

Re: UNITED NATIONS UNITING FOR PEACE RESOLUTION ON IRAQ

Dear Friend:

We are writing you to ask for your help in a very important action. **We hope to create a movement in support of the adoption of a Uniting for Peace Resolution by the United Nations General Assembly to prevent an attack on Iraq by the United States, the United Kingdom and other nations.** If even one country requests such a meeting, that alone can trigger this procedure.

While in the U.N. system the Security Council has the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security throughout the world, another procedure exists to ensure peace when the Council fails to do so. That procedure, **the Uniting for Peace resolution, allows the General Assembly to meet to consider the threat to international peace and it can then recommend collective measures to U.N. Members to maintain or restore peace.**

If one U.N. Member State requests that a meeting be convened to consider adoption of such a resolution and either seven Members of the Security Council or a majority of the Members of the General Assembly agree, an emergency special session will be called and the GA will come together to discuss the threat to international peace. We are hoping to find the requisite support for the convening of such a session.

The United States and the United Kingdom have become increasingly vocal about their willingness to use force against Iraq without explicit Security Council authorization. Because of the veto power of these two countries, the Security Council will be stymied in its responsibility to maintain international peace and security in the Persian Gulf. **In these circumstances, the General Assembly has the right and indeed the responsibility to assume this duty.**

Please find attached: (1) *A U.N. Alternative to War: "Uniting for Peace"*, an Op-Ed written by Michael Ratner and Jules Lobel, (2) a draft of a possible Uniting for Peace resolution, and (3) a draft of a possible letter that a Permanent Representative from any U.N. Member State could send to the Secretary-General to initiate the process.

We urge you to contact your U.N. representative, other members of your government, and other governments to request that they write to the Secretary-General to call for an emergency special session under the Uniting for Peace Resolution. Please also circulate these materials to other groups and individuals and encourage them to do the same.

For further information, please contact **Michael Ratner** (212 243 3805/mratner@igc.org) **Jules Lobel** (lobel@law.pitt.edu) **Steven Watt** (212 614 6430/smwatt@ccr-ny.org) or **Bridget Kurtt** (bridgetkurt@hotmail.com) all of the Center for Constitutional Rights, New York.

Sincerely,

Center for Constitutional Rights