

DENISE L. MAJETTE

4TH DISTRICT, GEORGIA

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-1004

June 5, 2003

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Luther C McKinnon, Jr.

Chamblee, GA 30341

Dear Luther:

Thank you for contacting me regarding the recent conflict with Iraq. I appreciate your interest in this important matter and sincerely apologize for any delay in my response.

Like many Americans in my District and throughout the nation, before the war I expressed reservations about the use of military force against Iraq without the full support of the international community. I had hoped this issue could have been resolved without resorting to an armed conflict. I was also concerned about a U.S. policy based on unilateralism and preemption.

Before I was sworn in as a new member of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Congress had already spoken on this matter. Last October, the Congress passed -- with substantial Democratic support -- House Joint Resolution 114 (H.J.Res.114), which gave the President specific authorization to:

“use the Armed Forces of the United States as he determines to be necessary and appropriate in order to defend the national security of the United States against the continuing threat posed by Iraq and [to] enforce all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions regarding Iraq.”

Prior to the use of force, the resolution also required that the President make a determination that:

“reliance by the United States on further diplomatic or other peaceful means alone either (A) will not adequately protect the national security of the United States against the continuing threat posed by Iraq or (B) is not likely to lead to enforcement of all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions regarding Iraq.”

For better or worse, H.J.Res. 114 gave the President all domestic authority he needed to use force against Iraq.

After receiving Congressional authorization to use force, the Administration engaged in lengthy diplomatic negotiations with members of the U.N. Security Council. In November, the Security Council ultimately adopted Security Council Resolution 1441 which in part called on Iraq to fully comply with an inspections regime for its weapons mass destruction programs and warned of “serious consequences” if Iraq did not comply. Resolution 1441 left open the possibility of further U.N. action prior to the actual use of force against Iraq, but it did not specifically overturn U.N. Security Council Resolution 687, which specifically stated that the 1991 Desert Storm

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cease fire was contingent upon Iraq's full acceptance of and compliance with the inspections regime. In fact, Resolution 1441 specifically stated that Iraq was in material breach of Resolution 687.

On March 17 and after some limited weapons inspections in Iraq, President Bush issued a final ultimatum to the government of Iraq which received no substantive response. The ultimatum cited Iraq's continued failure to abide by U.N. Security Council resolutions with respect to Iraq's weapons of mass destruction programs, including Resolution 1441. The President then made the determination, required by H.J.Res. 114, that the use of the Armed Forces of the United States was necessary and appropriate in order to defend the national security of the United States against the continuing threat posed by Iraq. Shortly thereafter, U.S. military forces were committed to battle in Iraq.

Regardless of whether we agreed with the President's decision or the conditions preceded the decision, when our troops were sent into battle, it was our duty to stand behind our men and women in uniform and make sure they had what they needed to get the job done. During the time our nation was at war, we needed to speak with one voice.

It appears that the majority of hostilities are over. We have a new opportunity to work with the international community, the United Nations and, more importantly, the people of Iraq to reshape the Iraqi government. We should work to promote the development of a stable democracy that respects the rights of all people in Iraq, including women and minorities. We should help rebuild Iraq. Most importantly, in the short-term, we should do what we can to provide humanitarian relief to the people of Iraq who are suffering as a direct result of years of oppression and the aftermath of the war.

On a broader scale, we need to work to rebuild our relationships with the international community that were damaged during the diplomatic phase of this conflict. I am pleased to note that on May 22, 2003, the U.N. Security Council, with U.S. support, adopted Resolution 1483 which lifted sanctions against Iraq and called on the international community to assist in the rebuilding of Iraq and the provision of humanitarian relief.

Thank you again for contacting me. Please be assured that should the House of Representatives have the opportunity to further address this matter, I will be certain to remember your comments.

It was good to hear from you. I hope you will continue to contact me on matters of concern to you.

Sincerely,



Denise L. Majette
Member of Congress

DLM:mg

SAXBY CHAMBLISS
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United States Senate

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November 14, 2003

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Mr. Luther C. McKinnon, Jr.

Atlanta, Georgia 30341

Dear Mr. McKinnon:

Thank you for contacting me about the United States' policy towards Iraq and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

On May 1, 2003, aboard the U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln, President Bush announced that the major combat operations in Iraq had ended. Only forty-four days after the launch of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the war was over. The battle was swift and decisive, bringing an end to Saddam's legacy of terror and new freedom to the Iraqi people.

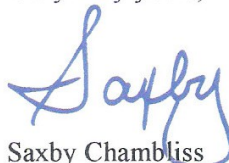
We have begun the work to help rebuild Iraq. This will not be an easy task, but I believe that it will be worth every effort. American soldiers are hunting down leaders of Saddam's old regime. Work is underway to find hidden chemical and biological weapons and hundreds of potential sights have already been identified. Hospitals and schools are being erected and Americans and Iraqis are working hand in hand to establish a new democratic government. I also understand that after a conflict such as this, American soldiers and their families want nothing more than their safe return home. However, our troops are committed to remain as long as they need to establish a new government in Iraq and not a day longer.

While the battle in Iraq may have ended, the war on terrorism still goes on. American soldiers have removed a known ally of Al Qaeda and a major source of funding for terrorism, but those that abhor America and would destroy it are not idle. Our enemies have a hate for our country and for what we stand for that we cannot comprehend and we are only going to be safe when these people are incarcerated or dead.

My hope is that this war on terrorism will end soon. I do not know how long it will last, but I do know that America is right, and the storm unleashed will continue until this evil is eradicated.

Again, thank you for sharing your concerns. If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Very truly yours,



Saxby Chambliss
United States Senate

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April 5, 2004

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Mr. Luther C McKinnon, Jr.

Chamblee, Georgia 30341

Dear Mr. McKinnon:

Thank you for contacting me about the United States' policy towards Iraq and the foreign intelligence capabilities of the United States with regard to weapons of mass destruction.

On December 14, 2003, American soldiers captured Saddam Hussein hiding in a filthy spider hole beneath a farmhouse near his hometown of Tikrit. The detainment was swift and his legacy of terror ended with a whimper, as he begged the soldiers for his dismal life. I am very proud of President Bush's unflinching leadership and of our men and women in uniform who helped secure this major victory for the Iraqi people. After major combat missions ended on May 1, 2003, the Iraqi people had more freedom than they had experienced in 30 years, now they can have freedom from fear, knowing that this tyrant will never rule again. We will continue the work to help rebuild Iraq. It has not been an easy task to date, but I believe that it has—and will continue to be—worth every effort. American soldiers will continue to hunt down leaders of Saddam's old regime.

On February 6, 2004, the President appointed a blue ribbon commission to conduct an independent investigation of the effectiveness of intelligence capabilities of the United States with regard to weapons of mass destruction. The commission will be chaired by Charles Robb (D-VA), former United States Senator and Governor of the State of Virginia. Additionally, the Central Intelligence Agency (C.I.A.) is conducting its own independent review of intelligence capabilities; the Senate Intelligence Committee, of which I am a member, is in the midst of another independent investigation about our intelligence capabilities in Iraq; and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives is conducting a similar review as well.

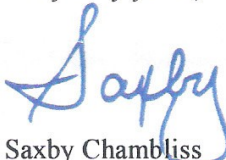
I can assure you that we are vigorously exercising our oversight responsibilities and will continue to do so in an effort to ensure that we have the best, most effective capabilities possible to combat the scourge of terrorism and to address the many other threats to our national security. While Saddam Hussein has been captured, the war on terrorism still goes on. Those that abhor America and would destroy it are not idle and we are only going to be safe when these terrorists are incarcerated or dead. I am confident that better intelligence can only lead to a more secure homeland and increased safety for our deployed soldiers and diplomats around the globe. During these various investigations, you may be sure that I will continue to work with the

President and my colleagues in the Senate to bolster the strength of our nation's intelligence gathering capabilities and to continue to support our nation's war on terror.

My hope is that this war on terrorism will end soon. I do not know how long it will last, but I do know that America is right, and the storm unleashed will continue until this evil is eradicated.

Again, thank you for sharing your concerns. If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Very truly yours,



Saxby Chambliss
United States Senate

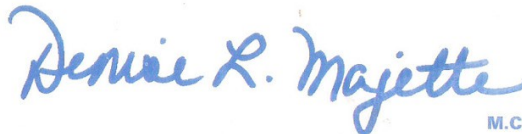
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