STEPS TO REDUCE THE THREAT OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS

Write President Bush and your representatives in Congress urging them to:

- **Complete a treaty on chemical weapons** now being discussed by the Working Group on Chemical Weapons of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, which proposes a verifiable ban on all chemical weapons within a decade (Remind Bush of his election pledge to be remembered for, "a complete and total ban on chemical weapons. Their destruction forever. That's my solemn mission." Council for a Livable World, 10/89);

- **Develop a better verification protocol** so international teams can monitor the world's chemical companies capable of producing chemical weapons, to ensure that they are not making chemical weapons;

- **Cease all production of chemical weapons and destruction of existing stockpiles;** and

- **Strengthen U.S. economic and trade sanctions against countries that use chemical weapons** and penalties against businesses that supply poison gas technology. President Bush pocket vetoed legislation which would have imposed mandatory sanctions on companies selling chemical weapons (See the enclosed November 16, PSR News Alert).

ESTIMATES OF CASUALTIES IN A U.S.-IRAQ WAR

All estimates of civilian and military casualties in a war with Iraq at this time remain highly speculative because the scope of U.S./allied operations, the possible use of chemical, biological and or nuclear weapons, and Iraqi military capabilities are difficult to predict. Several observers have attempted to estimate the losses in a conventional war against Iraq. These scenarios involve air and ground forces fighting a conventional war:

- The Center for Defense Information estimates 45,000 total U.S. casualties in an all-out conventional war with Iraq. Casualties include both dead and wounded. U.S. deaths are estimated at around 10,000. Arab and allied casualties would range from 10,000 to 15,000. Iraqi losses would be 150,000 casualties, with 35,000 deaths, and 100,000 possible civilian casualties in a battle for Baghdad. (CDI, 11/90)

- The San Francisco Examiner details U.S. commanders expecting as many as 10,000 U.S. dead in the first 12 days of a ground offensive to remove the Iraqi defenses in Kuwait. (11/1/90)

- Representative Ronald Dellums drafted a statement signed by 82 House Democrats which forecast a massive loss of life, including 10,000 to 50,000 Americans killed. (The Nation,11/26/90)

- The Center for Strategic and International Studies, estimated in a conventional war that 30,000 American soldiers could be killed or wounded. The total could be higher, depending on the willingness of Iraqi defenses to "fight to the death." (East Bay Express, 10/19/90)

- The Wall Street Journal cites U.S. military officials estimating as many as 20,000 American killed, wounded and missing in a conventional ground war.(11/15/90)

- The Center for Defense Information estimates an operation limited to forcing the Iraqis out of Kuwait would inflict 10,000 to 15,000 American casualties, with 2,000 to 3,000 killed. Such an operation would cause 25,000 Iraqi casualties with 6,000 killed, and between 2,500 and 4,000 Arab and allied casualties. (CDI, 11/90)

In summary, the available estimates agree that any military operation would be a highly bloody and destructive affair — with U.S. casualties in a conventional ground war between Iraq and the U.S. ranging between 10,000 to 50,000 killed. If the conflict led to use of chemical, biological or nuclear weapons, the human suffering and loss of life would be on a significantly greater scale.

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