

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION NO. 03-019

Opposing Unilateral Preemptive Military Action Against Iraq by the United States

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. The United States is part of the family of nations and a charter member of the United Nations, subscribing to its principles, including Article 2(4), which states that "All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state" except in self-defense, responding to an armed attack, under Article 51.
- b. The Board agrees with the articles of the United Nations Charter and the principles of international law on the peaceful resolution of disputes.
- c. The government of Iraq has agreed to the unconditional return of international weapons inspectors to determine Iraq's compliance with United Nations Security Council resolutions concerning the development and possession of weapons of mass destruction by Iraq.
- d. The people of Multnomah County have the deepest respect for those service men and women who are willing to risk their lives to protect the United States.
- e. A preemptive war against Iraq will place the lives of people of the United States and military personnel in unnecessary jeopardy. The best support we can offer our troops is to extend all efforts to pull the country back from the brink of war.
- f. A preemptive Iraq war will create substantial challenges to international relief agencies and their efforts to provide humanitarian aid to the civilian populations of Iraq.
- g. A war in Iraq would likely cost the U.S. government over \$100 billion, an amount that could go a long way to meeting our health and education needs.
- h. A better use of federal resources would be to help local communities and states address fiscal deficits without raising taxes or cutting valuable programs that benefit working people and the poor.
- i. The people of Multnomah County and their local elected officials have the constitutional right, indeed duty, to petition the national government on this matter of grave concern to our community as part of the national and international debate now underway.

- j. The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners cannot speak for all residents but has been asked by many people to speak out on this momentous issue facing our nation.
- k. It is in the best interests of our country, and for peace among the nations of the world, for the United States to act in concert with the United Nations and not unilaterally, to bring about Iraq's compliance to disarmament of any weapons of mass destruction.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:

1. The Board:

- Opposes the U.S. threatened violation of the United Nations Charter by unilateral, preemptive military action against the sovereign nation of Iraq, and the dangerous precedent such action would establish.
- Urges the President and Congress to work with and through the United Nations to obtain compliance by Iraq with United Nations Security Council resolutions.
- Asserts that war should not to be undertaken unilaterally or preemptively by the U.S.

2. A copy of this resolution will be forwarded to President George W. Bush, Oregon Senators Gordon Smith and Ron Wyden; Oregon Representatives Earl Blumenauer, Peter DeFazio, Darlene Hooley, Greg Walden and David Wu; and U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan.

ADOPTED this 30th day of January 2003.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON


Diane M. Linn, Chair

REVIEWED:

THOMAS SPONSLER, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By 
Thomas Sponsler, County Attorney