

THE SENATE OF CANADA
The Hon. Douglas Roche, O.C.

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Ottawa, K1A 0A4
CANADA

Statement by Senator Douglas Roche, O.C.

The evidence given yesterday to the U.N. Security Council by U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell shows that Iraq is in material breach of Resolution 1441. But it is clear that Iraq does not have the capability to launch an attack on the West. There is no justification for a war on Iraq.

Rather than join in warfare, Canada should use its wide experience in verification to support the recommendation made by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter to increase the present number of U.N. inspectors from 100 to 1,000. Such a robust and permanent monitoring regime would ensure that Iraq could not hide or develop weapons of mass destruction.

For several decades, Canada has been an acknowledged leader in the field of verification. We have much to contribute. This proactive work to lessen the threat of weapons of mass destruction would be far better than joining in a war with horrendous consequences. *The Independent* of London

warns that war on Iraq would de-stabilize the whole region, would encourage a backlash from fundamentalists and “would virtually guarantee an upsurge in global terrorism.” The bombing attacks now planned will also inflict widespread death and destruction on innocent civilians – just as was done in the 1991 Gulf War.

I oppose the war that is now contemplated. I call on the Government to put forward a stringent verification proposal to help the U.N. resolve this crisis without war.

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