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## UN RESOLUTION: ULTIMATUM

Iraq not co-operating with inspectors; not disarming.

International community intends to ensure UNSCR 1441 is implemented in full.

By 28 February Iraq must agree to the following steps:

- No fly zone covering the whole country. International air force to patrol the sky.
- Introduction of an international ground force to enforce disarmament. International coalition of the willing headed by a British general with approx 40,000 troops from European, American and Arab countries. [Needs to be ready to go in within days so will depend on those forces in the region and ready to move.]
- UN mandate for governance of Iraq while the international force is there making Iraq a UN protectorate under a UN permanent co-ordinator.
- Establishment of a special UN court of justice in Iraq to punish infringements of the Resolutions and human rights infringements.

If Iraq has not accepted these steps and begun their implementation in full and without further negotiation Iraq will face the serious consequences set out in UNSCR 1441 [ie authorisation for allied military action].

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## Translation

Extract from an article entitled **"The Mirage Project"** in Der SPIEGEL of 10 February 2003

Top German and French officials have been conducting secret talks since the beginning of the year in an effort to devise their own plan for Iraq, aimed at installing a disarmament regime in Iraq monitored by thousands of soldiers. That would humiliate Saddam but it is not intended to remove him, as Washington and London are planning. But it would eliminate his weapons of mass destruction – under international supervision. Mirage IV reconnaissance planes, as offered by the French foreign minister in the Security Council, would patrol Iraqi airspace. The old Europeans intend to secure a victory without bullets with the "Mirage Project",

The new quality of the plan lies in the fact that armed international peacekeeping forces would march into Iraq. The elite soldiers would have to wear the blue berets of the United Nations. Their task would be to safeguard the work of the inspectors.

A kind of house-to-house search could be conducted throughout the country, with the aim of destroying anything prohibited. Saddam would have to watch his country being publicly disarmed – under European command and with German participation. As one government official said: "If this idea of a robust disarmament regime is accepted, then Germany is on board."

The outline of the Franco-German plan is clear:

- The number of weapons inspectors on the ground – currently about 100 – would be tripled at least.
- French reconnaissance jets, equipped with special surveillance cameras, would conduct airborne monitoring together with the German "Luna" drone and American U2 spy planes.
- Iraqi military planes would only be permitted to take off after making an application to the international authorities – the no-fly zones, which currently cover the south and north, would be extended to the entire country and be formally legalised by the United Nations.
- The inspections would be coordinated by a central point in Iraq. One conceivable idea is for the UN to establish a "permanent coordinator" who would monitor the disarmament process on the spot.
- A close network of sanctions would ensure that the dictator – and not the starving population – is immediately punished for any infringement. That would include agreements with neighbouring states to combat oil smuggling and the tightening of export controls in industrial countries.

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- A special UN court of justice for Iraq would also punish infringements of Resolutions and human rights violations.
- The plan would virtually make Iraq into a UN protectorate. Thousands of UN Blue Berets could control the country, accompany the inspectors, set up road blocks and inspect suspicious consignments. Saddam would be the ruler of his country in name only. The idea is that this would increase the influence of more flexible politicians, such as the Iraqi Deputy Premier Tariq Aziz.

All that might apply for years rather than weeks or months. If Saddam's regime were to "implode" one day, that would be condoned, as one of Chancellor Schröder's advisers said. But it was not the main objective of the exercise.

If the international community were to adopt the Mirage Project it could be both a path to peace or a path to war. If Saddam Hussein were to refuse to allow the UN force into Iraq following a corresponding UN Resolution, that would leave the way open for the Americans.

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For Schröder and Chirac, every hour now counts if an American military attack is to be prevented. The Franco-German plan is to be ready before Hans Blix delivers his report on Friday. The texts will be drafted over the next few days. The end result is to be an independent draft for a UN Resolution.

There is one particularly explosive point. What will the international community do if Iraq does not submit to the robust inspection regime? That would mean war – most probably with German participation – since there would then be no going back on the "serious consequences" threatened in Resolution 1441 and which a Franco-German resolution text would probably also threaten.

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