

Richard Moniak
1900 Fritz Cove Rd.
Juneau, Alaska 99801

The Honorable Ted Stevens
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

October 1, 2005
Re: Your letter of September 15 2005

Senator Stevens:

With all due respect, your response to my letter of August 19 is unacceptable, as your justification for the invasion of Iraq seriously misrepresents the facts.

1. You state that the "Chief UN Arms inspector reported that Saddam had not disarmed and had not adequately complied with the United Nations mandates". The facts are:

- On March 7, 2003, Hans Blix, UNMOVIC chief arms inspector, reported to the UN Security Council that there was no evidence to support US and British claims that Iraq has weapons of mass destruction or the programs to develop such weapons.
- Mohamed El Baradei, IAEA director-general, also reported to the Council that there were no signs that Iraq has reconstituted its nuclear weapons program.
- Only a few weapons found in Iraq during the inspections were in violation of the 1991 UN resolution. While the range of the Al Samoud missiles did exceed the established limits of 150 km, they were not weapons of mass destruction as described by the administration. Nor did they pose a threat to the United States or the rest of the world beyond Iraq's immediate borders. And the inspectors reported that Iraq had begun destroying them as a result of the UN inspections.
- The inspectors further indicated that the Iraqi government had increased its cooperation since the end of January.
- The inspectors left Iraq under the threat of war before their work was complete.

2. You state that "the nations of the world agreed that Iraq did possess terrible weapons that posed a credible threat" to the world community.

The fact is that three quarters of the member nations to the UN did not agree with the administration's claims, which is why the UN and majority of nations failed to authorize and participate in the invasion.

3. You have again stated that you "personally received the same briefings given to the President" and that "all the evidence [you] reviewed clearly pointed to Iraq possessing weapons of mass destruction".

It is doubtful that you participated in all the briefings the president received from his Cabinet Members and National Security Advisor. You were certainly not in the company of the President during each and every Daily Presidential Briefing. I seriously doubt that you can say with any degree of confidence that you saw *all* the information available to the president.

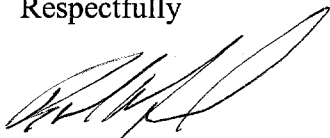
The complete facts do not support your dismissal of my concerns. Furthermore, it was the President who, by Executive Order, established the commission to examine pre war intelligence, thus giving the White House inappropriate influence over the members chosen and the scope and the timetable of their work. To suggest, as you have, that this suffices for an *independent* investigation is both ludicrous and a dereliction of your constitutional duty.

The nation's founding fathers created three branches of government with the deliberate intent to provide a system of checks and balances to prevent abuses of power. Your first obligation as a United States Senator is to the people of this state and country, to the integrity of the nation itself, *not* to the President or your political party. If the President did deliberately mislead you and Congress, then the invasion of Iraq in March 2003 is perhaps the worst abuse of presidential power in the 217 years since the Constitution was ratified. It is your responsibility to insist upon an independent and thorough investigation as to why we invaded another country when the facts have since revealed that we did so on the basis of either flawed or manipulated intelligence provided to Congress by the President.

You cannot massage the facts into clean and safe rhetoric without sliding a knife through the heart of the truth. It may seem to be clever politics to do so when you are seeking support on proposed legislation that merely appropriates spending the taxpayer's money. But I don't think I need to remind you that war is the most serious of matters. On a daily basis, our soldiers, my son among them, face the possibility of deadly confrontation. Your distortions of the truth dishonor the soldiers who have fallen. To them and the thousands of innocent civilians who have been killed, your words reveal an ugly malignancy breathing poison into the spirit of freedom and liberty.

I appreciate your recognition of my son's courage, but I believe I have right to expect more from a national leader who routinely presides over the most powerful legislative body in the world. I believe I have an obligation to my son, and an ethical responsibility as a citizen, to demand that you search inside your soul for the political courage to stand for the pursuit of the entire truth on this matter. If you can't be honest about the circumstances for the decision to go to war, then you can't be trusted to provide honest input to the decisions that affect the continued military occupation of Iraq, nor to the safety and security of the US troops there.

Respectfully



Richard Moniak

cc: w/ attachment

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Ted Stevens

Alaska

September 15, 2005

Richard J. Moniak
1900 Fritz Cove Road
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Richard:

Thank you for your letter about the intelligence upon which the Administration believes that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction. I appreciated the opportunity to consider your comments, and I applaud your son's bravery and his dedicated service to our country.

As you know, the President called for an independent commission to study the intelligence upon which we believed that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction, and he has accepted 70 recommendations to overhaul the American intelligence-gathering system. And, Congress has held numerous hearings on this subject.

I have previously stated that as Chairman of the Appropriations Committee and the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, I personally received the same briefings given to the President, the Secretary of State, and the National Security Advisor. All the evidence I reviewed clearly pointed to Iraq possessing weapons of mass destruction. Over a period of twelve years, the United Nations Security Council unanimously passed 17 resolutions calling on Iraq to disarm based on the evidence available. Relying on collected intelligence from numerous sources, the United Nations Security Council, in U.N. Resolution 1441, required Saddam to disarm or face serious consequences. The Chief United Nations Arms Inspector reported that Saddam had not disarmed and had not adequately complied with United Nations mandates. Based on this information nations of the world agreed that Iraq did possess terrible weapons that posed a credible threat to the peace and security of the international community.

Coalition forces went to Iraq to free the Iraqi people and ensure that Saddam could no longer pose a threat to Americans or to that volatile region. Our men and women in uniform, including your son, are working with the Iraqi people to bring stability to that region: the Iraq people have held a free election and have drafted a constitution; we are seeing a free people reclaim their future in a free and democratic Iraq.

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With best wishes,

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Stevens". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

TED STEVENS