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32

13 February 2002

TALKING PAPER

(U) Subject: Proposed Talking Points for Vice President's Middle East Trip

(U) Purpose: Provide proposed talking points for the Vice President's trip to Egypt, Jordan, Oman, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, and Israel.

~~(S)~~ **Issues:** In all countries, thanking the host country for its support and assistance on the War on Terrorism is appropriate.

(b)(1)

(1) ~~(S)~~ Iraq.

~~(S)~~ **Background:** The President's "Axis of Evil" speech has received a lot of press and speculation in the region. Each country visited will want to know what the US Government is considering for next steps in this war, and specifically what the USG is considering with regards to Iraq.

~~(S)~~ **Talking Points:**

- **The US Government is continuing to review its policy toward Iraq. This has not been an easy process and we have not yet arrived at a conclusion. Our friends and allies will play a key role in our process and will be kept informed of our intent.**
- **Major issues in the Middle East are inter-related and must be viewed in a regional context--we can not limit our focus to isolated problems. We recognize the severity and the impact of the Israeli-Palestinian violence has on the region and we are working to help find a just peace.**
- **With regard to sanctions, our efforts will focus on continuing those key prohibitions that limit Saddam's military capabilities and his development, delivery and use of weapons of mass destruction.**
- **I realize that many no longer view Saddam as a regional threat.**

Classified By: RADM Carlton B. Jewett

Reason: 1.(a) (b)

Declassify On: 13 Feb 2002

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However, without a credible means to contain him and to control or deny his access to weapons technology, he poses a very real and proven threat to the stability of the entire region.

- **Iraq has refused to meet its obligations to the UN Security Council for eleven years. The International Community must stand united in demanding Iraqi compliance to re-admit and cooperate unconditionally with weapons inspectors, allowing them to inspect, monitor, verify and destroy all Iraqi Weapons of Mass Destruction.**

(b)(1)





