to the lifting of sanctions. Vedrine said French proposals for a peaceful resolution of tensions are based on setting up a system of surveillance designed to prevent new developments in Iraq's armaments program which could be dangerous for its neighbors. Vedrine says he underlined France's commitment to finding a political solution to protect the stability of the region, as well as a commitment to the sovereignty of Iraq in talks with UAE President Sheikh Zaid bin Sultan al-Nahayan. “I think recent military developments have not served their purpose.” Vedrine says the system of surveillance France was proposing would also ensure that revenues from oil would not be able to be used to finance arms. “This would without doubt permit a lifting of the embargo, which no longer serves a strategic purpose but only adds to the suffering of the Iraqi people.”
- Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabr al-Thani urges Iraq not to threaten its Gulf Arab neighbors, “Any threat to a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is tantamount to a threat to all GCC member states. Iraq must desist from threatening any member of the GCC and implement all UN Security Council resolutions on elimination of weapons of mass destruction and Gulf

security,...I suggest an international conference should be held under the auspices of the UN or any other world body to discuss the issue of Gulf security and strengthen it." Sheikh Hamad addresses the news conference after signing a protocol with French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine calling for closer political cooperation. Vedrine says his country does not believe Iraq possessed nuclear capability. "But it does not mean Iraq does not have other weapons. We have suggested long-term monitoring of Iraq's arms program along with lifting of economic sanctions. But unfortunately there was no unanimity in the Security Council...The bombing of Iraq leads us nowhere. What is needed is a political solution to end the tension."

- U.S. jets strike three sites in Iraq's southern no-fly zone day and five Iraqi anti-aircraft sites in the northern no-fly zone after coalition aircraft are threatened by Iraqi weapons. In the south, two Iraqi communications facilities and a surface-to-air missile site are struck by U.S. aircraft at around 1 a.m. EST (0600 GMT. One of the communications facilities is near the southern city of Al Basrah and the other, a military radar relay station, was about 100 miles (160 km) northwest of Al Basrah, as is the missile site. The attacks are launched after coalition aircraft, which include U.S. and British planes, were targeted by Iraqi missile guidance radar. The U.S. aircraft involved in the strikes, Air Force F-16 Falcons operating from unidentified bases in southwestern Asia and Navy F/A-18 Hornets operating from the USS Carl Vinson All return safely.
- Separately, a U.S. military spokesman in Turkey says F-15E Strike Eagles release GBU-12 laser-guided bombs on five Iraqi artillery sites south of Saddam lake. A U.S. airforce commander at Incirlik says, "What it seems has been happening in the last few days is Iraqis have been changing their positions... We have simply widened the definition of what a threat system is from a specific system to integrated system and all the things attached to that site," ...The systems they are using and the way they are forced to use them because of our tactics means they have a very low probability of hitting any of our aircraft."
- An Iraqi military spokesman says that a number of people were injured when Western warplanes attacked civilian and military targets in the south and north of the country, "A number of aircraft coming from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait flew over (the southern cities) of Nasiriya, Basra, Amarah and Samawah and fired their missiles against service installations and some military positions, wounding several citizens...Our ground defenses confronted the hostile planes and forced them to flee, returning back to airbases in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia at 0930 (0630 GMT)...At 1125 local time (0825 GMT) 17 hostile formations violated our air space coming from Turkey...and fired at our military positions in Mosul...Our air defenses confronted the hostile planes and forced them to flee at 1435 (1135 GMT)."
- Saddam Hussein meets with Arab League Assistant Secretary-General Ahmed Ben Hilli. Hilli gives him a letter from Arab League chief Esmat Abdel-Meguid saying "all Arab people are with Iraq to face up to American aggression" and that the League "would exert all efforts to end the embargo." This is the first time Saddam has agreed to meet an Arab League official to discuss the committee it formed to deal with sanctions. The group's first meeting was scheduled for Sunday in Damascus and has been postponed.
- The official newspaper *al-Qadisiya* newspaper reports that young Iraqis have begun enlisting in month-long military training courses to increase their readiness to meet foreign attack. The paper say 18 courses are planned in 1999 and 2000. Women will take part as well as men.
- 99-3-7: The Baath party newspaper, *al-Thawra*, says "The American policy is facing a deadlock and Cohen's shuttle visits will fail.. The tour by Zionist Cohen in the region...is part of a continuous American policy of pressure and blackmail... the only two states who "submit to American blackmail are Saudi Arabia and Kuwait." *Babel* says, "The aggression by American and British planes in the north and south of Iraq will end and the flagrant American policy against Iraq will fail."
- 99-3-8: The Iranian opposition movement, the Mujahideen Khaliq, based in Iraq says that Iranian agents ambushed one of its vehicles north of Baghdad. It says Iranian 'terrorists' had fired guns and tossed grenades at the vehicle near Khalis, 60 km (37 miles) north of Baghdad, in an attempt to kill Mujahideen passengers. 'The terrorists...had to flee when Mujahideen returned fire,' and that the attackers left two guns, several magazines and a number of grenades behind. The Mujahideen Khaliq uses bases in Iraq to

- prepare attacks into Iran and has several bases equipped with Iraqi-supplied tanks, heavy guns and helicopter gunships close to the Iranian border.
- Iraq announces its Vice-President Taha Mohieddin Ma'rouf will travel to Bahrain on Monday to present Iraq's condolences on the death of Sheikh Isa bin Sulman al- Khalifa/The visit will be the first by an Iraqi official to the emirate since the Gulf War .The delegation would include Justice Minister Shabib al-Maliki.
  - U.S. fighters drop laser-guided bombs on Iraqi anti-aircraft sites in the northern no-fly zone on Monday and American and British planes hit three targets in the south. The latest bombing in the northern zone took place between 12:35 p.m. and 1:35 p.m. Iraqi time (4:35 a.m. EST/0935 GMT and 5:35 a.m. EST/1035 GMT) near Saddam Lake in the northern no-fly zone. U.S. Air Force F-15E Strike Eagles drop GBU laser-guided bombs on several anti-aircraft artillery sites. Later in the southern no-fly zone, U.S. Air Force F-16CGs, U.S. Navy F/A-1s and British Royal Air Force GR-1 Tornados hit two sites at approximately 6:30 p.m. Iraqi time (10:30 a.m. EST/1530 GMT). According to a release from the U.S. Central Command, the jets struck an Iraqi airborne warning site near As Samawah, a surface-to-air missile site 50 miles (80 km) northwest of As Samawa near Abu Sukhayr and a radio relay station 75 miles (120 km) northeast of As Samawah. A Pentagon spokesman says U.S. forces did not suffer any injuries and there was no damage to their planes.
  - An Iraqi military spokesman says one person had been injured in the northern area when Western warplanes attacked civilian and military targets in both the south and north of the country.
- 99-3-9: Qatar's Foreign Minister, Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim al-Thani tells a joint news conference with U.S. Defence Secretary William Cohen., "We do not wish to see Iraq bombed daily or these attacks which are being made in the no-fly zones. Sometimes we have our differences. I have to say this very frankly. We have different opinions in this. But let me tell you one thing: the main issue is how to bring peace and stability in the area. We understand the position of the US... in principle I don't think there is any difference between us and the opinion of the US." This is the first open opposition to the attacks Cohen finds on his tour of the Gulf.
- Cohen defends the U.S. strikes as basic self-defense against Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's stepped-up effort to defy international sanctions and shoot down U.S. and British fighters. "The way for the attacks to stop is for Saddam to simply stop trying to violate the no-fly zones and stop trying to kill our pilots."
  - Iraq's Oil Minister Amir Muhammed Rasheed says, "Iraq has submitted a specific plan to OPEC ministerial meeting...to cut production by 2.5 million bpd and this should be borne entirely by Saudi Arabia." And that Saudi Arabia should take the entire cut in order to lift oil prices. Rasheed accuses Saudi Arabia of flooding oil markets with its production "until it reached eight million bpd" in order to suit a U.S. policy which aimed at controlling oil prices. He says Arab countries have lost \$929 billion between 1987 and 1998 because of the Saudi oil policy. Cohen has already visited Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman and the United Arab Emirates and was flying to Kuwait. Before his talks with Sheikh Hamad, he met Qatar's emir, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani.
  - The Iraqi *al-Qadisiya* newspaper says Arab rulers should have not received Cohen and "should have rejected (US) flagrant violation of the UN charter...How come you are receiving such a Zionist...with your open arms?" Al-Iraq newspaper says Iraq will continue to challenge U.S. and British warplanes which are imposing two no-fly zones in northern and southern Iraq. "Iraq will continue its resistance and defiance..." *al-Jumhuriya* says that Cohen's tour was "echoing the same old story which has been said again and again for the last nine years."
  - The Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq says Iraq has executed 24 army officers including a top general who used to command Baghdad's air defense system, and whose latest position was as an adviser to Saddam's cousin, Gen. Ali Hassan al-Majid the military commander in southern Iraq. SCIRI claims that al-Ghriri's execution led to rioting by his al-Ghriri tribe, which controls the strategic highway between Baghdad and the southern provinces. It says one police officer was killed and some 20 clan members were arrested. The Al-Ghriris are Sunni Muslims who have supported Saddam and provided his army and intelligence with loyal members. Al-Ghriri was in charge of the anti-aircraft installations in

central Iraq, including Baghdad. It claims Maj. Gen. Ghadhban Abed al-Ghriri and 23 other officers were executed Feb. 8 after being accused of conspiring against President Saddam Hussein. SICRI also identifies Lt. Gen. Kamel Sachet as among the 24 executed. Sachet, a veteran of the 1980-88 Iraq-Iran War, was a commander of an Iraqi army corps in Kuwait during the 1991 Gulf War. The report cannot be independently verified. The Iraqi government does not respond to claims by opposition groups. Last month, other dissidents reported the same plot, orchestrated by exiled Iraqi army commanders. The dissidents, however, reported the execution of only one officer, Lt. Gen. Kamel Sachet, after Saddam discovered the plot. The dissidents said two of generals approached by the conspirators informed Saddam. The coup was supposed to have taken place during a future standoff with the U.S. and Britain.

- The Iraqi News Agency attacks the U.S. and Britain for blocking contracts for spare parts to upgrade its electricity and water systems. "A total of \$133.6 million worth of contracts for the electricity sector and \$67.6 million worth of contracts for water sanitation projects have not yet been approved by the (UN) sanctions committee." It says the U.S. and British representatives on the U. sanctions committee deliberately block these contracts "in order to cause more casualties among the Iraqi people because of shortages of drinking water and power." Baghdad and areas outside the capital suffer daily blackouts that can sometimes last six to 10 hours per day.
- The UN reports Iraq had exported a total of 189.7 million barrels of oil between November 26 and March 5, with an estimated value of \$1.6 billion.
- Two Nobel peace laureates, Mairead Corrigan Maguire of Ireland and Adolfo Perez-Esquivel of Argentina, arrived in Iraq as part of a New York-based international peace activist group, Fellowship Of Reconciliation. They call on President Clinton and British Prime Minister Tony Blair on Tuesday to end the bombing of Iraq and allow sanctions to be lifted. Perez-Esquivel says, "This is genocide. Children are dying slowly and painfully.. We call on the president of America, the vice president and the congressmen to come to Iraq and see the little children and Tony Blair, the U.K. government and Kofi Annan to come and to go to the cancer ward and give us an answer ... what was their crime." Maguire says, "I have seen children dying with their mothers next to them and not being able to do anything... We, in Ireland, are grateful for what he has accomplished with the help of ... Blair and will be more grateful if they work together again to stop sanctions and bombing of Iraq."
- 99-3-10: Secretary Cohen ends his tour the Gulf states on Wednesday saying they support containing Iraq despite expressing some dissent in public over the air raids. "There have been no expressions of dissent or question about our need to protect our pilots... the foreign minister of Qatar did not think that daily attacks were, in his judgement, necessary... They fully support U.S. policy in the region. You have to look to deeds as well as words and I'm satisfied that we have the support of all of the Gulf states... including Qatar, for our policies. We are very satisfied with the situation in the Gulf and our relationship with all the Gulf states. Everything we have requested has been agreed to... This is no time to ease up on Iraq. We must insist on full compliance with UN resolutions. There should be no relief granted to Iraq until there is full compliance. Whether the French have a different position is another matter."
- Cohen thanks Kuwait "for the strong support it provides our troops." He says the two countries have agreed on "several specific steps to make our strong cooperation even stronger, including sharing early warning information on missile tests in Iraq and Iran. We will cooperate on ways to improve our ability to detect and defend against chemical and biological weapons. I was pleased to learn that Kuwait had already budgeted money to start work on such a program."
- Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdel-Meguid announces that Arab foreign ministers will meet the following week to discuss U.S. and British strikes on targets in the northern and southern no-fly zones in Iraq. "There is a need to put an end to U.S. raids on these zones because the UN Security Council has not authorized them."
- Iraqi opposition groups complain that the Clinton administration still hasn't released any of the \$97 million Congress provided for that purpose. Beth Jones, an Assistant Secretary of State for Near East affairs, tells Senator Brownbeck at a Senate hearing that the groups involved, including the London-based Iraqi National Congress, still aren't ready to get the aid. "We want very much to disperse the

equipment ... but need to make sure we do it in a responsible way, a way the groups can use," she said. "We don't believe they are in a position now to receive it....It's a tremendous amount of talking, cajoling, meetings, traveling around to make sure we get the right people in the meetings, bringing Iraqis together who have not talked to each other for quite a long time, bringing Iraqis together who haven't worked together, creating a genuine coalition among the Iraqis who don't naturally necessarily come together."

- The Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI) claims it launched a series of attacks against government forces in southern Iraq to avenge last month's assassination of a senior Shi'ite Moslem cleric using Katyusha rockets and rocket-propelled grenades, and destroyed eight tanks and inflicted "great damages" on Saddam Hussein's forces. It claims a "wide range operations" retaliated for the assassination on February 19 of Grand Ayatollah Mohammad Sadeq al-Sadr and his two sons in the southern town of Najaf.
  - Iraq releases 44 Iranian sailors and ship passengers who had been seized in recent month
  - Iraqi Vice-President Taha Mohieddin Ma'arouf arrives in Bahrain to convey Iraq's condolences on the death of Bahrain's late emir Sheik Isa bin Sulman al-Khalifa. State television shows Ma'arouf meeting new emir Sheik Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa, the prime minister and other members of the ruling al-Khalifa family at the Riffa palace.
- 99-3-11: Marine Gen. Anthony Zinni tells the House Armed Services Committee, "There aren't any groups that I could say that we could arm today that would march on Baghdad and successfully achieve regime change," Marine Gen. Anthony Zinni told the House Armed Services Committee. "I do not feel it's wise at this point to speak of providing weapons, creating camps for groups that are not viable. I am all for encouraging them to work out their differences. I am all for them speaking of a post-Saddam regime. History teaches us in this region that you can change regimes if that's your only goal and you could end up with an Afghanistan, an Iran, a Somalia," Zinni warned. "In the long run they could be more destabilizing." Zinni says the Clinton administration should continue its long-term strategy of weakening Saddam militarily while supporting his opponents inside and outside of Iraq without letting the country disintegrate into chaos. Walter Slocombe, undersecretary of defense for policy, says, "If there was a way to get rid of him quickly, we'd do it. We want to see a changed regime in Iraq We do not believe that is something which we can count on happening at any particular time and certainly not real fast... It's not an instant solution...It won't fit on a bumper sticker. But it is, I think, a policy which has worked historically for longer than people thought it would. ... This is a long-term effort." Slocombe says the Clinton administration's strategy is to keep Saddam in a strategic box by maintaining support of Arab nations and other allies for U.S. actions; maintaining UN sanctions against Iraq to prevent Saddam from using oil profits to buy weapons, and keeping a robust U.S. military presence in the Gulf to respond to Iraqi aggression, including incursions into "no-fly" zones imposed to protect rebel groups. Former CIA chief James Woolsey says, " Perhaps the administration, in order to stay focused, needs to post a sign on the wall of the White House Situation Room that says, 'It's the regime, stupid.'" Zinni replies, "It's not just the regime. It is the region. It is stability in the region that counts. ... And whatever you do to affect regime change, a noble goal, should be done with that in mind."
- Iraq announces that its Iraq's Oil Minister Amir Muhammed Rasheed will attend the OPEC meeting scheduled for March 23 in Vienna
  - An Iraqi military spokesman said its air defenses have "possibly hit" one of a group of Western planes flying over the southern no-fly zone. The U.S. military dismisses the report that Iraqi forces had hit a Western plane and says all planes day returned safely and undamaged. Britain denies at any of its planes patrolling Iraqi no-fly zones had been hit by anti-aircraft fire. A Ministry of Defense spokesman says, "Coalition aircraft flew their patrols of the no-fly zones today as usual...Although they met with the now routine Iraqi provocation, no response was deemed necessary and all aircraft returned safely. We have seen this sort of vague propaganda emanating from Baghdad too often to attach any seriousness to it."
  - The UN reports two bombs exploded in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq earlier this week, apparently killing one bomber and injuring seven people. There were no casualties among UN staff whose residences or offices were near both explosions. In the first incident, in the city of Erbil, an explosive

device went off on March 9 outside the residence of a national staff member of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. The device was hidden inside a garbage can placed alongside the perimeter wall of the residence, which is located near the FAO main office. The second explosion took place in Dohuk on March 10 in front of the office of the Turkman Front, a local political party, he said. The office is about 100 yards from the local headquarters of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Health Organization. An unidentified civilian carrying the bomb on his body allegedly died on the spot, and four other people sustained minor injuries.

- The Mujahideen e' Khalq in Iraq says it had killed one of a group of men who tried to ambush a convoy of its vehicles in southern Iraq. "At 7:00 p.m. local time (1600 GMT), Wednesday a group of terrorists dispatched by the mullahs' regime opened machinegun fire and launched RPG-7 rockets on several Mujahideen vehicles... The Mujahideen returned fire on the terrorists... one of the terrorists was killed and others took advantage of the darkness and fled the scene." It says the incident took place on the highway near the southern Iraqi city of Ammarah 360 km (216 miles) south of Baghdad. On March 8, the group had said Iranian agents ambushed one of its vehicles near Khalis, 60 km (37 miles) north of Baghdad but it did not report any casualties.
- 99-3-12: U.S. fighters patrolling a no-fly zone over northern Iraq as part of Operation Northern Watch bomb anti-aircraft artillery sites after detecting Iraqi radar systems in use. U.S. F-15 fighters a Marine EA-6B Prowler respond by dropping GB-12 500 pound laser-guided bombs and a "Prowler" jet fired an anti-radiation missile on several sites north and northwest of Mosul.
- The official Iraqi News Agency says, "nine formations of enemy planes" violated Iraqi airspace and fired seven missiles at "civilian installations and some weapons belonging to our ground defenses," and that the formation included U.S. F-16s and British Tornado fighter-bombers.
- Defense Secretary William Cohen returns home after an eight-day tour of the Mideast with no public endorsement from any Arab ally of the U.S. airstrikes on Iraq. The only Arab official to speak to reporters traveling with Cohen is Qatar's foreign minister who criticized the strikes by U.S. warplanes. Cohen's aides say the silence is not unwelcome. Muslim leaders otherwise would have had to respect public opinion and voice concern about the strikes.
- The Security Council studies dropping the requirement that most Iraqi oil exports under the "oil-for-food" program flow through Turkey rather than Iraq's port of Ina al-Bark. Only about 44 percent of the oil is shipped via the Kirkuk-Yumurtalik pipeline to Ceyhan and 56 percent through Mina al-Bakr. The disparity in the flow of oil in favor of Mina al-Bakr was brought to the attention of the Security Council's Iraqi sanctions committee on by UN oil experts, who said the capacity of the Kirkuk-Yumurtalik pipeline could not at present be increased. Committee Chairman Peter van Walsum says he expects a short, technical draft resolution to be submitted to the Security Council suspending the requirement favoring Ceyhan for the current six-month phase of the "oil-for-food" program, which ends on May 24. Cutting the flow, During the first phase of the "oil-for-food" program, which began operating in December 1996, 57.3 percent of Iraqi oil exports flowed through Ceyhan and 42.7 percent through Mina al-Bakr, according to UN figures. By the fourth phase of the program, which ended late last year, the proportion had dropped to only 50.1 percent in favor of Ceyhan and 49.9 percent for Mina al-Bakr. of oil through Mina al-Bakr to rectify the imbalance with Ceyhan would only reduce Iraqi oil sales. Under present arrangements, Turkey earns about \$180 million every six months in pipeline fees for the Iraqi oil.
- Differences between the UN and Iraq mean it is unlikely many Iraqis will be able to make the annual haj pilgrimage to Mecca. The UN is prepared to make available \$44 million from the oil-for-food program to finance the trip for some 22,000 Iraqis, but says that sanctions bar it from transferring the money to the pilgrims through Iraq's central bank. The sanctions committee, had asked the UN legal counsel at Iraq's request to reconsider the matter, but was told that sanctions resolutions forbid payment of the money into the Iraqi central bank.
- Libyan leader Gadhafi urges the U.S. and Britain to stop their "aggression against Iraq." immediately, saying strikes humiliate Arabs. Gadhafi also says U.S. Defense Secretary Cohen's recent visit to Persian Gulf states, Egypt, Jordan and Israel sought to "to weaken Arabs spirits and give the impression that

Arabs support the American and British stance toward Iraq. `If they want to protect their interests and have interests in this great region ... they should kneel in front of the Arab Nation and respect it. The continuous American-British aggression against Iraq should be stopped immediately... We don't care about Saddam or his government. ... We care about Iraqi people and children who are part of the Arab nation. This aggression against Iraqi people is a farce and a humiliation to the Arabs' dignity and honor.”

- 99-3-13: Iraqi officials welcome the decision by major oil producers to cut production by more than 2 million barrels a day, but insisted that Saudi Arabia reduce output even more. Representatives of Saudi Arabia, Iran, Venezuela and Mexico had agreed on the previous day, after two days of negotiations in the Netherlands. In announcing the move, Saudi Oil Minister Ali Naimi said all members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, except Iraq, were committed to the reduction, as were non-OPEC members Mexico and Oman. Iraqi Oil Minister Lt. Gen. Amer Mohammed Rashid says his government supported the step. This cut will make a balance between supply and demand and, in the end, will return stability to the oil market...the next step should be for the Saudis to reduce production by 1.5 to 2 million barrels daily. It is only fair that Saudi Arabia, after the crisis is over, should go down to 6 or maximum 6.5 million barrels per day.”
- 99-3-14: Official Iraqi newspapers print a statement issued by the General Security Directorate that Iraq has executed eight people charged with murdering prominent Iranian Shi'ite Moslem clerics in southern Iraq in 1996 and 1998 They were executed on March 13...after they were found guilty by the Iraqi jurisdiction and were sentenced for capital punishment.” Those executed are not involved in the killing in February of leading Iraqi Shi'ite Moslem cleric Grand Ayatollah Mohammed Sadeq al-Sadr and his two sons, but Iraq has said that some of the killers were captured. In 1998, two clergymen were killed in the southern Iraqi cities of Kerbala and Najaf. They were Sheik Ali al-Gharawi, who was murdered in June 1998 and Grand Ayatollah Sheik Murtada al-Broojardi, 70, who was killed in April. The statement names those executed as Mohammed Khudier Abbas, Abbas Khudier Abbas, Jasim Khudier Abbas, Haqi Isma'el Abd Radhi, Basim Abbas Abd Abbas, Abd Ali Mehdi Hassoon, Abd- Razaq Hassan and Faisel Na'mah Hussein. It says they confessed to the court that on April 21, 1998, they had killed clergyman al-Broojardi and wounded two people with him when they opened fired. On June 18, 1998, they killed Moslem cleric al-Gharawi and three people with him. It said they opened fire on Ayatollah al-Seestani in 1996 but did not kill him, although one person with him was killed. Iran has blamed Iraq for the assassination last month of al-Sadr and his two sons, saying the murders were part of a systematic campaign of repression against the country's Shi'ite community. The killing of al-Sadr was the second reported incident against a Shi'ite cleric this year. In January, unidentified assailants attacked and wounded the Ayatollah Sheik Bashir Najafi, a senior Shi'ite Moslem clergyman, in Najaf.
- General Anthony Zinni says he is in favor of toppling Saddam Hussein, but not in a way that could destabilize the region. “I am not opposed to the Iraqi regime changing. I am all for that change. I just cautioned to be careful on any kind of programs that we institute on how that might come about... We have to make sure that the transition to a new regime is done in a way that doesn't destabilize the region...That's a very big concern. We do not want to see the territorial integrity of Iraq broken apart or changed in any way. We think it is important that it stays together. It is an important country (with a) very proud heritage, and it is important for the region that it stays together...We ought to work with them (various opposition groups) and bring them together. I think we need to be careful about any military aspects to that.”
- Nearly 2,000 Iraqi Moslems left for Saudi Arabia for the haj. Iraqi officials say the pilgrims, accompanied by a medical team, left in a convey of buses on the 24-hour journey. They will pass through immigration at the Saudi border post of Arar. Another 2,000 pilgrims are expected to leave over the next two days. The pilgrims must make the haj at their own expense because of financial constraints caused by sanctions. The Iraqi Foreign Ministry accuses the U.S. and British representatives at the sanctions committee of impeding efforts to help Iraqi pilgrims, “Since the early days of Iraq's demand to facilitate the trip of pilgrims, representatives of America and Britain have followed a policy of procrastination in order to prevent them from performing haj.” Iraq, with a population of more than 20 million, can send up to 22,000 pilgrims to Mecca under the quotas set by the Organization of the Islamic Conference to avoid overcrowding. About 3,000 Iraqis made the haj in 1998.

- U.S. fighters bomb several Iraqi air defense sites when they come under fire in the northern "no-fly" zone, F-15E Strike Eagles drop GBU-12 laser-guided bombs on several anti-aircraft artillery sites northwest and west of the city of Mosul, 250 miles north of Baghdad. All aircraft return safely.
- *Al-Jumhuriya* quotes Iraq's air force commander, Lt. Gen. Khaldoun Khatab Bakr, as saying that his country was determined to confront any violation of its air space. "We have prepared means to carry out our right to fly in our skies, and we are determined to break what they call the 'no-fly' zones. Many dogfights have taken place...over our airspace despite the technical and numerical superiority of the enemy. Due to their failure and embarrassment, the enemy pilots resort to dodging and evasive ways through committing aggression against civilian and population facilities and complexes...We are fully determined to break the so-called Iraqi no-fly zones through our flights practiced by our brave hawks (pilots) every day...It is a holy right and the arrogant American-Zionist enemy should realize this fact."
- 99-3-15: Iraqi foreign minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf goes to Cairo to urge Arab League to demand an immediate end to U.S. and British air strikes.
  - U.S. fighters bomb air defense targets in the northern and southern no-fly zones. F-15E jets based in Incirlik detect Iraqi radar emissions posing a threat to patrolling aircraft and drop an unspecified number of laser-guided bombs on several artillery batteries northwest of the city of Mosul. Mosul is about 250 miles north of Baghdad, the Iraqi capital. Allied planes have fired on the area at least 24 times since Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>. U.S. Air Force F-16 and Navy F/A-18 and F-14 jets attack an Iraq radar relay site 200 miles (320 km) southeast of Baghdad and another radar site 290 miles (465 km) southeast of Baghdad in response to violations of the southern zone by Iraqi warplanes. All the jets returned safely to their bases.
  - The Iraqi News Agency says that one person was injured on Monday when U.S. and British warplanes attacked sites in the southern zone.
- 99-3-16: More than 400 Iraqi and 57 Iranian prisoners captured during the 1980-88 Iraq-Iran war are released and repatriated. An Iranian source says 420 Iraqi prisoners of war (POWs) will be freed by Tehran and would cross the border point northeast of Baghdad linking Iraq's al-Munthiriya to Khosravi in Iran. In exchange, Iraq will release 57 Iranians detained in Iraq. *Babel*, says the number of Iraqis is 424. Iraq says Iran still holds around 18,000 Iraqi POWs, 8,718 of them registered with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Iran denies the Iraqi figures and says Baghdad is still holding thousands of Iranians. Baghdad says it freed 39,044 Iranian POWs in a large-scale exchange of prisoners in 1990 and denies Iranian allegations of keeping any more on its territory.
  - USAF F-15E fighters respond to Iraqi radar illuminations by bombing anti-aircraft artillery sites in the northern no-fly zone. They drop GBU-12 laser-guided bombs "in self defense" on several anti-aircraft artillery sites northwest of Mosul between 11.45 a.m. and 12.15 p.m. Iraqi time (0845 GMT and 0915 GMT) and hit military facilities around the Iraqi city of Mosul, 250 miles north of Baghdad. All F-15Es leave the area safely. This is third consecutive day of confrontations. The Iraqi armed forces say civilian installations and some weapons sites were hit.
  - Iraq flies Muslim pilgrims to Saudi Arabia on Tuesday, taking advantage of the pilgrimage to Mecca to violate UN sanctions. An Iraqi cargo plane with 110 pilgrims aboard took off from al-Rasheed air base, south of Baghdad, and lands a few hours later in Jiddah, the Saudi entry point for pilgrims going to Mecca. Iraq says it will send at least two more planeloads of pilgrims to Saudi Arabia during this year's hajj. This is second time in two years that Iraq has broken UN sanctions for the hajj. In April 1997, Iraq sent 104 pilgrims to Saudi Arabia, also on a Russian-made IL-76. The UN Security Council responded with a mild statement calling on Baghdad to obtain permission for future flights. The UN sanctions committee proposed granting Iraqi pilgrims revenues from the oil-for-food program with the disbursed in travelers checks or vouchers. Iraq has rejected the plan, saying the money should be deposited in its central bank -- a move the UN said would violate sanctions.
  - U.S. State Department spokesman James Rubin said the U.S. says, "The bottom line here is (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein has found another cynical ploy and tried to exploit the hajj for his own purposes. And all he's done is harm himself further internationally by this violation of international sanctions. However, Iraqi pilgrims are not a target. On the contrary, the no-fly zones that we established

- were to protect the Iraqi people from their own government's repression, and so we will not take any action that would put innocent Iraqi pilgrims in danger...Baghdad has repeatedly rejected the committee's proposals and insisted upon arrangements which are not permitted under relevant Security Council resolutions.”
- U.S. State Department spokesman James Rubin says a book by former inspector Scott Ritter about UNSCOM is fiction. “I’m sure it belongs in the fiction section.” Ritter charges is that CIA operatives compromised his mission in Iraq. But Rubin refuses to comment. “I don't want to help him sell any books,” the spokesman said.
  - Japanese Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura and Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh express their concern over e Iraqi and urge it Baghdad to abide by Security Council resolutions. “They called on the Iraqi government to comply with all the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. Both sides noted the importance of securing peace and stability in the Gulf region in particular and in the Arabian peninsula in general.”
  - The UN reports that, “Iraq has so far exported 203.4 million barrels under Phase V at an average export rate of 1.9 million barrels per day (bpd) and an average price of \$9.07 a barrel.” The UN report says the UN sanctions committee approved a contract for the sale of Iraqi oil signed with a Russian company to sell 7,000,000 of Basrah Light destined for Europe and the US. “So far, 88 contracts have been approved for 322.1 million barrels -- 171.6 million of Basrah Light and 150.5 of Kirkuk.” The report says the UN committee had so far approved a total of 391 contracts to buy oil equipment worth \$236 million.
  - Iraq's Oil Minister Amir Muhammed Rasheed says that Baghdad is planning to export 350 million barrels during this six-month phase of the deal which began on November 26 and is expected to end in May. Rasheed says Iraq has only received \$11 million worth of spare parts and blamed the delay on the U.S. and British representatives at the sanctions committee.
- 99-3-17: The ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) -- Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Bahrain and Qatar meet for two days in the Saudi capital Riyadh, and issue a statement that says they, “asserted that the Iraqi government was responsible for subjecting Iraq and the region to more dangers and the brotherly Iraqi people to more suffering.” They warn Iraq about its “policy of adventure and threats.” They describe Iraqi official attacks, including those of President Saddam Hussein, on Saudi Arabia and Kuwait as “direct and dangerous” threats.
- A spokesman of the Iraqi Ministry of Culture and Information says, “We are not surprised at a statement which is American in content and language.” He the statement was worded by the Saudi Foreign Minister, Prince Saudi al-Faisal, in accordance with instructions issued by U.S. Defense Secretary William Cohen and that it was full of “lies...American and British continuing aggression against Iraq. The Saudi and Kuwaiti regimes are providing airbases for American and British warplanes in order to bomb Iraq's cities and kill its people.”
  - Saudi Arabia denies Iraqi charges that U.S. and British planes that flew over Iraq took off from Saudi territory and Iraqi claims for compensation while reasserting Saudi Arabia's right to request damages for the “aggression launched by Iraq.” Saudi Arabia's UN charge d'affaires, Abdulrahman al-Ahmed, sends identical letters to Secretary-General Annan and to the president of the Security Council circulated that says Iraqi allegations about the use of Saudi territory by U.S. and British aircraft “are completely gratuitous and unfounded....we wish to reaffirm that the liability for such damage falls squarely on the Iraqi government, whose policies of aggression ... led to the adoption of international resolutions and measures based on the international legal order...While condemning Iraq's requests, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia wishes to reassert its right, enshrined in law, to request compensation for the moral and material damage sustained as a result of the aggression launched by Iraq against the Saudi territory and people.” Al-Ahmed denounces the “fallaciousness of the statements” in the Iraqi letters, which he said “do not contain the slightest particle of truth.” He states Saudi Arabia's “firm resolve to abide by all treaties, practices, instruments and laws in force at the international level” and to observe the inviolability of frontiers.

- Iraq says it has captured some of the killers of Mohammad Sadeq al-Sadr: "Security men managed to capture some of the criminals who implemented the mean aggression on the life of the late Sadr and his two sons." Iraqi television shows four people Iraq says are involved in the killing and admitted their role. The statement named the accused as Sheik Abdul-Hassan Abbas al-Kufi, Sheik Ali Kadhim Juman, Ahmad Mustafa Hassan al- Ardabili, and Haidar Ali Hussein. It shows two attackers demonstrating how they used their machine guns to kill Sadr. The Iraqi statement says some of those captured were students of a religious academy in Najaf, about 160 km (100 miles) south of Baghdad. Others were people who had returned to Iraq after being expelled, "Their mean objectives met and united in order to attack this influential religious personality, thinking that by so doing they could sow sedition." Iraq says the security forces are still trying to arrest a "fugitive criminal."
- 99-3-18: The Arab League foreign call for an end to all operations against Iraq which are not backed by the UN Security Council. "The ministers reaffirmed the need for Iraq's territorial integrity and its regional stability and the stability of its neighbors...They asked for a halt to what Iraq is experiencing with regard to activities taking place outside security council resolutions." The Arab League statement calls on all countries to abide by Security Council resolutions in "spirit and letter." The lukewarm statement is a second rebuff to Iraq. In a January meeting, the Arab League also failed to condemn the airstrikes. It did, however, pledge to work for the lifting of UN trade sanctions imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Egypt's Middle East News Agency quotes Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohamed Saeed al-Sahhaf as saying the statement was "a lot less than Iraq had wanted."
- Egypt's Foreign Minister Amr Moussa says that the foreign ministers agreed on the issue of missing people from the 1991 Gulf war which ended Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. "The foreign ministers called for the Arab League secretary general to put in a mechanism with the UN...and 1994 Geneva agreements to solve humanitarian problems between Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia...in coordination with the International Committee of the Red Cross."
- The Arab League says Israel was endangering Middle East peace by trying to "Judaize" Jerusalem, which it said the Palestinians have the right to declare as the capital of their future state. "Israeli practices aim to illegally Judaize the city and change its demographic and historical nature. The Arab League condemns the Israeli government's continuous practices which go against international decisions. They are a clear provocation which endanger peace and stability in the Middle East and increase instability." Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdel-Meguid says Palestinians have the right to declare a state at any time which suits them with Jerusalem as its capital.
- al- Thawra urges an Arab foreign ministers meeting in Cairo to end the no-fly zones in northern and southern Iraq: "A united Arab stand to confront the American and British aggressors could put an end to the so-called no-fly zones and force the U.S. and Britain to retreat from their continuous aggression."
- Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq al-Shara asks why Israel was not forced to comply with UN resolutions to leave Lebanon while the U.S. was bombing Iraq, "It is not enough to call these strange differences double standards...resolutions are being enforced on Iraq with all means available and at the same time there is a cover-up of Israel's refusal to withdraw from occupied Arab territory."
- The Security Council sanctions committee fails to reach a decision on Iraqi flights taking pilgrims to Mecca in Saudi Arabia without its permission. Members differed about whether a Security Council resolution adopted in September 1990 actually amounted to an air embargo. However, they that UN resolutions demanded notification of flights and barred any commercial transactions but took no action. Saudi Arabia's UN mission had sent a letter to the sanctions committee asking for advice and saying it would allow the plane to return if it received none. It had let an earlier Iraqi aircraft ferrying pilgrims to return.
- Richard Butler circulates in a letter saying Iraq had turned a plant that made vaccines for livestock into a production facility for biological warfare agents. Iraq had accused UN weapons inspectors of destroying all the vaccine factory's equipment in 1996, leaving the nation vulnerable to an outbreak of livestock diseases that is sweeping through the country. The FAO has said the epidemic has affected at least one million sheep and cattle and has threatened the country's remaining 7 million farm animals. Butler's letter

says Iraq unilaterally stopped producing the vaccines to control foot-and-mouth disease and other livestock diseases in 1992 and that Iraq admitted that the plant was used “for biological warfare agent production, research and development” in July 1995. He says that Large quantities of the biological warfare agent Botulinum toxin were produced and research was conducted on viral agents including camelpox, enterovirus 70, and rotavirus, and that the plant was reconfigured and production of foot-and-mouth vaccine resumed briefly in 1992 but production was then halted, although staff and equipment remained at the site. He says UNSCOM in 1996 supervised the destruction of 28 pieces of equipment identified by Iraq as having been used in their production in 1996, and 40 major pieces imported for the production of foot-and-mouth disease vaccine remained, “It is thus false to state that the production of foot-and-mouth disease vaccine was halted when the commission destroyed all the equipment at Daura.” Iraq has claimed the biological weapons program at the plant started in 1990 and lasted less than five months.

99-3-19: A dispute between the UN and Iraq over the expenses of Moslem pilgrims to the annual haj was resolved on Friday when Saudi Arabia's King Fahd said his country would pay for the Iraqis while they were in the kingdom.

-- Iraqi officials lead busloads of Iraqi Muslim pilgrims through Saudi checkpoints without permission, forcing the Saudis into aiding them on their haj. More than 18,000 Muslims, most of them women and elderly, cross into Saudi Arabia in nearly 400 buses and trucks. Saudi border guards step back as the buses roll through. The pilgrims do not stop until they reached the Saudi border town of Arar. About six hours after their unexpected arrival, King Fahd orders that all the pilgrims be allowed in. The kingdom say it will cover all of their expenses. Saudi authorities had begun taking pilgrims on the 18-hour bus ride from Arar to Mecca. Mecca is 700 miles south of this border town, while Medina is 480 miles south. Meanwhile, Saudi authorities at King Abdel-Aziz International Airport in Jiddah finish interrogating the crew of an Iraqi airplane that arrived with 124 pilgrims

-- U.S. and British fighters bomb two Iraqi military radar and communications sites in response to Iraqi violations of the southern no-fly zone. U.S. F-16 and British Tornado aircraft strike an Iraqi military radar site near As Shuaybah and a military communications site near Muzalbah at about 2 a.m. EST (0700 GMT). The attacks are in response to Iraqi MiG jets flying in the no-fly zone. There have now been more than 140 provocations by Iraqi forces in the south since Operation Desert Fox in December, when coalition planes pummeled Iraq with four days of bombings. No incidents were reported in the northern no-fly zone.

-- The UN Compensation Commission rules that Iraq will have to pay an additional \$174 million to companies that suffered losses resulting from Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait. The award includes \$128 million to 45 Kuwaiti firms. The latest amounts come on top of \$2.73 billion already approved by the panel for payment to individuals, companies and governments. The commission has received a total of \$240 billion in compensation demands from individuals, governments and corporations seeking compensation for deaths, loss and damage caused by the invasion of Kuwait. Processing the claims is expected to take several more years.

99-3-20: President Mubarak hold talks in Kuwait on divisions among Arab countries about how to treat Iraq. Mubarak, who last visited Kuwait two years ago, arrived on Saturday for talks with the Emir, Sheik Jaber al-Ahmad al- Sabah.

-- *Al-Jumhuriya* prints a front-page editorial stating the Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Cairo this week did not go far enough in condemning the no-fly zones, “The decisions taken by Arab officials at the Arab League...meeting were partial and very simplified...and less than what was expected from the league.” *Babel* says said the ministers did not reach an agreement, but rather an “adjustment, and the difference between the two is big.”

-- Bayan Jabr, the Damascus representative of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, claims that Iraqi security forces clashed the previous day with Shiite mobs who seized several government buildings in Basra, leaving many dead. The Iran-based group says that President Saddam Hussein's forces had pounded two Basra neighborhoods with mortars and tanks, “triggering fierce battles

in which many people were killed.” Jabr said the violence was a reaction to accusations by Gen. Ali Hassan al-Majid, the military commander of southern Iraq, that a Shiite cleric was behind last month's killing of the country's top Shiite leader, Mohammed Sadiq al-Sader. On Friday night, state-run Iraqi television showed scenes of Basra with shops open and people milling around, apparently in an attempt to demonstrate all was normal on the streets. The leader of the ruling Baath Party in Basra, Abdul Baqi al-Saadoun, announced on television that Saddam had allocated more money for the city.

- Iraq accuses Saudi Arabia of surrounding thousands of its pilgrims with tanks and armored vehicles, forcing Iraq to decide they should be recalled home. Baghdad television quotes a senior Mohsein Fahim Farhood, an adviser at the Presidential Office and responsible for the pilgrims, says the Saudis also turned down an Iraqi demand that expenses of the pilgrims be withdrawn from Iraq's assets frozen in Arab and foreign banks. “The Saudi authorities surrounded our pilgrims' complex with heavy tanks and armored vehicles and deployed soldiers who carried weapons and automatic rifles...aimed at Iraqi pilgrims. These soldiers fired rubber bullets in order to frighten our pilgrims in an attempt to provoke them in order to accuse them of riots. But our pilgrims have foiled such an evil plot.” Farhood says the Saudi authorities had taken cameras from Iraqi reporters covering the pilgrimage to Mecca and cut telephone lines between the kingdom and Iraq and the Saudi authorities had also rejected an Iraqi request that frozen Iraqi assets be used to finance the pilgrims' trip. “The Saudis turned down an Iraqi proposal to draw money from Iraqi assets frozen abroad. Our pilgrims have refused to accept money from any other party but from their frozen assets in order to perform their haj pilgrimage” Iraq's assets abroad are largely in U.S. and European banks, were impounded when it invaded Kuwait. Iraq claims its frozen assets in Arab countries, including Saudi Arabia, are worth more than \$1.5 billion.
- Saudi officials said earlier that 18,000 Iraqi pilgrims had abandoned the annual haj pilgrimage when Iraqi authorities ordered them to return. Hussein al-Anaizi, a Saudi official working at a pilgrims' encampment near the Arar border crossing, says most of the Iraqi pilgrims, who arrived on Friday, left their encampment at around noon on Saturday and headed back to the border. He said he did not know why the pilgrims decided to leave. Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayef bin Abdul-Aziz, who also heads the haj supreme committee, tells a news conference in Mecca that Iraqi authorities ordered the pilgrims to return home. “Unfortunately, the Iraqi authorities ordered the pilgrims to return to Iraq.” He accuses the Iraqi authorities of using the Haj for political ends.
- 99-3-21: Iraq rejects Saudi accusations it is playing politics with the haj, and claims thousands of Iraqis had been forced to abandon their trip to Mecca by Saudi ill-treatment. Muhsein Fahim Farhood says, “How come we are using the haj for political reasons with most of our pilgrims either old, sick or handicapped?” One of the pilgrims died on Saturday morning.” Farhood claims the Saudi authorities cut drinking water from the pilgrims' border encampment and did not provide food. “All our pilgrims turned down the offer and decided to ride on their buses to go home, shouting 'long live Iraq' and 'death to America', because they think what had happened to them was because of America...Our encampment was surrounded by Saudi tanks, armored vehicles and soldiers carrying automatic rifles aimed at our pilgrims.”
- Three busloads of other Iraqi pilgrims enter Mecca, seeming unaware the Iraqi government had ordered them home The hundreds of pilgrims arriving here Sunday on three escorted buses waved Iraqi flags out the windows. It was unclear how long they would remain. Some 6,000 Iraqis have joined this year's haj in Saudi Arabia.
- A bomb explodes in southeast Turkey halting the flow of crude oil through the pipeline from Iraq during a Kurdish new year festival that is often a focus of separatist violence in Turkey. The bomb was placed on the pipeline and caused a large fire but the damage is limited The explosion occurs in the Midyat district of Mardin. Specialist teams inspect the pipeline, owned by Turkey's state-run pipeline company Botas. The pipeline, which extends from the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk to Turkey's Mediterranean port of Ceyhan, goes through r uplands that are strongholds for armed Kurdish separatist rebels loyal to jailed Kurdish guerrilla leader Abdullah Ocalan.
- 99-3-22: The London-based Center for Human Rights claims Iraq executed 93 political detainees in November in Radwaniya prison, just west of Baghdad. The group provides a list identifying those it said were executed, all of whom it said had been detained since an abortive Shiite Muslim uprising in southern Iraq

- after the Gulf War. It claims 63 prisoners were executed in Nov. 6 and 30 were executed Nov. 18, and were buried in mass graves in the nearby Mashtal area. In January, they claimed 81 political prisoners were executed in Abu Ghraib prison. The Center for Human Rights also claims thousands are imprisoned at Radwaniya, some of them Kurds who have been detained since the start of the Iraq-Iran War.
- Iraq resumes pumping oil through its twin pipeline from its Kirkuk to Ceyhan. An Iraqi oil official says, "The Iraqi Northern Oil Company resumed oil exports via the pipeline at 8:06 p.m. (1706 GMT) in coordination with the Turkish side." Turkish officials say that oil would be pumped through the smaller pipeline, which has a 40-inch diameter. The explosion hit the Turkish section of the pipeline near Midyat town near the Iraqi border during a Kurdish new year festival. This larger line has a 48-inch diameter. The blast caused a fire that stopped the oil flow through the pipeline, which has a capacity of around 1.1 million barrels per day. The fire was put out, but the extent of damage is not known. The Kirkuk-Ceyhan pipeline runs for 920 km (575 miles) of which 720 km (450 miles) pass through Turkish territory. It carries about half of Iraq's oil exports.
  - 99-3-23: Saudi Arabia attacks Iraq for recalling of some 18,000 would-be pilgrims, accusing it of provoking a new crisis in the region. "The Iraqi regime tried to exploit the haj occasion, massed a large number of its citizens, mostly women and elderly people, on the kingdom's border in a desperate attempt to engineer a crisis hoping to embarrass the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The tragedy of the 18,000 Iraqi pilgrims who were returned home by the Iraqi regime...provides more proof on the extent of the violations that Baghdad's ruling regime is committing against (human) values and principles and its efforts to exploit all occasions, including religious ones, to achieve low political objectives." Iraq claimed the pilgrims returned after Saudi authorities surrounded them with tanks, armored vehicles and soldiers carrying automatic rifles while staying briefly near the Arar crossing point just inside Saudi Arabia.
  - Syria and Iraq have agreed to reestablish interest sections after 19 years of severed relations. Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa said the agreement was arranged in February. The Algerian Embassies in Damascus and Baghdad will take care of diplomatic work for the two countries. Damascus and Baghdad broke relations shortly after the start of the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war when Syria sided with Iran. Relations worsened after Syria took part in the Coalition that ousted Iraqi occupation forces from Kuwait in the 1991 Gulf War.
  - The UN reports Iraq exported 216.5 million barrels of crude oil under the fifth phase of the UN-monitored oil-for-food deal, the UN said on Tuesday. Revenue from the oil sales amounted to \$2.016 billion. This is an average of 1.9 million barrels per day (bpd) and \$9.31 a barrel. It says about 43 percent of the oil had been exported via a pipeline from Kirkuk to the Turkish port of Ceyhan. Iraq also exports its crude via Mina al-Bakr oil terminal in the mouth of the Gulf. Baghdad had said it was planning to export 350 million barrels during this six-month phase of the deal which began on November 26 and is expected to end in May. The UN estimates projected revenue in the fifth phase will be around \$3 billion. So far, 89 contracts have been approved for the export of 324.5 million barrels of Iraqi oil -- 173.9 million of Basra Light and 150.6 of Kirkuk. Under the fourth and fifth phases of the deal, Iraq is allowed to spend \$600 million from oil revenues to buy spare parts to upgrade its war-wrecked oil installations. The report says the UN has so far approved a total of 395 contracts to buy oil equipment worth \$237 million. Iraq has complained that it only received \$11 million worth of spare parts and blamed the delay on the U.S. and British representatives on the sanctions committee.
  - 93-3-24: Max van der Stoep, the UN special rapporteur for human rights in Iraq since 199, says President Saddam Hussein's administration still has one of the worst human rights records in any country: "Without firm determination on the part of the international community to respond substantially and meaningfully to the extremely serious violations referred to in this report, the tradition of impunity which prevails in Iraq will almost certainly continue... At the beginning of 1992, the special rapporteur concluded that the gravity of the human rights situation in Iraq had few comparisons in the world since the end of the Second World War. The special rapporteur regrets that since then he has had no cause to change his view...The prevailing regime in Iraq has effectively eliminated civil rights to life, liberty, physical integrity, and the freedoms of thought, expression, association and assembly; the rights of political participation have been flouted, while all available resources have not been used to ensure the enjoyment of economic, social and

cultural rights...The government of Iraq should release immediately all those who are being held and it should reveal the names of all those who have died in its custody, in order to relieve the suffering of the relatives of the disappeared.” According to reports, hundreds of prison executions took place in the last months of 1998 as part of an Iraqi prison cleansing campaign, bringing the total number of prisoners said to have been executed in one year to 2,500. Some of those reportedly shot, hanged or electrocuted were sentenced to death for plotting against Iraq's government or its officials

- Iraq says the UN report on its human rights record was based on lies and calls on the UN to replace van der Stoep. “Van der Stoep has in all his reports on human rights in Iraq invented lies and fabrications and issued judgments that are not objective and not honest with the aim of deforming Iraq's image....Because we are convinced that this Stoep is not fit for such a mission, we call on the UN Human Rights Commission to look seriously for another person to take over this mission...We can safely say that the source of his information regarding human rights in Iraq is from American, British and Zionist sources and gangs of traitors and agents who have not seen Iraq for tens of years.”
- 99-3-25: Spanish police halt an international money-laundering ring dealing in at least \$2.8 billion worth of Iraqi dinars. Police arrest six people suspected of funneling Iraqi dinars illegally through Jordan and Switzerland and depositing the money in a Miami bank so they can place the money on foreign markets when the (trade) embargo on the Iraqi regime is lifted, as well as presumably to finance contraband Iraqi oil sales, and break the embargo. The gang falsified UN permits allowing oil and food sales in order to justify the export of Iraqi currency. Five of those arrested were Spanish and one was Moroccan. Three of them were detained last week at Madrid's Barajas airport when they were about to fly to Miami with 50 million Iraqi dinars and around \$13,000. The Economy Ministry said the total volume of operations was around nine billion dinars.
- Britain has submitted proposals on Iraqi disarmament that acknowledge that new approaches may have to be taken but insist that UNSCOM be kept in place. The British paper indicates it would agree to some changes in the commission by adding additional personnel. Britain says it is not arguing for a return to the status quo, but is vague on what its new approach is. “We are interested in examining new approaches in the Security Council, while maintaining the principles established in the relevant Security Council resolutions.” An accompanying British paper on humanitarian issues makes clear London has no intention of lifting any UN economic sanctions, imposed when Baghdad's troops invaded Kuwait in August 1990. In contrast, France and Russia want Iraq to be able to import and export goods freely except for weapons-related materials.
- Britain proposes that the UN take over the distribution of medical supplies in all of Iraq, The British proposals differ sharply from those advocated by France and Russia, who want Iraq to be able to import freely all goods except those related to weapons, the only plan Baghdad has considered viable.
- 99-3-26: Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf calls for an end to NATO air strikes against Yugoslavia “Iraq calls for halting the illegitimate military attack on Yugoslavia... And it urges world states to study the dangerous role of the U.S. and its allies...a role that spreads destruction in the world and replaces international law and the UN charter with the law of the jungle....Yugoslavia has for some time been the subject of serious aggressive acts by the U.S. and its allies aimed at tearing apart this peaceful country.”
- Iraq charges the U.S. and Britain block contracts signed with foreign firms under the oil-for-food deal: “Blocking and suspending remaining contracts from phase four which expired more than four months ago confirms the aggressive policy of these two governments.” It says 52 contracts worth \$110 million for refurbishing electricity and 14 deals valued at \$22 million for water and sewerage were not approved by the UN committee despite the fact that funds are available in the account for this stage. The committee has so far approved only 242 contracts out of 517 for the current fifth phase of the deal. These contracts cover such areas as power, water and sewerage, and education.
- A hearing of the U.S. House Commerce Energy and Power Subcommittee, leads some Congressmen to attack the oil for food program. The panel's chairman, Rep. Joe Barton of Texas, says he has concluded that “our Iraqi policy is designed to maximize Iraqi production at the expense of the marginal producer in

the US.” Rep. Ralph Hall of Texas, the leading Democrat on the subcommittee says, “I for one am suspicious of this program. It appears to be born out of an appropriate humane consideration, but may be disruptive of worldwide crude oil markets and could spawn a lot of abuse.” Bill Wood, principal deputy assistant secretary of state, says “The sanctions deprive Saddam of the revenue he would otherwise use to reconstitute his weapons of mass destruction,” said Bill Wood, principal deputy assistant secretary of state. “It is essential that we address the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people. Doing so is right in itself but also crucial to maintaining Security Council, regional and other international support for the sanctions while we continue our efforts to change the Iraqi regime.” The U.S. energy industry has lost some 50,000 jobs in the past year and producers have closed more than 136,000 marginal oil wells producing less than 15 barrels daily but collectively account for one-fifth of domestic production.

- 99-3-28: *Al-Thawra* newspaper calls for a united front by Iraq and Yugoslavia against the U.S. and its policies as NATO strikes against Yugoslavia begin their fifth day: “The continued aggression against Iraq and the current aggression on Yugoslavia should alert the international community to the necessity of taking serious measures to confront the imperialist threat...If efforts are not unified and there is no real, organized work, the imperialist American danger will spread and include other countries...The understanding of independence and sovereignty does not receive the necessary respect at an age when the raging American bull is unleashed on the world.”
- U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Martin Indyk says, “If Saddam believes that we do not have the ability to face any challenge he might pose against us as we are involved in handling the crisis in Kosovo, then he would be making a big mistake...We have big capabilities at the stage of operations in the Middle East that are capable of facing any threats and will not be affected by what is happening in Kosovo.”
  - Sources in Iraq believe the lack of military activity over northern and southern Iraq in the past nine days is linked to the Moslem pilgrimage or haj season and the Eid al-Adha feast rather than a change of policy in Baghdad or Washington. The U.S. has previously avoided attacking Iraq during Moslem holy days so as not to anger Moslems. Eid al-Adha ends on Tuesday. The last reported confrontation was on March 19.
  - An article by Seymour Hersh in the *New Yorker* magazine claims that British and U.S. intelligence officials believe Russian Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov was bribed by Iraq to obtain strategic materials from Moscow to build up its nuclear weapons stockpile. Hersh quotes high-level American intelligence sources as saying Primakov received \$800,000 in a wire transfer in November 1997. The *New Yorker* says a Russian embassy spokesman in Washington denies all charges of corruption against Primakov. U.S. National Security Adviser Sandy Berger says, “I have no evidence to support that, no. I don't know whether Mr. Hersh has.” Primakov knew Saddam Hussein when he was posted to the Middle East by the Soviet Union in the 1960s. The British *Sunday Telegraph* had reported in February that Russia had signed an arms deal worth \$160 million with Saddam Hussein to reinforce Iraq's air defenses, potentially posing a threat to U.S. and British planes enforcing no-fly zones over Iraq.
  - The article claims Rolf Ekeus, the first head of UNSCOM said, “Russia is hopeless now. It is clear that Russia is making a serious effort to control events. Saddam will get a bomb, because these materials are floating in. Every day, they are more advanced.” In 1996, Ekeus is said to have alerted Primakov to evidence that Russia was smuggling illegal contraband to Iraq, including materials for the Iraqi nuclear program, *The New Yorker* said. Primakov, then foreign minister, stated Russia was not involved in any illegal smuggling, and promised to conduct an investigation. Ekeus said he never saw the results of any investigation, and that secret codes used by the Russians were subsequently changed. The *New Yorker* says British intelligence found strong evidence of an \$800,000 payment to Primakov by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz in November 1997. The *New Yorker* also claims that the December 1998 bombings of Iraq ordered by President Clinton included an assassination attempt on Saddam by bombing two sites where the Iraqi leader allegedly met his mistresses/ U.S. officials have denied similar assertions in the past. U.S. policy explicitly prohibits assassinations of foreign leaders.
- 99-3-29: The London-based *Al-Hayat* newspaper claims Saddam Hussein's half-brother was interrogated by Iraqi security forces after one of his assistants fled the country and joined an opposition group. Barzan al-Tikriti was questioned by special security forces headed by his nephew, Saddam's younger son, Qusai.

Two former ministers, three retired generals and members of the ruling Baath Party who met al-Tikriti after his return to Baghdad from a diplomatic posting in Geneva last year also were interrogated. *Al-Hayat* says the interrogation followed the defection to an opposition group by an assistant of al-Tikriti after he fled to Turkey. The paper does not name the assistant or say when he left Iraq, which opposition group he joined, or when al-Tikriti was questioned. Relations between Odai and Barzan are known to be bad. Odai divorced al-Tikriti's daughter Saja in 1995 after she started complaining of being beaten, sparking a sharp division in the family. Odai is reported to have shot and wounded al-Tikriti's brother, Watban, after a feud over the divorce and family business.

- A 20-member UN panel recommends on Monday that intrusive arms inspections resume in Iraq but suggests a "renovated" structure for UNSCOM. The disarmament report concluded that Iraqi weapons of mass destruction could be controlled by combining the current inspection and monitoring programs. A transition to monitoring is usually associated with easing sanctions, imposed after Baghdad's troops invaded Kuwait in August 1990. But by noting that Iraq had not disclosed the full scope and nature elements of its programs, particularly on biological weapons, the report recognizes disarmament is not complete. While it emphasized that the "bulk" of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction programs had been eliminated, the panel also noted that "important elements still have to be resolved." It said that both disarmament and monitoring could be "achieved in an integrated fashion" through on-site surprise inspections, aerial surveillance and other means. Indeed, the retention of the right to investigate any aspect of proscribed weapons programs would be a fundamental element of the integrated system."
  - The UN panel's report was requested by the Security Council and is an attempt to provide a basis for formulating a policy towards Iraq that its divided 15 members could accept. It proposes that remaining disarmament questions could be checked by a monitoring system, which would be "if anything more intrusive than the one so far practiced." The report allows the U.S. and Britain to conclude that disarmament of Baghdad's dangerous weapons is incomplete and UN sanctions would have to be kept in place until it is, but also allows countries sympathetic to Iraq, such as Russia, France and China, to move against UNSCOM, which they want abolished or radically changed. The report says the arms commission's composition could be reviewed by the council so that in addition to technical experts it includes UN secretariat representatives, diplomats, and experts from the Hague-based organization for the Prohibition of Chemical weapons (OPCW). Some arms experts believe such a structure would politicize UNSCOM even more than it has been in the past. The report says, "It is in the hands of the Security Council to devise ways of ensuring that Iraq accepts such monitoring and verification." Celso Amorim, Brazil's UN ambassador, who headed the disarmament panel, says its objective was to explore alternatives "that might enlarge the scope of political options for the Security Council and I think it did just that."
  - State Department spokesman James Rubin says, "the report recognizes that there are outstanding disarmament issues in Iraq and that an intrusive monitoring regime is required to prevent rearmament. In fact, the report states that the monitoring system already approved by the council gives inspectors the rights, privileges and immunities necessary to do the job," he said.
- 99-3-30: Secretary-General Annan recommends extension of the UN Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) which monitors a demilitarized zone on either side of the Kuwait-Iraq border. The zone was established after the 1991 Gulf War in which a US-led coalition forced the withdrawal of invading Iraqi troops from Kuwait. The Security Council reviews the mission's mandate every six months. In a report covering the period from September 24, 1998 to March 23, 1999, Annan says the situation in the demilitarized zone remained generally calm, though U.S. and British air attacks against Iraqi targets in mid-December 1998 and subsequent skirmishes over the "no fly" zones over Iraq affected some operational aspects of the UN mission. But he said UNIKOM was not significantly affected by the air operations over the southern "no fly" zone except for the suspension of its fixed-wing aircraft flights and the restriction of its helicopters to the Kuwaiti side of the demilitarized zone. As a precaution, military observers from Britain and the U.S. were redeployed on December 17, 1998, from patrol and observation bases in Iraq to bases on the Kuwaiti side of the demilitarized zone. Annan said UNIKOM continued to carry out its tasks and to receive the cooperation of the Iraqi and Kuwaiti authorities. UNIKOM, with a strength of 1,311 people, comprises 194 military observers from 32 countries, including 11 each from

Britain and the US; a 775-man infantry battalion from Bangladesh; a 50-member engineering unit and 34-member logistic unit, both from Argentina; a helicopter unit of 35 personnel from Bangladesh; a 14-member medical unit from Germany; and 208 civilian staff, including 61 international personnel. The force commander is Major-General Esa Tarvainen of Finland.

- A UN panel on Iraq's humanitarian problems proposes that foreign oil companies should be allowed to invest in Iraq as well as export some oil industry parts to raise the economy of the nation. The report, requested by the Security Council, comes from one of three panels set up to provide a basis for formulating a policy towards Iraq that its members could accept. Among other recommendations the four-member panel suggests the council authorize "bilateral production sharing agreements" between Iraq and foreign oil companies. Under such arrangement, monitored by the UN, the foreign companies could supply oil spare parts and equipment to increase Iraq's oil production and export capacity. As an additional measure, it said the Security Council "may consider" authorizing private investment flows into the oil industry and other export industries such as fertilizer, sulfur, dates and nuts as well as agriculture in general. "In this context foreign companies could assume other responsibilities that might positively impact on the humanitarian situation, particularly in terms of reconstruction and infrastructure rehabilitation. The panel concludes that Iraq has "experienced a shift from relative affluence to massive poverty" since the 1991 Gulf War. Infant mortality rates are the highest in the world, birth weight affects at least 23 percent of all newborns and chronic malnutrition affects every fourth child under five years of age. It finds that only 41 percent of the population has regular access to clear water and 83 percent of all schools need substantial repairs. The UN Development Program calculates it would take \$7 billion to rehabilitate the power sector to its 1990 capacity.
- U.S. sources report that Yugoslav defense specialists met in Baghdad in February with their Iraqi counterparts in a collaboration to prepare Yugoslavia to shoot down American war. An official "at a fairly high level" in the Yugoslav military, and accompanying officers "stayed a couple of days and met with a whole variety of people" in Baghdad, including air defense specialists. Pentagon officials says the meeting's timing and personnel, a similarity in Iraqi and Yugoslav air defense tactics since NATO airstrikes began and separate intelligence about possible arms deals between the two countries all suggest Yugoslavia sought information on U.S. fighter jets and combat tactics. Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon says he cannot comment on intelligence matters but that contacts would not be surprising. "These are two countries both subject to attack by forces within NATO, they both have primarily Soviet-built or purchased air defense systems, and they are both subject to international embargoes. So they might obviously look for ways to work together." Iraq had purchased some Soviet-made air defense equipment from Yugoslavia late in the Cold War. In addition, much of Iraq's military infrastructure was constructed by Yugoslav companies during the 1980s, including airfields and aircraft shelters, vast underground command centers and industrial plants used for defense production. February's two-day visit of a four-member Yugoslav air defense team to the Iraqi military headquarters in Baghdad drew the immediate attention of U.S. intelligence. President Clinton and key congressional leaders were quickly notified, the officials said. "The Serbs have been tutored by the Russians. Their air defense system has been upgraded more recently than the Iraqis. They have huge numbers of mobile missile launchers, and better terrain and weather for hiding. And we think their people are better trained."
- 99-3-31: Iraq's UN ambassador ,Ambassador Saeed Hasan, says Iraq will probably reject any proposal for renewed UN relations that doesn't include an end to the punishing sanctions imposed during the Persian Gulf War said Wednesday. Hasan stresses that he hasn't read the panel's recommendations and hadn't received any official reaction from Baghdad. But he said reports of the proposals indicated "no real solutions" to the problems Iraqis face after more than eight years of sanctions which have crippled Iraq's economy. "Our position is clear. Anything short of lifting sanctions, I don't think there is a way out." Hasan says, the oil-for-food program, "is not working and it won't work...It really destroyed the Iraqi economy. Sanctions lifting is something Iraq might live with, not transferring certain disarmament issues to monitoring. We think all disarmament requirements have been achieved."
- 99-4-2: An unidentified spokesman for Iraq's Air Defenses Command says allied F-14s, F-16s and Tornados carried out 18 sorties from Kuwait and 33 from Saudi Arabia. The spokesman says allied planes targeted residential areas in Afaj, "causing the destruction of two residential houses and the injury of two

residents." Afaj is in Qadissiya province, 135 miles south of Baghdad, the capital. Iraqi air defenses "encountered the enemy formations, forcing them to flee to the bases they came from in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia."

- U.S. warplanes do bomb communications and radio facilities in southern Iraq in the first US-led airstrikes in more than two weeks. Lt. Cmdr. Ernest Duplessis, a spokesman at U.S. Central Command headquarters in Tampa, Fla., denies however that the allied strikes destroyed the houses. At the time of the Iraqi claim, no attacks had been conducted. "We did not conduct those strikes, U.S. and allied planes had at that time flown over southern Iraq but had not launched any missiles." Duplessis says three F-16s struck an Iraqi communication facility and a radio relay station several hours after the Iraqi claim, following violations of the southern "no fly" zone. The airstrikes are the first since March 16, when American warplanes bombed air defense sites in northern Iraq.
- 99-4-4: The U.S. diverts parts of the U.S. air fleet charged with monitoring the sky over northern Iraq in order to sustain its role in NATO airstrikes against Yugoslavia. Among the planes sent to Europe for the intensifying conflict with Yugoslavia are Navy EA-6B Prowlers, which are electronic warfare planes that jam and can attack air defense radars, and refueling aircraft. As a result, the American and British fighter aircraft used to enforce a "no-fly" zone over northern Iraq have not flown since March 20, four days before NATO launched its airstrikes against Yugoslavia. Not coincidentally, U.S. officials have reported no Iraqi violations of the flight ban in that period, and almost daily U.S. and British attacks on Iraqi air-defense sites in the north have stopped. Air Force F-15E attack planes conducted the last attack in northern Iraq on March 16, against anti-aircraft artillery. In the 10 days prior to that, U.S. planes attacked in northern Iraq almost every day. The pace of confrontations in southern Iraq also has slackened, although allied planes are continuing to monitor the sky.
- American F-16 and F/A-18 fighters, joined by British GR-1 Tornado fighters, attacked a surface-to-air missile battery and two unspecified communications sites south of Baghdad in response to Iraqi violations of the southern "no fly" zone, Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman said. There also was a U.S. attack Friday, the first since March 19.
  - The air war in Yugoslavia also has put a squeeze on American naval resources. An aircraft carrier is being added to NATO's force in the Adriatic, but that has forced the Pentagon to shift the USS Kitty Hawk carrier battle group in Japan to the Persian Gulf, leaving a carrier gap in the Pacific.
  - U.S. officials express surprise that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has not used the Yugoslavia conflict, which is drawing so much of the U.S. military's attention and resources, as an opportunity to make trouble in the "no-fly" zones, which are intended to suppress the Iraqi air force. Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon says, "I suppose the most charitable answer is perhaps his forces are exhausted and taking a break."
- 99-4-5: Iraq claims that U.S. and U.K. warplanes destroyed an Iraqi oil pipeline control station in the south of the country after violations of the southern no-fly zone. "The attack shows the aggressive evil plans of the aggressor which are meant to reduce the level of Iraqi oil exports and to make Iraq unable to secure revenue needed for the oil-for-food program." This was the second Iraqi oil installation attacked during allied bombing raids over the last four days. Allied warplanes on Friday attacked Iraq's main oil pumping station to the Mina al-Bakr port on the Persian Gulf.
- The U.S. said allied warplanes fired on Iraqi military sites both Friday and Sunday after Iraqi aircraft crossed into the no-fly zone over the southern part of the country. Yet no pipeline stations were hit in the attack as Iraq charged. UN personnel at Iraq's southern port of Mina al Bakr said that oil shipments from Iraqi fields to the south were down 45 percent from normal rates. UN officials in New York could not confirm an attack on Iraqi facilities.
  - Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammed Said al-Sahaf says there were attacks, and that they were a deliberate attempt "to interrupt the pumping of Iraqi crude oil." In a letter to the Security Council, al-Sahaf says that U.S. and U.K. warplanes bombed the main oil pumping station serving Mina al Bakr at 6:15 p.m. local time on Friday.

- UN spokesman John Mills in New York said that while the UN has no personnel near Iraq's Bazarkan oil field, UN experts at the southern port noticed the drop in oil flow coming from the field. The UN said the hourly flow rate was 36,000 barrels, down 29,000 barrels from normal rates, the equivalent of losing 696,000 a day. That helped boost crude oil prices today, traders said. Oil exports through another Iraqi pipeline -- one that ships oil north through Turkey -- were disrupted for three days in March after another allied attack struck a communications center that was apparently used for both pipeline and military operations. Iraq's total oil exports amounted to about 2.2 million barrels a day last month, according to Bloomberg estimates.
- Iraq's oil exports decline by more than 200,000 barrels a day in March to 1.87 million barrels a day. Iraqi crude exports, which reached 2.1 million barrels a day in February, declined because of the cancellation of several contracts due to the overpricing of crude oil destined for Europe, the report said. Iraq has exported an average 1.9 million barrels of oil per day since the current six-month period of sales through a UN oil-for-food program began on Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>.
- 99-4-6: UN oil monitors say, "Oil is pumping now at 50,000 barrels an hour...It is steadily rising back to normal. The Iraqis appear to have found a solution to the problem that led to the reduction of flow to that pipeline."
- Iraq's President Saddam Hussein approves several projects to develop Iraq's oil and gas resources, the official Iraq News Agency reported. The Iraqi president chaired a cabinet meeting that "approved" a number of projects presented by the Iraqi oil ministry to develop the country's oil and gas fields, the report says, without giving any further details. Iraq has said it is in talks to boost its total oil output capacity to six million barrels per day, up from its current level of about 2.7 million barrels per day.
- The Russian Foreign Ministry attacks U.S. and British air strikes against Iraq, particularly the bombings of Iraq's main oil exports pipeline. "These acts, unlawful by nature, are even more unacceptable as civil population suffers and civil infrastructure is damaged as their result...Many estimates, including by international observers, show that the situation in Iraq is already nearing a real humanitarian catastrophe..."
- Iraq says it has executed four men for the murder of a prominent Shi'ite Moslem spiritual leader and his sons in the holy city of Najaf last February. The killing of Mohammed Sadeq al-Sadr, an influential cleric whose Friday prayer sermons drew large crowds, and his sons Mustafa and Mua'mal sparked widespread riots in the country, according to Iraqi opposition groups. "The Iraqi Security Directorate announced that it had executed the criminals who killed the late Mohammed Sadeq al-Sadr and his sons. These criminals had assassinated the late martyr, Mohammed Sadeq al-Sadr, and his sons, Mustafa and Mua'mal, These criminals were executed in accordance with a decision issued by a specialized court, 'By doing this (execution) we have uprooted the tools of disorder which is aimed at harming you (Iraqis).'" The executed men are Abdul-Hassan Abbas al-Kufi, Ali Kadhim Jumam, Ahmed Mustafa Hassan Ardabili and Haider Ali Hussein Ardabili. Iraq had previously said that some of the executed men were students of a religious academy in Najaf, about 160 km south of Baghdad. Others were people who had been expelled from Iraq but who had returned to the country. Iraq has said it had nothing to do with the murder but UN human rights investigator, former Dutch foreign minister Max van der Stoep, cast doubt on the government's version of events.
- The Security Council agrees to keep UN observers on the Iraq-Kuwait border for another six months without any comment or debate. Both Iraq and Kuwait have cooperated with the 1,311-strong observer mission, which has been monitoring the demilitarized zone along the border since a US-led coalition force expelled Iraqi forces from Kuwait in the 1991 Gulf War, according to a report last week by Secretary-General Annan. He says U.S. and British airstrikes on Iraq did not significantly affect the UN observer mission during the period from Sept. 24 to March 23. "The situation along the border remained generally quiet."
- Iraq's production of crude oil approaches its pre-1991 Gulf War level. The director of planning at the Oil Ministry, Faleh al-Khaiat, says that Iraq is now producing 2.6 million barrels per day. Iraq produced about 3 million barrels per day before it invaded Kuwait in August 1990. "Iraq is currently exporting a

little over 2 million barrels per day. Added to that is the domestic use of oil and the quantity sold to Jordan under special arrangements, (so) the total production of crude oil is 2.6 million barrels per day.” He complains that Iraq has received only \$10.5 million dollars worth of the spare parts ordered during the fourth phase of the oil-for-food program, which ended in November 1998. That represents just 25 of the 750 orders worth \$300 million that the government had made. Al-Khariat accuses the U.S. and British representatives on the UN sanctions committee of “inventing baseless excuses” to stall the remaining contracts.

- Iraq negotiates with Turkish firms to set up a giant project to sell gas to upstream neighbor Turkey. Iraq and Turkey signed in 1997 a preliminary deal to set up the project which was subdivided into three phases: development of five gas fields dedicated to the project; building a 1,300 km (800 miles) long pipeline with a capacity of 10 billion cubic meters of a gas a year and a processing plant to treat the gas, remove liquids and spit out dry gas; and marketing. A few weeks ago Iraq's Oil Minister Amir Mohammed Rasheed had said Iraq was in the final stages to conclude contracts with a consortium of French and Italian companies to develop gas fields. Baghdad newspapers named the five northeastern gas fields that would be used to sell gas to Turkey as Chemchemal, Khashem al-Ahmer, Jeriah (village) Pikia, Anfal and Mansuriya fields into Turkey. They said these fields are situated in Kirkuk and Diyla governorates. The papers said Iraq had some 3,100 billion cubic meters of proven reserve gas, 70 percent of that is associated gas while the rest is non-associated. Possible reserves of gas are put around 4,500 billion cubic meters, they added.
  - Iraq has also sought to cement ties with China, Russia and France by tying them into big oilfield deals after the UN sanctions are lifted. Chinese and Russian firms already have contracts in Iraqi oil projects. French firms Total and Elf are earmarked respectively for the 500,000 bpd Nahr Umar and 300,000 bpd Majnoon fields in southern Iraq.
- 99-4-7: The UN Security Council begins closed-door discussions about three UN reports aimed at formulating a new policy toward Iraq.
- About 15,000 Turkish troops cross into Iraq to hunt down Kurdish rebels, a newspaper reported today. It is the second reported cross-border offensive against Kurdish fighters based in northern Iraq since Turkish commandos captured Kurdish guerrilla leader Abdullah Ocalan on Feb. 15. The soldiers, accompanied by 2,000 pro-government village guards, crossed into Iraq on Tuesday and have penetrated some 9 miles inside Iraq, Turkish warplanes pound rebel bases in the northeastern corner of Iraq, the newspaper said.
  - Iraq demands the UN compensate it for a shortage of cattle and dairy products which it said had been caused by foot-and-mouth disease due to UN sanctions. Agriculture Minister Abdulillah Hameed Mahmoud Saleh says Iraq had been prevented from making vaccines against the disease by the destruction of part of a vaccine plant by UN weapons inspectors hunting for Iraqi weapons programs. “Most of the production apparatus and diagnostic and operating systems to produce these vaccines.were destroyed in 1996...The destruction of this project was not logical and, indeed unjust...Iraq has demanded that the UN compensate it for the damage resulting from foot-and-mouth disease among cattle.” Saleh also demands compensation for "the economic loss incurred by Iraqis due to shortage of meat and dairy products caused by continuation of the unjust sanctions." Saleh says Iraq had set up the project during the 1970s to produce 12 million vaccines a year against the three types of foot-and-mouth disease, and that it had stopped as a result of the 1991 Gulf War. Saleh also demands that the UN send representatives from the French company that had supervised the project to assess the damage caused during the war, launched over Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. "Production (of this project) used to cover the needs of many countries of the region which suffered epidemics of this disease resulting in great economic losses, especially in Iraq. Iraq is now suffering from this disease, which causes deaths and great economic damage.”
- 99-4-8: Iraq claims its air defenses opened fire at Western warplanes patrolling its no-fly zones over the southern parts of the country and bombing a weapons site. “Our ground resistance units challenged (the planes) and compelled them to depart our air space into the bases they came from in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Nine hostile formations involving such planes of F-14s, F- 15s, F-16s, and F-18 violated at 10:15 a.m

Local time this morning our airspace. They implemented 12 sorties from Saudi skies and six sorties from Kuwaiti skies supported by AWACS and A2C planes. They flew over regions of Al- Salman, Samawa, Nasiriya, Basra and Jibayish "and bombed a site of our weapons south of Basra."

- The Iraqi National Congress (INC), an umbrella group for parties opposed to Saddam Hussein, ends its first meeting in three years. "All groups came together and reaffirmed their solidarity and desire to work together. It's the first meeting since 1996." The two-day meeting was attended by the U.S. special representative for transition in Iraq, Frank Ricciardone, and by Democratic Senator Bob Kerrey, vice chairman of the U.S. Senate intelligence committee. Kerrey speaks to the delegates to convey U.S. support for the parties' efforts to unite and work democratically together. He urges them to develop a plan of action and they agree to set up a smaller group of seven that was charged with preparing a full meeting of the congress. A meeting will be held in Washington in a month and would be attended by some 300 delegates. The Tehran-based Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI) does not attend the London meeting.
- 99-4-9: Iraq vows to continue firing at Western planes patrolling no-fly zones over the southern and northern parts of the country. "Iraq is determined not only to defy the US-British continued aggression on its lands but also endeavors to inflict any possible heaviest damage to the aggressors. The UN should notice that the continued overlooking of the U.S. and British air aggression (means) the international body is evading its obligations and duties. The Arab masses and the Arab League are called on to play a role in halting the behavior of the Kuwaiti and Saudi rulers in making Saudi and Kuwaiti lands and waters a springboard for the enemy aggression on Iraq."
- A U.S. official claims Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's family is being torn apart by feuding which could be one scenario that could lead to the iron-fisted leader's downfall. "It could be a coup from inside. It could be a lone assassination. It could easily be a family feud, the family is at each others' throats now." The official declines to be named. The official says the U.S. is studying the question of providing military equipment and training to opposition groups within Iraq. "The Iraq Liberation Act gives us the wherewithal to (provide weapons) but there are some practical questions to be resolved before we can transfer weapons or training. The disbursing of the funds could be done pretty quickly once all those questions are adequately addressed. When that will happen, I don't know."
- Several Security Council members express disappointment that Iraq has rejected recommendations from UN panels without waiting for the 15-member council to discuss them. Iraq has circulated a 24-page memorandum attacking the proposals from three panels set up by the council to evaluate Iraqi disarmament, sanctions and the fate of Kuwaiti prisoners and looted property after Baghdad's 1990 invasion of the emirate. Iraq says the panels' reports put new labels on discredited policies and gave its enemies a pretext for aggression.
- Richard Butler circulates a new report accusing Iraq of withholding documents and not declaring dual-use material, such as growth media that can be used to produce biological agents. The new report says Iraq had volunteered new information to the council in a February paper "in which it has revised its previous statements on the material balance of growth media." The report did not give details or evaluate the significance of the disclosure except to say that UN inspectors in December had discovered "dual-use material such as growth media which had not been declared by Iraq."
- 99-4-10: Air Force F-16s attack Iraqi radar and anti-aircraft sites in southern Iraq with missiles after the fighters were fired at. The F-16s, on routine patrol, were targeted by Iraqi missile guidance radar systems and fired upon by Iraqi surface-to-air missiles. U.S. officials don't say how many F-16s were involved or how many missiles or other munitions were fired in the exchange. The "Fighting Falcon" aircraft return safely to base. The U.S. says the incident occurred about 9:30 a.m. Iraq time, or 2:30 a.m. EDT, around 100 miles south of Baghdad. This is the latest of about 160 of what the Pentagon characterizes as "Iraqi provocations" in the southern "no-fly" zone since a four-day mid-December U.S. and British attack against Iraqi targets.
- Turkish troops kill 44 Kurdish rebels in their latest cross-border offensive in neighboring Iraq. The five-day offensive ended Friday. The soldiers seized a large number of arms and ammunition as well as two

Russian-made SA-7 surface-to-air rockets hidden in caves in the mountainous region. No further detail was given on the offensive, and military officials were not available for comment. Meanwhile, suspected PKK militants kidnap a candidate of the center-right Motherland Party running for parliament in April 18 elections. The rebels storm the house of Osman Dara in the mainly-Kurdish southeastern town of Yuksekova overnight and abduct the politician, his brother and two other relatives. The two relatives are later released.

- *al-Jumhuriya* ridicules a meeting of Iraqi opposition groups in London, saying they were mere spies of U.S. and British intelligence services. "The meeting of despicable traitors, conspirators...and spies who receive orders from American and British intelligence had failed completely and it was futile. Neither the American and British media machine and the millions of dollars allocated from the American budget would enable these puppets to implement their (hidden) agenda against Iraq."
  - *Babel* calls called for Third World countries to meet in Baghdad to establish an organization against alliances led by the US. "A conference of representatives of political, Islamic and national parties and liberation movements in Third World countries should convene in Baghdad to set up such a front. The (aim of the) front is to undermine American aggressors and their collaborators in the NATO alliance and prevent them from committing crimes against world peoples.". The paper says its call followed on from a similar plea made by Saddam earlier this year. Saddam had urged Eastern countries to set up a group to defend their interests and counterbalance the existing Washington-led Western alliances.
  - *al-Jumhuriya* accuses the U.S. and Britain of trying to impede efforts by the UN Security Council to revive deadlocked relations with Iraq. "Efforts by (UN) Security Council's three panels to reassess the relations with Iraq...are undermined by American and British wicked intentions/ Washington doesn't want to see oil contracts signed with Russia, China and France to be carried out.". Chinese and Russian firms have signed contracts for Iraqi oil projects. French firms Total(TOTF.PA) and Elf(ELFP.PA) have are earmarked respectively for the 500,000 barrels per day Nahr Umar and 300,000 bpd Majnoon fields in southern Iraq.
- 99-4-11: U.S. fighters attack two Iraqi surface-to-air missile sites in the southern no-fly zone after being fired on with anti-aircraft artillery. The U.S. says that the attacks were about 100 miles (160 km) south of Baghdad, near Al Kut and Ad Diwaniyah. Iraq say two people had been killed and nine wounded in the attack on the no-fly zone. The U.S. says that Navy F/A-18 Hornets struck the sites at 5:30 a.m. EDT (0930 GMT) in response to anti-aircraft artillery fire on Sunday and a surface-to-air missile attack on Saturday. "In response to Iraqi aggression, coalition pilots continue to take appropriate actions to defend themselves, and they will continue to defend themselves by targeting Iraq's air defense network as long as it threatens coalition aircraft."
- An Iraqi military spokesman Iraq's Air Defense Command says the US, "attacked a number of our service utilities and weapons sites in the southern region and the bombing led to martyrdom of two citizens and injuries to another nine including two women." He says the planes had flown over the regions of Artawi, al-Chlaiba, al-Salman, al-Samawa and Qa'lat Suker, and the deaths occurred in an attack on al-Sannia village in Qadissiya province. "The hostile formations were engaged by our missile and brave ground resistance forces and forced to flee and leave our airspace toward Saudi Arabia and Kuwait at 2:35 p.m. (6:35 a.m. EDT) (1035 GMT)."
  - Iran's Foreign Ministry summons Iraq's top diplomat in Iran, Iraq's charge d'affaires, Abdul Sattar Al-Rawi, to tell him of "Iran's strong protest against the Iraqi government's support for terrorist activities of the terrorist Mujahedeen Khalq organization." The Mujahedeen Khalq, which is working to oust Iran's clerical regime, is based in Iraq and had assassinated Brig. Ali Sayyad Shirazi, deputy chief of Iran's joint staff command of the armed forces, in Tehran on Saturday while on his way to work. The Mujahedeen Khalq said Shirazi -- a senior army commander during Iran's 1980-88 war with Iraq -- was assassinated for "war crimes."
  - The Iraqi press welcomes the exclusion of Richard Butler from a Security Council session on Iraq's disarmament. Butler was barred last week from the meeting at the request of Russian Ambassador Sergei Lavrov. "*al-Jumhuriya* says, "The expulsion of the spy Butler from Security Council meetings is an

important step to restore respect to the council which has become one of the sections of the U.S. State Department. The expulsion (of Butler from council's meetings) is a condemnation of a UN official whose service in the world body is still valid."

- Al Thawra urges Yugoslavs to remain steadfast in the face of U.S. and NATO air strikes, saying their resistance would teach "the Americans a new lesson We want the Yugoslav people and leadership to remain firm and steadfast to teach the American aggressors a new lesson,." It says the Yugoslav people should follow the experience of the Iraqis "who have taught the Americans a lesson on dignity, resistance and steadfastness."
  - Al Thawra also claims that seven Arab countries owe Iraq nearly \$1.7 billion. "The amount of money due to be paid to Iraq by a number of Arab countries until March 31, 1999 was \$1,635,876,000." The paper, quotes a source at the Iraqi finance ministry, and named the countries as Saudi Arabia, Syria, Bahrain, Kuwait, Somalia, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt. It said the money owed to Iraq covered loans offered by Iraq, oil exports, official bank deposits and profit of joint Arab companies. Iraq's assets abroad, mostly in U.S. and European banks, were impounded when it invaded Kuwait in 1990. Baghdad has called many times for the release of its frozen assets to cover humanitarian purchases as well as to pay for Iraqis wishing to go to Saudi Arabia for haj pilgrimage. Last month, Saudi Arabia turned down an Iraqi demand to free some of its assets to pay for nearly 18,000 pilgrims at the haj. Baghdad called off their trip one day after they crossed the border to the Saudi holy city of Mecca.
- 99-4-12: Navy jets patrolling the southern no-fly zone strike two surface-to-air missile sites 100 miles south of Baghdad. F/A-18 Hornets hit the sites in response to anti-aircraft artillery fire and to Iraqi targeting of coalition planes and a subsequent SAM attack Saturday. The Navy planes return safely The Iraqi Air Defense Command says US. planes targeted cities in the nation's southern region, "Enemy formations were confronted by our surface-to-air missiles and anti-aircraft defenses ... forcing them to flee back to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait."
- *al-Thawra* attacks the Netherlands for supporting the U.S. and UK in the UN and accuses it of emulating a hostile U.S. policy and seeking to stop the UN from lifting sanctions on the country. "Why this hostile stand by the Dutch government from lifting the unjust embargo on Iraq? The position of the ambassador of the (Dutch) government is identical with that of the American and British stand which aims at harming Iraq and its people."
  - The Central Bank of Iraq raises interest rates by between one and three percentage points to draw excess money from circulation and support the dinar. The new rates, effective from April 1, 1999, are part of a government package meant to fight rampant inflation. Interest on six-month deposits has jumped to 14 percent from 11 and on long-term deposits to 15 percent from 12. The Central Bank now offers 21 percent interest on two-year fixed deposits. Previously the highest possible rate for any deposit was 12 percent.
- 99-4-13: The Iraqi Communist Party says that "tens of people" had been executed in the past two weeks by government forces in the southern city of Basra. It says Iraqi forces were trying to put down armed opposition activity and went from house to house. A large number of people were detained and some tortured before being killed, the group said. Another exiled Iraqi opposition group, the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI), has said in March that there was a limited uprising in Basra with rebels briefly occupying and controlling government offices. There is no independent confirmation of either claim.
- Iraq says its is working with diplomats from France, Russia and China to shape a new UN sanctions policy, despite a public rejection of the proposals currently being considered. Several Security Council members have presented suggestions on how to formulate a new Iraq policy. Russia and France have called for an end to the oil embargo in return for Iraq's accepting UN disarmament rules; the U.S. and Britain want the blockade in place until Baghdad rids itself of weapons of mass destruction. To bridge the gap, the Security Council established three panels which made recommendations early this month on how to continue Iraq's disarmament, improve the humanitarian situation in Iraq, and deal with missing Kuwaitis and looted Kuwaiti property. Iraq opposes allowing UN arms inspectors unfettered access and

the right to investigate Iraq's past weapons programs and requiring Iraq to help account for missing Kuwaitis and looted property. The U.S. has already rejected a proposal by the panels to allow foreign investment in Iraq's oil sector, saying increasing oil prices mean Baghdad may not need outside help.

- The Security Council's sanctions committee approves the purchase of 1 million doses of foot-and-mouth vaccine from an Indian company. A UN statement did not say how much the vaccines would cost. The disease, which hits cows, sheep and pigs, has killed tens of thousands of sheep and cows in Iraq in recent months.
  - The Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution says nearly 180 Iraqis were executed in Basra's al-Sabkhhah suburb on March 21, and 56 others were executed in the province's security prison on March 23. It claims the executions were ordered by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's cousin, Gen. Ali Hassan al-Majid, the military commander of southern Iraq. The council said al-Majid also ordered that 52 houses in and around Basra be destroyed. The Iran-based council says the executions followed widespread unrest in Basra provoked by a crackdown on the opposition. Basra residents have long supported the Iraqi opposition and rose in revolt against Saddam's government at the end of the 1991 Persian Gulf War. Reports of unrest and execution cannot be independently confirmed.. The council had said on April 12<sup>th</sup> that dissidents had opened fire on two offices of the ruling Baath Party in Basra, killing and wounding more than a dozen party officials.
- 99-4-14: The leaders of the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Jordan hold talks in Abu Dhabi. UAE President Sheikh Zaid bin Sultan al-Nahayan, Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak and Jordan's King Abdullah discuss developments related to Iraq and the Middle East peace process. Egyptian presidential adviser Osama el-Baz says the three leaders also discussed plans to hold an Arab summit. He says the return of Iraq to the Arab fold is another issue on the agenda of the three leaders. "Reconciliation is always an issue of discussion, but discussions at such meetings focus on conditions and requirements. If we make things sound simple and say 'let bygones be bygones', then we would be making an effort and knowing beforehand that it is nothing but empty words."
- Iraqi economists urge the government to privatize some state industries as a way to jump-start the economy, which has been devastated by sanctions. The economists, mainly university professors, are nearly unanimous in arguing that Iraq's bloated socialist sector had to be drastically trimmed and passed over to private entrepreneurs. Their studies show that while most government-owned industries have come to a grinding halt, private firms and utilities were still prospering, despite the sanctions. The researchers have few figures and indicators on which to base their observations. Iraq has long stopped issuing economic data. The meeting is attended by several government ministers, and shadowed by yet another slump in the value of the dinar, which fell to a record low of 2,005 to the dollar, down from 1,995 last week. Before sanctions were slapped on Iraq for invading Kuwait in 1990, one dinar was officially worth more than \$3. Trade Minister Mohammed Mehdi Saleh assures the economists that the government is discussing the possibility of selling some state enterprises to the private sector. He does not elaborate, and joins the ministers of finance and planning in blaming UN sanctions for Iraq's economic woes.
  - The Security Council remains divided as it tries to develop a new relationship with Iraq. Some council members appear to be standing by elements of their original positions on a new Iraq policy, despite the joint recommendations reached by technical panels created in February. The humanitarian panel suggested, among other things, that the council consider allowing foreign investment in Iraq's oil sector to allow it to export more oil under the UN oil-for-food program, which allows Iraq to sell oil for that limited purpose. It did not call for a lifting of the oil embargo, which Slovenia suggests should be suspended. The U.S. has said it would be flexible in discussing improvements to the humanitarian program, but this week the deputy U.S. ambassador, Peter Burleigh, ruled out foreign investment. Washington also has said it wants to see the UN Special Commission resume inspections in Iraq. Iraq has rejected the panels' recommendations and has banned the commission from returning even if the council finds a united way forward.
  - Martin Indyk, assistant secretary of state for Near East and Asian affairs, says, "Our view is that sooner or later, Saddam Hussein should go, and we believe it should be sooner, and we believe it may be sooner

than you and I think.” He refuses to provide more details, but says the U.S. will “do what we can to ensure that once Saddam goes, there will be a stable future for Iraq.” He says the two-day meeting of Iraqi dissidents in London last week was an “important development...Groups came together to elect a new leadership and plan their steps for a renewed effort to illegitimatize Saddam Hussein.” The meeting that appointed a new executive to the Iraqi National Congress.

- 99-4-15: Iraq says its anti-aircraft defenses opened fire on U.S. and British warplanes patrolling a no-fly zone in southern Iraq. “Hostile planes attacked our service establishments and sites of our weapons in the southern region ... and our missile and ground resistance forces engaged them.” Iraq claims the planes fired 16 projectiles at the Iraqi “establishments” but gives no casualty report. “Eight formations of hostile planes of the kind F-14s, F-15s, F-16s, and the Tornado violated our airspace today at 3:20 p.m. (7:20 a.m. EDT). They carried out 12 sorties from Saudi and four sorties from Kuwaiti airspace supported by the Early Warning AWACS from Saudi skies.” Iraq claims the planes flew over the regions of al-Bsayya, al-Salman, al-Chlaiba, Basra, Samawa, and Nassiriya.
- The U.S. says U.S. and British warplanes struck two targets in the southern no-fly zone. U.S. Air Force F-16s and the British Royal Air Force GR-1s struck a radar site near Tallil, about 200 miles southeast of Baghdad, and an anti-aircraft artillery site near Ash Shuaybah, about 285 miles southeast of Baghdad. The allies say they have suffered no losses.
  - Russian UN envoy Sergei Lavrov walks out of a Security Council briefing by chief UN arms inspector Richard Butler, calling discussions on new Iraqi weapons reports a waste of time. Lavrov, who left an aide to sit in on the closed-door meeting, referred to six-monthly reports by UNSCOM and the IAEA. Lavrov, who has called for UNSCOM to be scrapped and Butler, its chairman, to be fired, says, “I mentioned that we would not be participating in the discussion of the UNSCOM and IAEA reports for the simple reason that these reports do not add anything new to the Security Council's work on Iraq...the UNSCOM report, though technically required under (council) resolutions...is a waste of time to discuss.” He says discussion should focus on recently issued reports by three panels set up by the divided council to make recommendations on future policy regarding Iraqi disarmament, the humanitarian situation in the sanctions-devastated country, and the fate of Kuwaiti and other prisoners missing since Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait. “That's where action is and that is where you can achieve some operational results.”
  - China's ambassador Qin Huasun tells the council that UNSCOM's leaders had played a “dishonorable role” before the December bombing and had lost their credibility, but praises the IAEA teams. He says discussion should focus on recently issued reports by three panels set up by the divided council to make recommendations on future policy regarding Iraqi disarmament, the humanitarian situation in the sanctions-devastated country, and the fate of Kuwaiti and other prisoners missing since Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.
  - Britain and the Netherlands propose to replace UNSCOM with a new, expanded UN body to press ahead with disarming Iraq. In a draft resolution circulated to Security Council members, they say the new body, to be called the UN Commission on Investigation, Inspection and Monitoring (UNCIIM), would take over most of UNSCOM's staff and have similar duties. If Iraq failed to cooperate, UNCIIM would create a monitoring system on Iraq's borders to watch for any materials relating to weapons of mass destruction. The British-Dutch draft does not call for an easing or lifting of the sanctions imposed in August 1990 after Iraq invaded Kuwait. It does lift the ceiling on how much oil Iraq could sell and would streamline procedures for Baghdad to purchase civilian necessities. The arms commission proposed by Britain and the Netherlands would be under a new executive director, succeeding Australian Richard Butler, who has incurred the wrath of such council members as Russia, China and France. Butler has said he is leaving his post at the end of June after two years as UNSCOM's executive chairman. For the first time, the British-Dutch resolution requests that after a report from Annan the council conduct a review every four months on the question of Kuwaiti war prisoners reported missing during Iraq's occupation of the emirate. On humanitarian issues, the British-Dutch resolution proposes to lift the ceiling on how much oil Iraq can sell to buy food, medicine and other necessities under an existing “oil for food” program, British Ambassador Jeremy Greenstock says he does not expect any council vote for weeks, and the resolution is designed to allow a divided council to discuss concrete measures after hearing reports from three panels

that members set up to deal with Iraqi policy. The new draft would allow Iraq to borrow until December 1999 one-third of the money it pays into a fund that compensates victims of its invasion of Kuwait. The money, currently 30 percent of the proceeds from the sale of Iraqi oil, would have to be returned to the fund but could in the meantime be used to purchase essential goods. But the resolution does not include a panel suggestion that the council authorize foreign companies to invest in Iraqi export industries, such as oil, fertilizer, sulfur and dates, unrelated to military production. Greenstock acknowledges that the United States would have reservations about some of the proposals and that Russia, France and China favored far more radical actions on sanctions. "It is not for the council to offer the lifting of the oil embargo, because Iraq has not cooperated. So the majority of the members of the council recognize you have to take this in steps."

- Shortly after the British-Dutch resolution is circulated, Russia presents its own draft, which would lift sanctions against all Iraqi goods once a new disarmament body was set up, something it would leave to Secretary-General Annan. Russia's draft resolution calls for the lifting of sanctions, including the embargo on Iraqi oil, once a "reinforced" system of ongoing monitoring and verification is operational. The Russian plan addresses council members' concerns over the impact of sanctions on ordinary Iraqis, while the British plan could open the door to a reassessment of how to carry out the disarmament mission. Russia's ambassador Sergei Lavrov says, "What I know for sure is that the British-Dutch draft is going to be rejected because it doesn't have any hope for Iraq, any roadmap for Iraq to follow." He insists his resolution, which China co-sponsored, is the only feasible one that can bring the United Nations arms inspectors back to Iraq. He says that most economic sanctions should be lifted as soon as a new arms control body is set up. When Iraq had accounted for prisoners and looted property from its 1990 occupation of Kuwait, its assets abroad should be unfrozen. He says that the UN embargo on conventional arms -- tanks, anti-aircraft missiles -- could be lifted once it was clear Iraq no longer had any weapons of mass destruction.
  - French Ambassador Alain Dejammet says he agreed with most of the Russian proposals, adding that the Security Council after the 1991 Gulf War envisioned "maintaining a very strict arms control but not to maintain eternally the population of Iraq under civil sanctions."
  - The United States dismisses Russia's proposals to lift sanctions against Iraq but also says it has problems with a more amenable British-Dutch resolution on future UN policy towards Iraq. The United States said it had some problems with the Anglo-Dutch draft, which would replace U.S. delegate Peter Burleigh rejects Russia's resolution, saying it is "not a serious proposal and we are not going to treat it as such." Burleigh says he sees little need to change the name of UNSCOM as Britain proposed and objects to provisions in its draft that would lower temporarily Iraq's contributions to a fund for victims of Baghdad's 1990 invasion of Kuwait. "We think that the draft is a good basis to work on but we do have some problems with it. We would like to have inspectors back on the ground in Iraq ... but we're not prepared to pay in terms of 'inducements' for Iraq in order to accomplish that."
  - Brazil's ambassador Celso Amorim says the British-Dutch resolution needs more of an inducement for Iraq to cooperate -- such as allowing foreign oil companies to invest in Iraqi export industries such as oil. Diplomats said Canada agreed.
- 99-4-16: *Al-Thawra* says the Security Council has been taken in by "premeditated schemes of some of its members aiming in their essence to cover up serious violations of the Special Commission's technical mission." Thawra says Iraq has rid itself of banned weapons and was now eligible to see the sanctions imposed on Baghdad for its 1990 invasion of Kuwait lifted immediately.
- 99-4-17: U.S. warplanes respond to Iraqi fire, Operation Northern Watch planes detect Iraqi radar and observed Iraqi anti-aircraft fire, posing a threat to coalition aircraft. U.S. Air Force F-15E Strike Eagles and F-16C Falcons, along with Marine EA-6B Prowlers, drop laser-guided bombs and launch missiles on anti-aircraft sites north and northwest of the city of Mosul. The incidents occur between 1:40 p.m. and 2:40 p.m. Iraqi time.
- The Iraqi armed forces claim four civilians died in the attacks and one was injured. The statement says the attacks were directed against "our civilian installations and weapons sites." The statement also claims

American and British warplanes coming from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait flew 22 sorties over southern Iraq

- Iran and Iraq exchange the remains of 385 soldiers who died during their 1980-88 war. The handover ceremony takes place at the Shalamcheh border crossing in southwestern Iran. General Mirfeisal Baqerzadeh, a senior official, says that the bodies of 164 Iranian soldiers were exchanged for the remains of 221 Iraqi soldiers. "The bodies of these martyrs were found in the general area of Shalamcheh after two months of joint search operations by Iranian and Iraqi reconnaissance teams." Last month, Iran repatriated 450 Iraqi prisoners of war in return for the release of 53 Iranian detainees. Iran and Iraq still accuse each other of holding thousands of POWs more than a decade after the end of the eight-year war that claimed hundreds of thousands of lives. The issue has blocked a full normalization of relations.
- 99-4-18: Iraq says its anti-aircraft weapons fire at U.S. and UK warplanes patrolling the southern no-fly zone. "At 8:25 a.m. (0425 GMT)...10 hostile formations...violated our airspace coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti airspace. "They were challenged by our ground resistance units and compelled to leave our skies to the bases they came from in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia at 10:03 a.m. local time (0603 GMT, They carried out 16 sorties from Saudi and four from Kuwaiti skies supported by an AWACS (warning and control plane)." Iraq the planes as F-14s and F-15s. It makes no reference to damage or casualties.
- Saddam Hussein congratulates Algerian president-elect Abdelaziz Bouteflika on his election victory and says he wants to strengthen ties between the two Arab states: "On behalf of me, my government and people, we would like to send our congratulations on the occasion of your election as president of brotherly Algeria, We stress our desire to maintain and improve brotherly relations between our two countries and peoples." Bouteflika, backed by the army, was declared winner of Thursday's one-man presidential election. He took 74 percent of votes cast in a poll marked by low turnout, after all the other candidates pulled out to protest alleged ballot-rigging. Iraq and Algeria maintain strong political and economic ties. In February, Iraq signed an agreement with Algeria to buy medicine under an Iraqi oil-for-food deal with the UN. Last year the two countries signed an agreement on trade and economic cooperation.
- 99-4-19: -- U.S. Air Force F-15Es dropped laser-guided bombs on radar sites in the vicinity of Mosul,. Mosul is 250 miles north of Baghdad, the Iraqi capital. All coalition aircraft leave the area safely. A statement by the Iraqi armed forces says the bombing is directed against "service installations and heroic weapons sites."
- The Iraqi official newspaper *al-Qadissiya* newspaper attacks the U.S. and UK rejecting Russia's proposals to lift sweeping sanctions on Iraq. "This is a new evidence of America's savage hegemony." Qadissiya says Iraq will not accept anything less than "lifting the unjust embargo and ending aggression" by U.S. and British warplanes patrolling its skies in the north and south.
- Iraq's Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Abduljabbar Tawfiq Mohammed meets in Riyadh with his Saudi counterpart Khaled bin Mohammad al-Ankary. Iraq's Foreign Ministry undersecretary and former ambassador to the Arab League Nabil Najim attended the meeting. Iraq severed diplomatic ties with Saudi Arabia when the kingdom allowed a U.S.-led multinational force to use its territory as a base to attack Iraqi forces which invaded Kuwait in 1990.
- The London-based Center for Human Rights of the Iraqi Communist Party claims Iraq has executed 106 political prisoners arrested during and after a failed uprising in southern Iraq following the 1991 Gulf War and that the executions took place in the Abu Ghraib prison west of Baghdad in January. It says 21 prisoners were executed Jan. 5, 39 were executed 10 days later, and 46 were executed in Jan. 24. Iraqi dissidents have reported increasing signs of insurgency since the Feb. 19 assassination of the supreme leader of Iraq's Shiite Muslim majority, Ayatollah Mohammed Sadiq al-Sader, and his two sons.
- Iraqi Agriculture Ministry official says sanctions have crippled Iraq's agriculture and they are pessimistic about this year's harvest as a result of the spread of pests. They say lack of fertilizers, agricultural machinery, seed and weed killers and the means of spraying them prevented Iraq from growing the food it needed to feed its nearly 22 million people. "We are expecting a decrease in agriculture's yield this year that could reach up to 80 percent." He says the ministry was not able to combat weeds and pests

such as sunpest, dubas, humaira, corn stem borer, red spider mite and desert locust which had been infecting crops since last year. Before 1990, Iraq imported 70 percent of its food needs. Under sanctions it launched a big drive for self-sufficiency, rehabilitating rural infrastructure, cultivating more land, digging giant canals and increasing farm prices. Iraq claims the main cause for its deteriorating agricultural yield was its inability to use its fleet of 28 helicopters for spraying insecticides to fight pests and weeds because of Western-imposed no-fly zones in north and south of the country. These helicopters had also been grounded at a vital time by lack of spare parts. Statistics on crop production are among Iraq's closely guarded secrets. No forecast is available for this year's harvest but it is expected to be very low as there was also a shortage of rain during winter.

- A recent report by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said Iraqi wheat production, for example, had decreased to 1.06 million tons in 1997 from 1.24 million tons in 1995. Iraq needs three million tons of wheat to maintain its rationing system, which provides each person with nine kg (19 pounds) of flour per month. A rationing system under the oil-for-food deal provides little more than half of family food needs and has so far staved off mass famine. But price rises have made it impossible for most Iraqis to buy more food to cover their needs from the open market. The FAO report also said Iraq had suffered a sharp fall in livestock numbers over the past few years of sanctions. The total number of animals fell from 15 million in 1990 to little more than eight million in 1997, it said. In another report the FAO said that 327,000 out of nearly 2.5 million head of livestock hit by mouth and foot disease had died in Iraq because of a lack of vaccines. The UN Security Council's sanctions allowed Baghdad to buy one million vaccines to combat the disease under the oil pact.
  - UN relief organizations say they are working to alleviate the impact of what could be the worst drought in 50 years. Water levels in the Tigris and Euphrates rivers have dropped so much this year that people can cross them on foot, according to farmers and residents in northern Iraq. The *al-Ittihad* economic weekly says rainfall in Mosul, Iraq's breadbasket, has been the lowest in more than 50 years. The Mosul plateau, extending from the northern city of Mosul to the Syrian border, usually provides the country with up to 70 percent of its grain yields. This year, *al-Ittihad* said, rainfall has been one-fifth of last year, even insufficient to water land devoted to grazing cattle and sheep. The water shortage has forced the government to ban planting of rice, the country's staple food. Irrigation Minister Mahmoud Dhiab Ahmed has said the government might resort to strict water rationing. Last year, Iraq produced 300,000 tons of rice. The government granaries collected 1.2 million tons of wheat and 859,000 tons of barley. The drought, caused by little and late rains, will not affect the U.N.-approved oil-for-food deal that provides 22 million Iraqis with almost two-thirds of their basic needs including flour, sugar and rice. The oil revenue can, however, only be used to buy humanitarian supplies and food from abroad. Meanwhile, local produce has been used to provide additional rations to some 5 million poor Iraqis. The United Nations and the Iraqi government haven't issue forecasts, but warn privately that yields of wheat, barely and rice, will be at least 75 percent less than last year, a bumper year for crops. The UN humanitarian spokesman in Iraq, George Somerwill, says, "We've been aware for sometime that the very low rainfall of this year is certainly going to affect the annual harvest in Iraq." Senior Iraqi officials are holding separate meetings to evaluate the consequences of the drought on the livelihood of farmers and millions of Iraqis relying on their produce.
  - The Iraqi News Agency (INA) protests to the Arab League about the latest Turkish incursion in pursuit of Turkish Kurd guerrillas. "The Turkish recurrent invasion (of) Iraqi territories constitute violation of Iraq's land and airspace It constitutes flagrant violation of the UN Charter...and contradicts good neighborly relations. Turkish army officials has said the previous Monday that thousands of Turkish troops pressed into Kurd-controlled territory in northern Iraq in pursuit of Turkish Kurd guerrillas. Aydin Arslan, governor of the Turkish southeastern region under emergency rule, said the operation, believed to involve 3,000 troops backed by attack helicopters, had ended. He did not say when the troops, who crossed a week ago, had returned.
- 99-4-20: Assistant Secretary General Ahmed Bin Hilli of the Arab League says, "I am very worried about the Turkish violations of northern Iraq...The Arab League is following the issue with deep concern...these unilateral violations."

- 99-4-21: U.S. Air Force F-16Cs bomb anti-aircraft and surface-to-air missile sites west of Mosul in northern Iraq after they detect Iraqi radar posing a threat to coalition aircraft. The jets attack between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. local time. All return safely to their base. Iraq says they attacked civilian and military sites in the north and that air defenses forced them to flee. There is no mention of casualties or damage.
- *Al-Thawra* says an Anglo-Dutch proposal to restart UN monitoring of Iraqi disarmament threatens Iraq's independence, and that a Russian proposal aimed at lifting the sanctions on Iraq is unsatisfactory. "The Anglo-Dutch project resolution is very bad and wicked...and aims at restricting Iraq and putting it under long-term (Western) mandate... Iraq is now free of weapons of mass destruction and the means to manufacture them and has met all its (disarmament) commitments for the lifting of the embargo...and without that the (Security) Council should not expect Iraq to cooperate with it." It also expresses dissatisfaction with a Russian proposal to lift UN sanctions on Iraqi civilian goods while Secretary-General Kofi Annan forms a new UN arms monitoring body. "If we compare the Russian proposal with that of the British-Dutch proposal, the Russians are positive. But if we compare them with Iraq's rights they are less than we expected."
- The United Nations sanctions committee reports it approves 22 more contracts for spare parts to repair Iraq's oil industry. "During the week to 16 April...the (Security Council's sanctions) committee approved an additional 22 contracts for \$7,432,006 worth of oil industry spare parts...The total number of oil sector contracts approved to date is 431 worth \$248,1 million. The number of contracts on hold totals 104 worth \$42,5 million. The total of contracts received for approval was 665 with a value of \$375,4 million." Under phases four and five of the U.N.-Iraq oil-for-food deal, Baghdad is allowed to buy \$600 million worth of spare parts to upgrade its oil industry, Iraq has repeatedly complained that since the end of the fourth phase, it has only received contracts for spare parts worth no more \$11 million. The report also says that Iraq and the UN were close to reaching an agreement on contracts for equipment to improve Iraq's telecommunications system. The system has been heavily damaged in the Gulf War. The system has been partially repaired but remains out of date and short of spare parts. Iraq accuses the United States and British representatives at the sanctions committee of discriminating against the south of the country by blocking spare parts contracts to repair oil installations there for political reasons.
- 99-4-22: U.S. warplanes bomb Iraqi air defense sites in the northern no-fly zone today after being threatened by anti-aircraft fire. Air Force F-16s fired missiles at an Iraqi radar site east of the city of Mosul, some 250 miles north of Baghdad. U.S. F-15s also dropped laser-guided bombs on anti-aircraft sites east and southeast of Mosul. All planes leave the area safely.
- A letter from Iraq's Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahhaf to Secretary-General Annan accuses Iran of using the violent actions of an Iranian opposition group to justify a possible attack against Iraq. "Iran is trying to divert attention from the fact that it is supporting traitors and terrorist groups inside its territory." The letter accuses Iran of killing Shiite religious leaders in Iraq in an effort to arouse the underprivileged Shiite majority against the minority Sunni rulers. Iraq's official news agency issues a copy of the letter. Sahhaf rejects Iran's assertions that Iraq is to blame for the violent acts of the Mujahedeen Khalq, an Iranian opposition group with bases in Iraq. "The organization...has a presence in other countries bordering Iran in addition to having offices and officials in many other states." The group claimed responsibility for the killing of Iran's deputy chief of staff, Brig. Ali Sayyad Shirazi, on April 10. He was shot by gunmen disguised as Tehran city street cleaners as he left home for work on April 10. Shirazi was a senior army commander during Iran's 1980-88 war with Iraq. More than a million people were killed or injured on both sides in the war. The countries accuse each other of still holding prisoners of war. Al-Sahhaf said the Khalq also has bases in countries other than Iraq, some of them also neighbors of Iran. He says Iran is only "trying to find excuses and a cover" for any aggression it might carry out against Iraq and "to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs." The Mujahedeen Khalq, which has a close relationship with the Iraqi government, has more than 20,000 militarily trained men and women in at least five camps near the Iranian border. The group's fighters often target Iranian government sites. Iran also hosts Iraqi opposition groups, and Iraq accuses Iran of using them to foment trouble in Iraq. The exiled dissidents have been blamed for assassination attempts on several Iraqi leaders including President Saddam Hussein's son, Odai.

- Iraq accuses UN disarmament experts of damaging its main livestock vaccine plant by destroying equipment during a search related to biological weapons. The accusation by plant director Muntasir al-Ani disputes claims by Richard Butler that the factory is still capable of producing the vaccines. The government takes foreign media representatives on a guided tour Thursday of the plant in Daura, 12 miles south of Baghdad. Entangled pieces of destroyed equipment and small heaps of scrap are seen in many areas in the sprawling facility. Ventilation pipes and sluices are chopped off at several places. One autoclave, in the shape of a circular container for sterilizing and heating, was left intact while another in an adjacent room was cut to pieces. The UN inspectors had raided the plant in 1996 to dismantle equipment that Iraq acknowledged was installed in the plant to make weapons for germ warfare. Sinan Abdul-Hassan of Iraq's National Monitoring Directorate claims the inspectors "did not only destroy those parts but have disabled the whole factory." Al-Ani, the plant director, claims the inspectors spared some 40 pieces of equipment but also cemented and chopped off the factory's air-handling system, without which it will be impossible to start production. He says 28 pieces of equipment were dismantled, but he did not give details. Ewen Buchanan, spokesman for the UN Special Commission, says, "The reason why we destroyed it was because the Iraqis admitted themselves that they had indeed turned the place into a biological weapons factory producing the deadly agent Botulinum toxin."
- 99-4-23: The U.S. Defense Department denies charges by Iraq that its planes bombed targets in southern Iraq. "We did have some aircraft flying in the region and there was some unconfirmed anti-aircraft artillery fire from the ground. But we did not engage anything and all planes returned safely to their base." An Iraqi military spokesman had said air defenses drove off the attacking planes but gave no word on casualties or damage. He said that the, "Evil-doers and aggressors" were driven off to the dens of evil in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia."
- 99-4-24: Iraq's oil minister, Lt. Gen. Amer Mohammed Rashid and a delegation of senior Iraqi oil officials, travel to Moscow to ask Russian oil companies to honor commitments to develop Iraqi oil fields. The Russian company LUKoil, together with partners Zarubezhneft and Mashinoimport, struck a deal with Iraq in March 1997 to develop reserves in Qurna in southern Iraq. Potential output capacity from the field is estimated at 600,000 barrels a day. The deal required the Russian firms to start some of their operations in Iraq. But the Russian consortium has been reluctant to invest in Iraq despite repeated Iraqi pleas to comply with obligations made under the contract. The Russians are also trying to win another contract that will give them rights to the entire Qurna oil field region in southern Iraq, Oil Ministry officials said on condition of anonymity.
- Iraq's permanent representative in Geneva has delivered a demand to the committee for the "names of governments which have received compensation and failed to forward (the money) to those who filed for compensation," and says that Iraq suspects a UN committee is awarding Iraqi money collected as compensation for Gulf War damage to "imaginary parties". The 15-nation UN committee was established at the end of the 1991 Gulf War in order to compensate individuals, companies and governments for losses stemming from Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. It has received Kuwaiti, Saudi, Israeli and other requests totaling \$240 billion and has awarded \$3 billion. In March, the Geneva-based committee issued a statement expressing concern that some governments were holding on to too much of the awards rather than distributing them to the proper parties. Iraq's permanent representative in Geneva delivers a demand to the committee for the "names of governments which have received compensation and failed to forward (the money) to those who filed for compensation. The official Iraqi News Agency says, "Iraq is not surprised by the committee's issuance of Iraqi people's money to imaginary parties. Iraq has demanded in the past to become a party in the meetings of the committee and in the discussions of the compensation demands because it is the party which is paying huge amounts of money without legal grounds."
- Iraq claims that its crime rate dropped significantly in 1998. Brig. Gen. Hameed Othman Saba'a, director general of police, says crime dropped 7.8 percent in 1998 compared to 1997. Murders went down by 18.9 percent while murder attempts went down by 16.33 percent in 1998. Reported thefts dropped the most -- 49 percent, Saba'a only provides percentages and does not say whether there were other crimes that had increased. He also did not explain reasons for the drop. Possible factors include the UN oil-for-food program, which began in December 1996. The ruling Baath Party's militia also has a stronger presence

now, meant to discourage uprising attempts while U.S. and British planes are flying over the country. In the interview, the national police chief also says 2,088 prisoners were set free in 1998 after receiving lectures from Baath Party members. Lectures focus on religious issues, life after prison, how crime damages an entire family's reputation and how it harms a country already hard-hit by international sanctions. The three-month lecture course was approved by President Saddam Hussein in 1997 in order to give all prisoners an opportunity to rejoin and contribute to society. Prisoners take an exam at the end of the course to determine how qualified they are to be released. "Only 43 prisoners were imprisoned for committing crimes after being set free, which represents a good percentage."

99-4-25: U.S. Air Force F-16s drop laser-guided bombs and launched an anti-radar missile at sites south and northeast of Mosul. All planes leave the area safely.

-- Issam Hwaish, governor of the Iraqi Central Bank, says Iraq plans to begin printing larger denominations of its currency because the declining value of the dinar has rendered lesser-valued bills virtually useless. He says that the value of new bills would be of a "large amount." It was expected, however, that they would be valued at 500 or 1,000 dinars. Iraq's largest bill now -- the 250-dinar note -- is worth only 13 cents. Before the Kuwaiti invasion, \$1 bought 20 dinars on the black market and the largest bill was the 25-dinar note. In the last few days, the dinar has dropped to its lowest value in more than three years, trading at 2,000 to the dollar.

-- Iran claims Iraq is still holding more than 2,800 prisoners of war (POWs), nearly 11 years after the end of their 1980-1988 war. Brigadier-General Abdollah Najafi, who oversees POW affairs, says that 2,806 Iranians were still being held in Iraq, of whom only 400 were listed with the International Committee of the Red Cross. He says Iran has released 6,246 Iraqi prisoners in the Iranian year that ended on March 20th, and had agreed with Iraq to free the rest of its nationals detained here. The general does not give a figure for the total number of Iraqis held here. He says 3,587 Iraqis had sought asylum in Iran in coordination with the Red Cross, of whom six had been repatriated for unknown reasons. Last month, Iran repatriated 450 Iraqi prisoners in exchange for the release of 53 detained Iranians.

99-4-26: Iraq prepares birthday celebrations for President Saddam Hussein, who turns 62 on April 28<sup>th</sup>, including two large parades in his hometown Tikrit. *al-Thawra* says, "Official and popular celebrations are continuing in Iraqi provinces to mark the birthday of our beloved leader." *al-Qadisiya* says, "The birthday of Leader Saddam Hussein is a birthday for a whole nation." State radio and television broadcast special programs. Murals and statues of Saddam were unveiled this week across the country, and a large irrigation project will be inaugurated at Diyala 120 km (70 miles) north of Baghdad. The festivities will climax on April 28th with a parade in Tikrit, 170 km (110 miles) north of Baghdad.

-- A New Zealander working for the UN mine-clearance program in northern Iraq is killed by an unknown. The man, identified by New Zealand officials as Nicholas Geoffrey Speight, was shot on Saturday near the airport in Erbil, some 200 miles (350 km), north of Baghdad, where he had been walking with a Dutch UN employee. The gunman fired three rounds at her also but missed. The UN imposes a 7 p.m. curfew on UN staff in northern Iraq and put the area where the shooting occurred off-limits to staff. Last year UN staff were fired at twice by gunmen who approached their convoys but there were no casualties and no one has claimed responsibility. Iraq has frequently objected to UN mine clearance projects and said groups working on such activities in the north were fronts for British spies. It is reported to have security concerns about clearing mines near the Iranian border.

99-4-27: Iraq says four people are killed and others were wounded in air attacks in the north of the country. "Enemy planes bombed our service installations and weapons sites...and the bombing led to martyrdom of four citizens and injuring of others. Our missile forces and brave ground resistance units intercepted them and one hostile plane was seen by our observers with black smoke while heading towards Turkish airspace...11 hostile formations" made up of F-14, F-15 and F-16 planes entered Iraqi airspace from Turkey at 2:50 p.m. (1150 GMT). The planes, which were supported by early warning AWACS aircraft and flew over regions in Nineveh province, crossed back into Turkish airspace at 5:25 p.m. (1325 GMT).

-- The U.S. says that U.S. fighter jets bombed Iraqi air defenses in the northern no-fly zone on Tuesday after being tracked by Iraqi radar. "Responding in self-defense. USAF F-15E Strike Eagles and F-16C

Falcons dropped GBU-12 guided bombs on anti-aircraft sites northeast and south of Mosul.” All the aircraft left the no-fly zone safely.

- Iraqi President Saddam Hussein expresses support for Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic and his people in facing U.S. and NATO air attacks in a letter sent to Milosevic congratulating him on Yugoslav Republic Statehood Day “We stress our solidarity with the Yugoslav people and leadership in the face of aggression and external threats to this country.”
  - Iraq's Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan says he expects the United States to launch a surprise attack on Iraq, but the U.S. would pay dearly if it did so. “We expect the United States to launch a surprise military attack against Iraq any moment. Washington would pay a dear price if it does so because Iraq is fully alert to confront such aggression...The main aim of the embargo is to overthrow the government in Iraq.”
  - Iraq urges the Arab League on Tuesday to press Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to stop allowing U.S. and British warplanes from using their airbases to patrol the Southern no-fly zone. Iraq's Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf submits a memorandum to Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdel-Meguid, accusing Kuwait and Saudi Arabia of taking part in the U.S. and British air raids. Sahaf asks the Arab League secretary-general to interfere to stop these states from such aggressive acts that threaten Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity. “The support given by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to America and Britain proves that they are key partners in the aggression against Iraq. Iraq has the right to incur compensation for the damage inflicted against the people of Iraq.” Sahaf tells Meguid that U.S. and British warplanes carried out 189 sorties last week in southern Iraq coming from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.
- 99-4-28: Iraq celebrates President Saddam Hussein's 62nd birthday today with dancing girls, a military parade and a procession in which more than 100,000 people took part. The parade grounds on the eastern outskirts of Tikrit, the agricultural town where Saddam was born, are festooned with ribbons and, as elsewhere in Iraq, decorated with portraits of the president in all shapes and sizes. The security-conscious leader has never attended any of the public birthday celebrations that have been staged since 1985. Instead, he attends a private party with Iraqi children held at one of the presidential palaces. Iraq inaugurates a large dam on one of the tributaries of the Tigris River to mark President Saddam Hussein's birthday anniversary. Work on the \$10 million dam began in 1996 and more than 2,000 Iraqi engineers, technicians and workers took part. The dam has been built 180 km (110 miles) northeast of Baghdad and is designed to help irrigate 4.2 million square meters of land, produce electricity and cope with flooding of the Tigris in the Baghdad area.
- 99-4-29: U.S. fighters Iraqi air defense sites today in the northern no-fly zone with bombs and missiles after being threatened by radar and fired upon. USAF F-16s and F-15s bombed Iraqi anti-aircraft artillery and military sites near the city of Mosul, 250 miles north of Baghdad. F-16s also launch missiles on radar sites south and west of Mosul. The attacks come after the Iraqis fired anti-aircraft artillery and surface-to-air missiles, the statement said. None of the planes are hit.
- Iraq says 24 people were injured when the planes attacked civilian installations and weapons sites in the north and south of the country. A military spokesman is quoted by the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) as saying that in the raid in the north, Western planes “attacked our civilian installations, citizens' houses...and weapons sites. The bombing led to the injury of 20 citizens in Mosul.” INA says four people were also injured in southern Iraq. “At 2 p.m. (1000 GMT) 10 hostile formations, made up of F-14, F-15 and F-16 planes, violated our airspace coming from Turkish airspace... They carried out 23 sorties supported by early warning AWACS aircraft from inside the Turkish airspace and flew over Arbil, Dahuk and Mosul regions.” He adds that Iraqi anti-aircraft artillery challenged the planes, forcing them to go back to their Turkish bases at 4:50 p.m. (1250 GMT). The spokesman says the casualties in the south were caused when “18 hostile formations' coming from Kuwaiti and Saudi Arabian airspace attacked civilian installations and weapons sites.”
  - Iraq claims more than 7,500 persons have died in one month as a result of medical shortages caused by more than eight years of UN trade sanctions. “The death toll totaled 7,520 persons during last March

among children below five years and elderly people catching different diseases and from malnutrition due to the continuation of the unjust sanctions imposed on Iraq.” The ministry says 6,399 children under the age of five died of acute respiratory diseases, pneumonia and diarrhea, while 1,121 elderly persons died of heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes and cancer. The statistics draw a comparison between the percentage of deaths in March 1998 and the same month in 1999. “The average increase between the death rate in March 1998 and March 1999 totaled 1,296 or 26 percent.” Iraq has repeatedly said that over one million Iraqis have died because of the sanctions.

- Russian ultra-nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovsky, leader of Russia's Liberal Democratic Party, meets Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz on Thursday, voicing his party's solidarity with Iraq and condemning “U.S.-British aggression.” And expressing “support for Iraq vis-a-vis its legal demands in lifting the embargo, and condemnation of the continuation of the U.S.-British aggression on Iraq.” Aziz says the meeting underlined the support extended by “our friends...to Iraq's just struggle in the face of foreign threats and continuation of the embargo.” Zhirinovsky is to take part in an international conference on solidarity with Iraq that is due to start in Baghdad on May 2. Zhirinovsky held talks with Iraq's Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan earlier.
  
- 99-4-30: U.S. warplanes enforcing the northern no fly zone drop bombs and fire missiles at Iraqi defense sites today in response to enemy fire.. None of the warplanes are hit.
  
- Russian ultra-nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovsky meets Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on Friday and expresses solidarity with Iraq: “During the meeting, the importance of exerting effort...to confront America's hegemony and arrogance against Iraq and Yugoslavia and the world was emphasized.” Zhirinovsky also calls for support for a front that opposes “aggression and despotism of the United States of America,” and stresses the importance of developing and enhancing bilateral relations in all fields between Baghdad and Moscow.
  
- 99-5-1: Iraq says Western warplanes had entered its airspace in the south of the country on Saturday but that its air defenses had forced them to return to their bases in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. “At 8:50 (0450 GMT) this morning, May 1, 13 hostile formations of F-14s, F-15s, F-16s, Tornados and AA6B aircraft violated our national airspace. They flew over the provinces of Basra, Dhi Qar, Muthanna and Qadissiya and were engaged by our brave ground artillery and forced to flee to their bases in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia at 11:50 a.m.(0750 GMT).” Iraq says 12 formations of the same types of aircraft had flown over Iraq again at 4:40 p.m. (1240 GMT), this time over the regions of al-Salman, al-Laseq, Nassiriya, Amara and Samawa, and that they too had been engaged by anti-aircraft fire. It claims Iraq forces had monitored a conversation between the crew of one of the planes and an AWACS early warning craft planes indicating that it had been hit. INA quotes the governor of Mosul, Mohammed Abdul-Qader, as condemning the incident as a heinous crime against innocent people that would not be forgotten.
  
- Babil newspaper calls for workers throughout the Arab world on Saturday to boycott vessels and planes from the United States and the capitalist world. “Arab workers should boycott the enemy's vessels and planes in all Arab ports and pressure their governments to lift sanctions on Iraq, The world is dominated by a tragic situation thanks to world capitalism led by America. Under such a situation, workers in the Third World are facing more repression and class discrimination.”
  
- 99-5-2: U.S. warplanes bomb Iraqi air defenses in the northern no-fly zone after being fired upon. U.S. Air Force F-15E Strike Eagles drop GBU-12 precision guided bombs on anti-aircraft artillery northwest of (the Iraqi city of) Mosul. All of the aircraft left the region safely.
  
- *Babel* urges Iran not to normalize relations with the United States and said Tehran should instead resume normal ties with Baghdad. “This state (Iran) is determined to build a large military arsenal and starts to declare its military abilities publicly in a clear message (to states of the region...Iran's (expansionist) goals have been and are still known to everybody, whether during the rules of (the late) Shah, (the late Ayatollah) Khomeini...or (Iran's current president Mohammed) Khatami....So Iran's interest lies at the states of the region and particularly at Iraq with whom Tehran should normalize its ties.” Iraq says Iran still holds around 20,000 prisoners of war from the conflict. It also accuses Iran of intervention in the feuding between Kurdish factions of northern Iraq and it is still seeking the return of planes it flew to Iran

for safe keeping during the 1991 Gulf War. Iraq also hosts military cadres of the Mujahideen-el Khalq, opponents of Iran's religious rulers. Iran provides shelter to a group of Shi'ite Moslems who oppose the Baghdad government.

- *al-Thawra* criticized Secretary-General Annan over the NATO bombing of Yugoslavia, saying his recent peace mission was too late and dictated by Washington. "He (Annan) did not move to find a so-called political solution to Kosovo until he received orders from Washington... Washington gave him the green light to proceed with his mission only after it found itself in a dilemma and wanted to save ... The Secretary-General has not said a single word to condemn the (NATO) aggression or confirm its illegality and violation of the UN charter." Iraq has strongly condemned the NATO attacks on Yugoslavia over Kosovo that began in March. The attacks have received wide coverage in Baghdad's official media that are usually dominated by local news.
- 99-5-3: U.S. jets attack Iraqi air defense sites near the city of Mosul on Monday after being targeted by radar and fired upon by at least two surface-to-air missiles. USAF F-15E and F-16CJ jets fire anti-radiation missiles and precision-guided AGM-130 missiles at several surface-to-air missile sites. F-16s drop GBU-12 laser-guided bombs on one of the Iraqi missile sites. No details were provided on the result of the attacks.
- The state-run Iraqi News Agency claims that two civilians were killed and 12 injured when "the evil aggressors attacked one of our civilian sites" north of Mosul.. The U.S. statement says one of the surface-to-air missile sites was located in a "civilian town." In a departure from usual practice in describing U.S. air attacks on Iraqi air defense sites, the statement said the U.S. planes "did not target this site with bombs due to the potential of civilian casualties. U.S. planes fired missiles at that site, Later, Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon says the object targeted by U.S. jets in the civilian area was a radar. He said U.S. planes attacked the radar with a HARM, or high-speed anti-radiation missile, weapon. The incidents occurred between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. local time (between 4 a.m. and 7 a.m. EDT).
- Iraq claims two people were critically injured in southern Iraq by two bombs dropped by Western planes patrolling the country's no-fly zone. "Two citizens sustained critical wounds when two cluster bombs, dropped by American and British planes in the province of Dhiqar (Nassiriya) during their continuous aggression, exploded." INA names the two as Abd Nader and Hanan Btair. They were looking after their sheep in an area called Subbah last week when the two bombs detonated. The agency said civil defense units in the province defused two more bombs in the same area without further casualties, and that civil defense units in Nassiriya have defused more than 7,000 bombs since the end of the 1991 Gulf War,.
- Hans von Sponeck, UN humanitarian coordinator for Iraq says U.S. and British air strikes against Iraq might affect the UN humanitarian program for the country. "I am extremely sensitive to the effect of increasing air strikes on the implementation of the humanitarian program in Iraq... We in the UN must not take lightly events like these which affect human life, so... I made a spontaneous decision to make a site visit... I was deeply affected by what I saw -- the total destruction of a shepherd's family and all their possessions."
- The ruling Baath party newspaper *al-Thawra* criticizes the UN Security Council and the Arab League for failing to condemn the attacks.
- Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz says Iraq will not accept anything less than the removal of sweeping UN trade sanctions. "The stand already announced by the (Iraqi) leadership is that there will be no discussion on any next step before lifting the sanctions.... The Security Council failed because of American control on the Security Council and the exploitation by America of the veto privilege... The majority of the international community wants sanctions against Iraq lifted... but arrogant America uses its power and influence to blackmail and pressure them. " He spoke at the end of a three-day conference on the political, legal and humanitarian aspects of the UN sanctions and recent U.S. and British air attacks against Iraq. The conference was attended by representatives of political parties and personalities from Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America and a number of leading Arab figures.
- The UN estimates Iraq will earn more than \$3.7 billion during the latest six-month phase of the UN "oil-for-food" program that ends May 24 thanks to an increase in worldwide prices of oil and continued brisk

Iraqi exports. This is above the \$3.08 billion realized during the previous six-month period, but still well under the \$5.26 billion authorized by the Security Council last November. Since about one-third of the total is automatically deducted to pay reparations and meet other costs stemming from the Gulf war, Iraq should earn about \$2.5 billion to buy humanitarian supplies during the current phase. While this is less than the nearly \$3.5 billion that would have been available if it had been able to meet the \$5.26 billion oil sales target, it is more than the \$1.9 billion available to buy humanitarian goods during the program's previous six-month phase.

- Secretary-General Kofi Annan issues a report on the operation of the program from its inception in December 1996 until November 1998, recommending that spare parts for Iraq's oil industry should be funded outside the program, which currently earmarks \$300 million for that purpose every six months. It says this would provide, "an additional \$300 million available for humanitarian supplies...`There is... a need for the council to consider arrangements to allow additional funding through either bilateral or multilateral sources, over and above those made under the program, still subject to existing financial controls established by relevant decisions of the council," he said. What I have in mind in particular is the funding of oil spare parts and equipment for which \$300 million are currently allocated during a given phase." This recommendation agrees with a recommendation to the Security Council at the end of March by a panel on the humanitarian situation in Iraq which suggested that foreign oil companies should be authorized under bilateral production sharing agreements and UN supervision to export spare parts Iraq to increase its crude production.
- 95-5-4: The U.S. says its fighters broke off an attack on an Iraqi air defense radar near the northern city of Mosul after realizing the radar was in a civilian area. An F-16 fighter did attack the radar site, however, with a high-speed anti-radiation missile, or HARM. The state-run Iraqi News Agency says the attack killed two civilians and injured 12. Kenneth Bacon, a U.S. spokesman says, it "could be that he's constantly looking for ways to shoot down a U.S. plane and therefore recalibrating his air defense and other systems, better to enable him to do that. That's just speculation, but the pattern appears to be that he challenges for a while, we whack him day after day in response to his challenges, and then he pulls back and goes down for a period and does nothing. And then he comes back up and presents a new series of challenges, sometimes with slightly different tactics. One of his tactics now may be to place his air defense systems in civilian neighborhoods, thinking that he can challenge us with impunity, because he's done that."
- Iraq's Minister of Justice, Shabib al-Maliki , visiting Cairo for a conference, calls on Egypt to use its international influence to bring about a lifting of sanctions against his country. "My country expects Egypt, as a regional and international heavyweight, to play its role in ending the tragedy suffered by the Iraqi people."
- Iraq's Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf sends a letter to Secretary-General Annan urging the UN to stop taking 30 percent from revenues from its oil-for-food deal to compensate victims of its invasion of Kuwait. " The government of Iraq stresses that the 30 percent cut to pay compensation is unjust and affects humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people. The program is oil-for-food and medicine and not an oil-for-compensation. Deducting 30 percent for compensation is an oppressive measure that should be stopped."
- 99-5-6: The Iraqi News Agency quoted senior ruling Baath party member Abdul-Ghani Abdul-Ghafour as saying, "Iraq will challenge the planes of aggression which try to violate our national airspace. The curse of the Arab masses and history will be calamity on the heads of those harnessing Arab territories and waters as a springboard for enemy's planes and missiles" Abdul-Ghafour refers to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait . He stops short of referring to Turkey.
- Britain's Foreign Office Minister Derek Fatchett says that reports of recent executions and Shiite unrest in Iraq showed signs of weakness in Saddam Hussein's rule. "There have been signs coming out of Iraq of the weakness in his own ...That is not to say I am predicting that he will fall tomorrow. But I don't think that he has the hold that he had before Operation Desert Fox," he said, referring to the December air campaign. We have seen an increase in the number of executions of those who may be seen as critical of the regime, even if it is only mild criticism. We see unrest among the Shia community. I think these are

indications. The other sign of weakness is that Saddam Hussein is without a friend in the region. He has no friends at all among the governments and leadership of the Arab world and nobody is rushing to his defense within the Security Council. Saddam Hussein cannot refuse to cooperate and then expect to see the UN Security Council lift sanctions. Those two do not go together.

99-5-7: Iraq closes *Al-Musawir al-Arabi*, a state-controlled newspaper, accusing it of false reporting for an article that caused the currency to plummet. The paper quoted the Central Bank governor April 25 as saying he was going to issue larger denominations of currency because existing notes were virtually worthless. Iraq's largest bill is 250 dinars, or about 13 cents. After publication of the article, the dinar fell to its lowest value since Iraq started exporting oil under the UN oil-for-food program in 1996. Central Bank Governor Issam Hwesih denied the report two days later, but this failed to allay market fears. At one point last week, the dinar fell to 2,250 to the dollar. President Saddam Hussein and the Cabinet decided on the intention to issue a new banknote of a high value," the official Iraqi News Agency said. The closure of *Al-Musawir al-Arabi* appeared to help the dinar Friday, as it rose to 2,080 to the dollar. Before the invasion, \$1 bought about three dinars on the black market.

-- *Al-Thawra* says Iraq accept nothing less than the full lifting of the UN sanctions imposed for its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. "Iraq is determined to claim all its legal rights and at the forefront of these rights is the lifting of sanctions. Consequently, the people would eat with dignity without sympathy from anyone and there would be no need for the UN or other states to engage in looking for food for Iraqis. The UN and a number of states are busy looking for means to...import more food and medicine to Iraq. In the midst of this preoccupation, we lose the real objective of the memorandum and its temporary nature and Iraq's rejection of it as an alternative to the total lifting of sanctions."

-- Iraq announces it has created a new city called Saddamiyat al-Tharthar -- a lakeside vacation resort where nearly every brick is engraved with President Saddam Hussein's initials and a 30-foot bronze statue of him greets visitors at the gateway. It is located on the shore of the al-Tharthar lake, and was built over the last 11 months. Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan opened it by handing Saddam the city's key, in the shape of a 1 1/2-foot-long sword made of solid gold. Most Iraqis came to know about the existence of the city, 85 miles west of Baghdad, only when the ceremony was broadcast on state television. The city contains stadiums, an amusement park, hospitals, parks, a restaurant with a view of the lake and 625 homes including bungalows on a lakeside promenade. Most of the bricks in the buildings are stamped with Saddam's initials in Arabic, and statues of the president are strategically placed at intersections. The apparent secrecy around the construction was probably to avoid international criticism over government spending. Officials refused to say how much it cost to build the city. From a mile away one can see a statue of Saddam atop a three-story high white stone arch, the gateway to the city. Saddam, in military uniform, is posed with a raised right arm, as if welcoming visitors. The lake along which the city is built is artificial, dug out during the days of Iraqi prosperity before sanctions were imposed to punish Iraq for its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. The lake contains water drawn from the mountains of northern Iraq to irrigate land that could not be fed by the Euphrates River. One landmark in the city is the al-Majeed Grand mosque, large enough to accommodate 800 people. It is named for Saddam's family.

99-5-8: Iraq claims that U.S. warplanes bomb sites north of Baghdad and kill three people and injure two, state-run Iraqi television reported. It says the planes carried out 18 sorties, dropping 18 bombs on civilian and military positions, a spokesman for the Iraqi air defense command was quoted as saying by Iraqi television. The U.S. military says the planes struck after being targeted by radar. Air Force F-15s and F-16s dropped laser-guided bombs on anti-aircraft artillery sites northwest of Mosul, the statement said. Mosul is 250 miles north of Baghdad. It was the second time in a week that U.S. jets enforcing a no-fly zone over northern Iraq struck near Mosul.

-- Iraqi Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan leaves for Malaysia and Vietnam. Trade Minister Mohammed Mehdi Saleh and Industry and Minerals Minister Adnan Abdul Majeed accompany him. They will hold discussions with Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmed Badawi on bilateral and international issues of common concern and means of enhancing trade cooperation and similar topics with Vietnam's leaders. Vietnam's oil company Petrovietnam is tipped to sign a deal with Iraq to develop that Ammara field with a projected capacity of 80,000 barrels per day and at a total cost of \$300 million

- after UN trade sanctions are lifted. INA said that, after his visit to Vietnam, Saleh would travel to the United Arab Emirates to attend meetings of Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).
- The Iranian foreign minister, Kamal Kharrazi, says that Iran sees no "political will" on Iraq's part to normalize ties. "Iraq does not have the political will to resolve its problems with Iran. As long as there is no strong political will on the part of Iraq, normalization of relations cannot be achieved. Secondly, the Iraqi authorities do not trust even themselves. The behavior of the Iraqi government is not predictable."
- 99-5-9: Iraq says four people are killed and five wounded on when Western planes bombed targets in a no-fly zone in the south of the country.
- Iraq's Foreign Minister, Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf, condemned as the NATO missile strike on the Chinese embassy in Belgrade: "The criminal act against the Chinese embassy, which is part of the criminal aggression against Yugoslavia, proves that the United States does not regard nations' sovereignty. We express our solidarity with China as we also stand with Yugoslavia against the American aggression." Earlier, the government newspaper *al-Jumhuriya* attacks the United States. "The American missile attack against the Chinese embassy reflects how America enjoys killing and harming people's will....The U.S. policy of aggressiveness, terrorism and hegemony is the road of destroying international relations and manufacturing crises in various parts of the world...Those involved in targeting mistakenly believed that the Federal Directorate of Supply and Procurement was at the location that was hit. The military supply facility was the intended target, certainly not the Chinese Embassy."
- 99-5-10: U.S. warplanes hit Iraqi anti-aircraft artillery and command and control sites northwest of Mosul in the northern no-fly zone after they are tracked by Iraqi radar: "Responding in self-defense, U.S. Air Force F-15E Strike Eagles and F-16C Falcons dropped GBU-12 laser-guided bombs on Iraqi anti-aircraft artillery and command and control sites northwest of (the Iraqi city of) Mosul." The U.S.-British Northern Watch force operated out of the Incirlik airbase some 550 km (340 miles) from the Iraqi border.
- Iraq says "The hostile formations bombed one of our service installations and the hostile bombing led to the injury of a citizen... Iraqi anti-aircraft guns opened fire at the planes and forced them to leave our air space into their bases in Turkey at 12:10 p.m. local time (0810 GMT). At 09:55 a.m. (0555 GMT), 12 hostile formations violated our air space, coming from Turkish airspace. They implemented 24 sorties supported by the Early Warning AWACS from inside the Turkish skies." Iraq says the provinces the planes flew over as Duhok, Arbil and Nineveh. The Iraqi spokesman also said Western planes patrolled no-fly zones in southern Iraq. "At 10:20 a.m. (0620 GMT) and 5:14 p.m. (1314 GMT), 24 hostile formations violated our national air space coming from Kuwaiti and Saudi skies." He says U.S. and British planes carried out 42 sorties from Saudi Arabian air space supported by AWACS and flew over provinces of Basra, Muthanna and Dhi Qar and left Iraqi skies after being challenged by Iraqi anti-aircraft batteries.
  - *Al-Thawra* criticizes remarks by Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi that Tehran sees no "political will" on Iraq's part to normalize ties between the two neighbors. "We were surprised by the statement of the Iranian Foreign Minister ..that Iraq lacks the political will for rapprochement with Tehran... We were not expecting this to be said by the head of Iranian diplomacy, who is always described as being open-minded... Iraq possesses political will and adheres to it in its relations with others."
  - Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) -- one of two Kurdish groups that run northern Iraq -- tells the London-based *al-Hayat* newspaper that the United States was determined to make 1999 the year of change in Iraq and had "communicated this statement to the opposition. Washington told some governments in the region that 1999 would be the year of change in Iraq. He attributed the failure of the opposition to overthrow Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to "a wrong assumption by the Americans that a military coup could take place. It is almost impossible to have a military coup in Iraq."
- 99-5-11: U.S. F-16CJ jets dropped 500-pound laser-guided bombs on radar sites northeast of the city of Mosul in the north after they were targeted by the radars. In the south, F-16CGs and British Royal Air Force GR-1 jets based in the Gulf struck three Iraqi air defense sites near Basrah after they were fired at by anti-

aircraft guns. All planes return safely to their bases. Iraq says two civilians were killed and seven wounded when planes coming from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia bombed three targets in the southern no-fly zone. A military spokesman says the planes bombed sites involved in overseeing the transport of imported ration goods. Iraq said earlier that four people were killed and five wounded on May 10th when Western planes bombed targets in a no-fly zone in the south of the country.

- The Mujahideen Khalq claims Iranian government agents had attacked one of its bases in Iraq, killing an Iraqi, and fired at the group's Zahra Rajabi military camp near the Iraqi city of Kut 172 km (103 miles) south of Baghdad on Friday. It claims one Iraqi civilian was killed and two were wounded in the attack and that the attackers kidnapped another Iraqi and drove him back to Iran after attacking the base, which is 50 km (30 miles) from the Iraq-Iran border. It was the first reported attack on Mujahideen Khalq since Tehran threatened in April to avenge the assassination of a top Iranian general. The Iranian opposition group assassinated Iran's armed forces deputy joint chief of staff, Lieutenant-General Ali Sayyad Shirazi.
  - The Iran-based Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq claims many people were arrested during an Iraqi offensive in Nasiriya, a predominantly Shiite Muslim city 200 miles south of Baghdad. It claims several houses were destroyed by bombardment and the firing but the number of people killed or wounded has not been established yet. Nasiriya was the scene of heavy clashes between dissident Shiite Muslims and government troops in March after the Feb. 19 assassination of the supreme leader of Iraq's Shiite Muslim majority, Ayatollah Mohammed Sadiq al-Sader, and his two sons in Najaf.
  - Iraq says Kuwaiti authorities had executed an Iraqi jailed in the emirate since the 1991 Gulf War. The International Committee of the Red Cross said it had received information from the ICRC in Kuwait that Maliki died in detention. Al Jumhuriya says Maliki was convicted of setting up a secret branch of Iraq's ruling Baath party in Kuwait, and that he was informed he would be freed but was executed four days before his scheduled release. Last year, Iraq accused Kuwait of executing an Iraqi who was convicted of plotting to murder former U.S. President George Bush in 1993. But Western sources said Ali Badai died of cancer.
- 99-5-12: Iraqi Health Minister Umeed Madhat Mubarak attacks oil-for-food deal with the U.N, saying no medicine had arrived in Iraq under the latest phase of the pact. "We have signed contracts to buy medical supplies under phase five of the program but so far we have not received anything," Mubarak told reporters while opening a heart surgery center in Baghdad. In phase four we only received 19 percent of the amount allocated for medical supplies." A total of \$240 million had been allocated for medical supplies in phase five, while in phase four which ended last November some \$308 million went for medicines. The latest phase of the oil-for-food program, under which Iraq is allowed to sell a limited amount of oil every six months to buy food and medicines, expires on May 25. The United Nations says that some \$594 million worth of medicines and health supplies had arrived in the country. President Saddam Hussein had criticized the pact a week earlier, saying it aimed at turning Iraqis into a useless nation. "Our enemies want to turn us to chickens just to eat.... And because we are challenging the idea of being like chickens they (enemies) are fighting us..."
- 99-5-13: Iraq claims U.S. and British warplanes killed 12 civilians and destroyed livestock in a raid on northern Iraq Wednesday. It says they "bombed shepherds' tents in the province of Nineveh," 250 miles north of Baghdad, a number of others were injured, and the attack killed 200 sheep and wrecked a vehicle and a combine harvester, it said. Earlier, the U.S. military said its planes had bombed Iraqi air-defense sites north and northwest of Mosul, a city in Nineveh province. The U.S. military says its planes had acted in self-defense after being targeted by Iraqi radar and anti-aircraft artillery, and that initial damage assessment showed that one target was located near livestock. "Every effort is taken to avoid any collateral damage to civilians and civilian property.. Ultimate responsibility, however, lies with (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein."
- Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf sends a letter Secretary General Annan asking the UN to lift trade sanctions. "We ask you to frankly announce that the program has failed to alleviate the plight of Iraqis... The difficulties facing the implementation of the memorandum of understanding...have proved its failure to address the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Iraq." These difficulties include an inability to export enough quantities of oil allowed by the program because of a dilapidated oil

industry and the complicated way of implementing contracts. Sahaf says the only way to end the plight of Iraqis was “the lifting of the unjust embargo without any condition as a legal right that the United Nations should grant to Iraq...Iraq calls upon you to shoulder your responsibility by frankly announcing that the program has never, and will never, achieve the lifting of the great suffering of the Iraqi people. The only logical solution is the lifting of the blockade without additional conditions.”

-- The head of the UN program, Benon Sevan, says government warehouses are “literally overflowing,” with medicine that had been purchased through the program but not delivered. UN figures show that about \$570 million worth of medicine and medical supplies had arrived in the past two years, but that only 48 percent had been distributed to clinics, hospitals and pharmacies. Al-Sahhaf acknowledges that medicines had been held up in warehouses, but he blames the delay in distribution on New York. Some medicines can only be distributed with certain equipment, and when the equipment doesn't arrive, the medicine has to be stockpiled, he wrote.

--The Iraqi Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Saadi Tu'ma Abbas says that trade sanctions imposed by the United Nations after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait have closed three fifths of Iraq's industrial plants. “Sanctions have led to closure of 60 percent of Iraqi factories, There are currently 22,000 industrial projects closed because of the UN sanctions” He does not say what these factories produced or whether they were privately or publicly owned, or give figures of the numbers of jobs lost as a result of the factory closures. News reports say unemployment is running very high in the country.

99-5-16: Dissidents and travelers report that Saddam Hussein has reshuffled the army command in the wake of anti-government disturbances in recent months in southern Iraq. Changes include replacing deputies to the chief of staff along with commanders of the border guard and air defense units. Lt. Gen. Saeed Mohammad Fathi al-Mashhadani, the guard commander, was fired, arrested and then replaced by Lt. Gen. Kanaan Mansour Khalil as a result of the March 17-18 disturbances in Basra. Lt. Gen. Sabah Nouri Alwan and Lt. Gen. Ibrahim Ismael Mohammed were appointed as deputies to the chief of staff.

99-5-19: Iraq reports that “thirteen formations of enemy aircraft guided by an AWACS early warning aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti air space carried out 35 sorties over the south of the country but anti-aircraft artillery opened up forcing them to turn tail.” The Allied operation targeted the provinces of Dhi-Qar, Basra, Muthanna, and Maysan.

--A U.S. official reports that “the United States is willing to consider a proposal for a new U.N. relationship with Iraq that would allow foreign oil companies to invest in Iraq’s oil industry if Baghdad cooperates with U.N. arms inspectors.” The proposed British-Dutch resolution circulated Tuesday says Iraq must let U.N. inspectors resume monitoring Iraq’s weapons programs and provide “unconditional and unrestricted access” to all facilities and records for four months before any such investments would be considered. Before the United States gives its approval, it wants to study the exact condition that Baghdad would have to meet for the U.N. Security Council to consider authorizing any foreign investment. Iraq is likely to reject the British-Dutch draft because it does not meet Baghdad’s key demand that the oil embargo be lifted.

--Russia, China, and France suggest that the Security Council suspend sanctions on Iraq once a new arms monitoring system is in place, as part of a new round of negotiations on drafting a new United Nations policy on Iraq. Russia had initially suggested lifting sanctions on Iraq entirely, arguing that the removal of the oil embargo was the only way to persuade Iraq to allow the United Nations to resume overseeing the destruction of its weapons of mass destruction. The new joint proposal says sanctions should be suspended for 100 days after Secretary-General Kofi Annan reports that a system of monitoring Iraq’s banned weapons programs is operational. The suspension would roll over every 100 days unless Annan reports that the monitoring regime isn’t working effectively. Iraq’s foreign assets would remain frozen. The United States immediately rejected the draft and said it would consider a British-Dutch proposal instead.

99-5-21: The U.N. Security Council agrees to extend the oil-for-food program by unanimous vote. It allows Iraq to export \$5.26 billion in oil to buy humanitarian supplies. Council members are still deeply divided on how to improve humanitarian conditions and restart U.N. arms inspections.

99-5-23: U.S. warplanes strike at Iraqi military sites, responding to artillery fire during a routine patrol of the no-fly zone in northern Iraq. Air Force F-15Es bombed the Iraqi defense systems west of the Iraqi city of Mosul, 250 miles north of Baghdad. Baghdad claimed two civilians were injured in the attack.

99-5-24: Armed opposition groups claim to fight a nine-hour battle with elite Republican Guards in southern Iraq last week, killing 80 soldiers near Kut, 160 km south of Baghdad. The opposition says it forced government soldiers to retreat, "leaving behind their dead and destroyed weapons". Seven dissidents were wounded. This report cannot be independently confirmed.

--Islamic resistance fighters say they launch rockets on government and army headquarters in the Diyala province, 60 km north of Baghdad. The offices of the governor, military security, and two army headquarters buildings sustained heavy losses in men, equipment and buildings. This report cannot be independently confirmed.

--A leading Baghdad newspaper accuses Britain of trying to rewrite a U.N. resolution with its proposal to allow foreign investment in Iraq's oil sector. It describes the British-Dutch proposal as "a deceitful attempt to rewrite (Security Council) Resolution 687 and other which came after it." Iraq argues that its banned arms programs have already been destroyed in more than seven years of UN disarmament. It accused Washington and London of aiming to "transform the Iraqis into mere poultry whose oil is controlled by humanitarian organizations to assure their minimum needs in food and medicine" and said that an immediate lifting of sanctions coupled with a halt to US and British air strikes were "the only way out of the vicious circle which the Security Council has got itself into."

99-5-25: U.S. fighter planes attack an Iraqi air defense site north of Mosul today after they are fired on during routine patrols in the northern no-fly zone. U.S. Air Force F-15s and F-16s drop GBU-12 and GBU-10 laser-guided bombs on the site, a communications facility that the U.S. military said was being used to pinpoint allied planes for attack by Iraqi surface-to-air batteries. The Incirlik air base reports that all jets left the area safely.

--The Iraqi government formally renews its oil-for-food deal with the United Nations that provides food and medicine for its people. The program allows Iraq to bypass U.N. trade sanctions imposed after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait and sell limited amounts of oil on condition the proceeds are used to buy food, medicine, and humanitarian goods. The program is approved in six-month phases. Iraq has so far received up to 10 million tons of food through the program.

--State Department spokesman James P. Rubin announces that the Clinton administration will provide material and training for the Iraqi opposition, but no military help for now. Rubin said the administration would assist in establishing offices to help the opposition groups work together. He also said the groups would get computers, training in civil administration, and advice on distributing anti-Saddam information.

--News that Iraq will continue oil sales for another six months under the UN oil-for-food plan causes oil prices to fall further. Benchmark Brent blend crude oil futures for July delivery traded 15 cents lower at \$15.13 a barrel, extending losses from Monday when prices closed 33 cents lower. Oil prices are now some two dollars below their early May peak after being carried up from single-digit prices by supply cuts by major OPEC producers.

--Iraq decides to cut government expenditure by 10 percent in an effort to stabilize and boost the value of the Iraqi dinar, which has fallen to about 2.180 to the dollar as a result of UN sanctions. The currency rate had started to slip in the last few days amidst rumors that authorities planned to issue new large-denomination bank notes. Prior to the invasion of Kuwait the official rate was nearly \$3 to one dinar.

99-5-26: Iraqi opposition leaders meet in Washington and seek U.S. assurances of protection for Iraqi civilians, including a commitment to strike at Iraqi government forces on the ground. Washington says it plans to start providing goods and services to the opposition under last year's Iraq Liberation Act, which made more than \$97 million available, mainly in the form of access to Pentagon inventories. Members of the Iraqi National Congress (INC) said the forces of Saddam Hussein were already taking reprisals against civilians in the expectation that U.S. support would encourage resistance activities. Opposition leaders

have also suggested that the U.S. define the level of protection it can provide for the Kurds in the north, set up a "no-drive zone" that Iraqi military vehicles could not enter, and loosen the rules of engagement for U.S. warplanes patrolling the northern and southern "no-fly zones".

99-5-28: An Iraqi-American family is killed last week in their McLean, Virginia home. Fuad Taima and his wife Dorothy and son Leith are found dead on May 28<sup>th</sup>. One government source knowledgeable about similar cases said the slaying fit the modus operandi for what Iraqi operatives do to people whose business dealings with Saddam Hussein go sour. Taima was a founder of the American Iraqi foundation. Taima's car had been firebombed in front of the family's house in 1990, about the time that he helped create the foundation. The investigation is ongoing.

99-6-1: Iraqi television reports that the Iraqi cabinet has decided to develop several oilfields to restore pre-Gulf War production. Iraq's Oil Minister Amri Muhammad Rasheed said that Iraq is planning to increase oil production to three million barrels per day by the end of 1999 and to more than 3.5 million barrels per day by the end of 2000. Television reports that the Oil Ministry's motion urges its personnel to make use of technical expertise of foreign companies, but does not name any companies. Iraq currently produces 2.65 million bpd of crude oil, and exports an average of 2.0 million bpd.

--Russia call an urgent Security Council session to accuse UNSCOM of leaving behind some dangerous "chemical substances" in its laboratory in Baghdad. UNSCOM officials said it was known that they had a laboratory with miniscule samples of nerve gas necessary for their work and to calibrate testing equipment. They had also stored 1 kg of mustard shell samples, which Iraq claimed were no longer active but which UNSCOM last year said was not the case.. The officials say the laboratory was not dismantled when inspectors left because they thought they would return. Concerned that power shortages and summer heat might destroy equipment, arrangements are being made to return to Baghdad to dismantle the lab. The issue has divided the permanent members of the Security Council: U.S. and British officials believe Moscow's claim is exaggerated, while Chinese and French diplomats are viewing it more seriously.

99-6-2: U.S. warplanes attack Iraqi air defenses after being targeted by radar in the no-fly zone in northern Iraq. A statement from Incirlik air base said that warplanes drop precision-guided bombs on Iraqi positions near Mosul. The planes then depart the area safely.

-- Iraq sends an envoy to Manama to brief Bahraini officials on its relations with the U.N. Security Council and the effects of U.N. sanctions on the country. The officials Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Foreign Minister under-secretary Nizar Hamdoun, formerly Iraq's U.N. representative, had arrived in Manama. INA said he was due to discuss with Bahraini officials "Iraq's relations with the Security Council, the plight of the Iraqi people due to the continuation of the embargo... and bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries."

99-6-3: UN efforts to organize a team to dismantle its chemical laboratory in Baghdad before summer meet with visa delays from Iraq. Iraq had not responded to a request for a visa for Jaako Ylitalo of Finland, a member of UNSCOM, to go to the Baghdad compound along with UN humanitarian officials now in Baghdad. Ylitalo will be accompanied or followed by a larger team which would also hand over medical equipment for use of UN staff in Iraq.

--Iraq accuses the United States of doing all it can to delay implementation of Security Council resolutions to lift sanctions. Iraq's U.N. representative Saeed al-Musawi also accuses the U.S. of interfering in Iraq's affairs by supporting Iraqi opposition, "a flagrant violation of the U.N. Charter and international law." He stated that the United States and Britain "are the first to violate the Security Council resolutions once those resolutions contradict their interests via use of force."

99-6-4: Bahraini Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa and an Iraqi envoy discuss Iraq's relations with the United Nations. Sheikh Hamad holds a meeting with Iraq's Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Nizar Hamdoun. The papers reported that "there was an emphasis on working to lift sanctions on Iraq and boost Arab solidarity."

99-6-8: U.S. warplanes bomb Iraqi communications facilities after being fired upon by anti-aircraft artillery in the northern no-fly zone over Iraq. F-15 Strike Eagles and F-16 Fighting Falcons, “responding in self-defense”, drop GBU-12 laser guided bombs on the sites east of the Iraqi city of Mosul. A statement by the U.S. military says that the military facilities were being used to relay information on American and British aircraft to Iraqi anti-aircraft units.

-- French sources report that Iraq has proposed exchanging \$915 million of oil for foodstuffs in the sixth round of the U.N. oil-for-food deal and, more controversially, want to buy telecommunications and other equipment. On top of staples such as rice, wheat, and milk powder, the list of items included funds for telecommunications, electricity, water purification, and other equipment related to food. The sources gave no details on equipment demands, stressing that the inclusion of hardware was a stumbling block to the deal on the grounds that it could be used for purposes other than the distribution of necessities.

--Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Martin Indyk testifies to the House International Relations Committee about the Middle East in general, including Iraq. He stated: “Our policy rests on three pillars. First, as long as he is around, we will contain Saddam Hussein in order to reduce the threat he poses both to Iraq’s neighbors and to the Iraqi people. Second, we will seek to alleviate the humanitarian cost to the Iraqi people of his refusal to comply with UNSC resolutions. Finally, we will work with forces inside and outside Iraq, as well as Iraq’s neighbors, to change the regime in Iraq and help its new government rejoin the community of nations.” Indyk said nothing about restoring UNSCOM or even a modified UNSCOM to Iraq. He explained: “We maintain a robust force in the region, which we have made clear we are prepared to use should Saddam cross our well-established red lines. Those red lines include: should he try to rebuild his weapons of mass destruction; should he strike out at his neighbors; should he challenge allied aircraft in the no-fly zones; or should he move against the people living in the Kurdish-controlled areas of northern Iraq.” He suggested that the United States was concerned about the fate of Iraq’s Shi’ite Arab population: “The United States is concerned for the protection of all Iraqis against the repression of the Baghdad regime. Hence, we believe that the world community should tolerate no backsliding from Baghdad’s obligations under any of the UNSC resolutions intended to protect the people of Iraq and its neighbors from the depredations of the current Baghdad regime. In particular, UNSC resolution 688 twice cited the consequences of Baghdad’s repression of the Iraqi civilian population as a threat to international peace and security. It therefore demanded that Baghdad “immediately end this repression.” Baghdad is in flagrant violation of this UNSC resolution, as it is of so many others.”

99-6-10: The United Nations rejects an Iraqi press report that a British UN employee buried boxes containing locust eggs in an attempt to sabotage Iraqi agriculture. In a June 5<sup>th</sup> report by the Iraqi News Agency, unnamed officials of Iraq’s agriculture ministry made the accusation against a Briton named Reed working for the UN agency responsible for mine-clearance in an area near the Iran-Iraq border. The head of the UN Iraq program, Under-Secretary-General Benon Sevan expresses serious concern that such allegations should be made public without any supporting evidence and called for the officials to withdraw their allegations.

-- Iraq blames Iran for a bomb blast against the Mujahideen Khalq in Baghdad that killed seven people. The Mujahideen Khalq says that most of the victims were travelling on a bus to one of its camps northeast of Baghdad when it was hit by the blast of a pickup truck filled with explosives. The blast also hit a nearby bus carrying civilians. Six Mujahideen members and one Iraqi civilian were killed and over 20 wounded. Iran denied any involvement and said it “believed Baghdad was blaming Iran as a “tactical move to deflect attention from their criminal record of the past, as well as to camouflage future terrorist activities.”

--Leaders of the two main Iraqi Kurdish groups are to meet to settle their rivalry. Leaders of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan and the Kurdistan Democratic Party plan to hold talks in Washington, DC on June 16<sup>th</sup> to resolve problems over implementing a US-brokered agreement signed in September. The groups have focused more on fighting each other than on toppling the regime of Saddam Hussein. Under the accord reached in September, the two groups decided to hold regional elections in the summer and to share revenues and power. However, the KDP is accused of failing to comply with its obligations, holding scores of PUK members hostage, and refusing to allow some 10,000 displaced persons to return to villages and towns under its control. KDP leadership accused the PUK of stalling on the agreements and harboring bases for the Turkish Kurdish Workers Party that is fighting for autonomy from Turkey.

99-6-11: Iraq says Iran had fired three long-range missiles at an Iranian exile opposition group inside Iraq. The official Iraqi news agency quotes a government spokesperson as saying "The Iranian regime fired three ground-to-ground missiles at a base camp inside Iraq which belongs to Mujahideen Khalq." Earlier, a statement by the Iraq-based Mujahideen Khalq accused the Iranian government of firing several Scud missiles at its Ashraf camp, 110km northeast of Baghdad. A spokesman for the Mujahideen said the missiles caused no casualties among the group's members at the base, but that several casualties were reported among Iraqis living in a village nearby. An Iraqi spokesman said: "Such aggressive acts by the Iranian regime escalate the situation and threaten sincere efforts exerted by Iraq to set up ties based on good neighborliness." He also said the attack followed several "terrorist and criminal acts carried out by agents of the Iranian regime inside Iraq, the last of which, a car bomb on June 9, killed several Iraqis and six members of the Mujahideen Khalq. The Iraqi spokesman urged the UN Security Council to intervene to prevent such "Iranian aggression." Iran appears to have stepped up attacks on the Mujahideen since the group claimed two months ago it had assassinated the Iranian armed forces' deputy chief of staff, Lieutenant General Ali Sayyed Shirazi.

--An Iraqi newspaper condemns the United States for appointing UN chief weapons inspector Richard Butler to a prestigious think-tank, saying Washington wanted to reward him for spying on Iraq. Butler, an Australian diplomat who headed the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) charged with disarming Iraq, will join the prestigious New York-based Council on Foreign Relations on July 5<sup>th</sup>. He will also write a book about his experiences hunting down Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

99-6-15: Britain circulates a draft resolution aimed at suspending Iraqi sanctions to members of the UN Security Council. The resolution would not allow the temporary lifting of trade sanctions until Iraq promises to carry out obligations under previous resolutions and demonstrated compliance for at least eight months. The initial four-month suspension could be renewed by the Security Council for a 120-day period. The measure proposed a new UN entity to replace UNSCOM- the UN Commission on Inspection and Monitoring (UNCIM)- that would prepare a list of key remaining tasks, not fulfilled under UNSCOM that Iraq would have to carry out before suspension of sanctions was considered. The proposal also requires that the International Atomic Energy Agency approve the suspension of sanctions. The British move leaves the United States the sole country in the UN Security Council to oppose the suspension of sanctions.

99-6-16: Iraq says the United Nations was hindering Baghdad's bid to resume operations at a war-damaged oil terminal by delaying spare parts. Director General of the Southern Oil Company Rafid al-Debouni states that a UN committee suspended deals signed last year during the fourth phase of the oil-for-food deal and declared the terminal Mina al-Amiq, the second largest terminal after Mina al-Bakr in the south with an exporting capacity of 75 million tons per year (550 million barrels) was ready for exportation except for the demands which have been suspended. Iraq has been allowed under the oil pact to purchase \$600 million worth of spare parts to fix its dilapidated oil installations. Under the latest phase of the program Iraq asked to deduct another \$600 million from its oil revenues to buy oil spare parts. Debouni blamed the United States and Britain for the delay in the arrival of spare parts to Iraq.

99-6-17: Bayan Jabr, the representative in Syria and Lebanon for the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI), states that the United States is in no rush to remove Saddam Hussein and wants a similar regime to succeed him. "So far eight years have passed and the Americans haven't done the job and maybe they need another eight years. But they are not in a hurry," he said. Jabr says the American government wants to create a situation like that in Turkey, where the military has kept Islamists from wielding power. Jabr says SCIRI sought a broad-based revolution that would end Iraq's history of successive dictators and introduce a real parliamentary democracy, but that the United States refused to guarantee protection from Saddam's military for those involved in an insurrection, leaving them open to a repetition of the type of reprisals seen after the Shi'ite rebellion in 1991.

-- French President Jacques Chirac tells President Clinton that a British proposal to suspend the UN oil embargo against Iraq was pointless because Iraq will reject its conditions. Chirac says that since Iraq would doubtless reject the demands of the draft resolution, "it would be somewhat a pointless gesture that would not lead to any concrete results, but might strain the solidarity of the Security Council." Chirac and Clinton agreed to discuss the issue at the weekend summit of the Group of Seven in Cologne, Germany.

- 99-6-18: Abdulghani Abdulghafur, a leading member of the Iraqi regional command of the Ba'ath party, says that Iraq will not accept the British proposal for a conditional suspension of UN sanctions because it does not provide for their immediate lifting. "The circulation by both Britain and America of vicious plans at the Security Council is meant to prolong the unfair embargo on Iraq.... Iraq will accept nothing short of an immediate lifting of sanctions." Abdulghafur is the most senior Iraqi official to respond to the British-Dutch initiative.
- 99-6-21: Iraq reports that six people are injured when Western warplanes bomb targets in the south of the country. The spokesman says, "Our missile forces intercepted them and forced them to depart our airspace into their bases of blasphemy in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait." He also said that warplanes attacked civilian and service installations in the north of the country. The US Air Force's European Commission says US warplanes bombed Iraqi radar facilities north of the city of Mosul after being fired at by anti-aircraft artillery. The attacks took place between 11:30 am and 2 pm Iraqi time and all aircraft returned safely.
- 99-6-22: US Air Force planes bomb Iraqi radar facilities around the city of Mosul for the second day after being fired at by anti-aircraft guns. F-16s and F-15s attack a military command and control center northwest of Mosul. The attacks take place between 11:30 am and 1:30 pm Iraqi time and all aircraft return safely to the Incirlik base in Turkey.