

Read Ahead for Secretary Rumsfeld Dealing with Iraq's WMD Declaration

Talking Points

- NSC paper contains a lot of good material.
- **Key points:** In my view, the paper's key points are:
 - Inspections make no sense if Iraq has not made the strategic decision to rid itself of WMD.
 - In Iraq has not decided to disarm, inspections can be dangerous – they can give Iraq a chance to create the false impression that it is cooperating.
 - The December 8 declaration is a critical test of whether Iraq is willing to come clean – if Iraq submits a patently false declaration, we can conclude *at least* that Iraq has not yet decided to cooperate.
- The key question we face is what to do if Iraq submits a patently false declaration on December 8.
- Of the four options, options 3 and 4 are the most realistic.
 - The paper may not distinguish between them as sharply as it might.
- Option 3 has the following features:
 - If Iraq submits a patently false declaration, *the U.S. would make clear that inspections inside Iraq can not be expected to achieve anything.*
 - The U.S. would suggest that UNMOVIC and IAEA could interview Iraqis *outside Iraq* and continue to examine documentary evidence.
 - The U.S. would announce that it expects Iraq to submit a new, truthful agreement with __ weeks – and that the U.S. will exert increasing pressure on Iraq to induce it to do so.
 - At the end of X weeks, if a truthful declaration was not forthcoming, the U.S. could demand that Saddam Hussein and his inner circle surrender power and leave Iraq within __ days – or be disarmed by force.
- Option 3 has the following advantages:
 - The U.S. stance would not depend on Blix's and Baradei's agreement.

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- It provides a path from December 8 to the possible trigger event.
- The crux is demonstrating that Iraq has not chosen to cooperate with the international community's demand that it disarm itself of WMD.
- As the President said yesterday (2 December):
 - A regime that fires upon American and British pilots is not taking the path of compliance. A regime that sends letters filled with protests and falsehoods is not taking the path of compliance.*
- If Iraq fails *twice* to provide a truthful declaration, then *that* would be the definitive indication that it has decided not to comply.

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