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**Transcript of the statement made by Javier SOLANA,
EU High Representative for the Common Foreign
and Security Policy, following his meeting with Hans Blix,
UNMOVIC's President**

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Javier Solana, the EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy today met Dr. Hans Blix, Executive Chairman of the UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC). Following the meeting, he made the following comments to the press:

"Few comments before I leave for Athens to meet Prime Minister Simitis. I have had a very good meeting with Dr. Blix, which allowed us to review the situation before he goes back to Baghdad again. He has conveyed to me his concerns and told me very clearly that the time in front of him is not very long. We (EU) support the work of Mr. Blix, we trust him and we are going to provide him and his mission with all the means of assistance at our disposal. I would like to say that he has conveyed to me also his concerns that co-operation with Iraq is not sufficient. That it is not enough, for the regime of Saddam Hussein, simply to open doors. The position of Iraqi authorities has to be much more proactive.

To what end? To convince the inspectors, and through them the Security Council and the whole international community, that Saddam Hussein has disposed of all weapons of mass destruction, and thus effectively disarmed. I would like to say that I share completely this position of Hans Blix.

Once again, as I stressed at the beginning, we both think that time is not unlimited. As for January 27th, when Dr. Blix is going to give a report to the Security Council, this is not the end of the process. But without any doubt, this is an important date that has to be taken into consideration. I

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

Cristina Gallach - Spokesperson of the Secretary General, High Representative for CFSP



internet: <http://ue.eu.int/newsroom>
e-mail: presse.cabinet@consilium.eu.int

have to leave to report to the President of the EU, Prime Minister Simitis and I will be back during the weekend. Thank you very much.

Questions and Answers

Question: Dr. Solana, do you think a war on Iraq can be averted?

Answer: I think a war in Iraq can be averted and the responsibility is basically on the side of Saddam Hussein

Question on a second resolution

Answer: My position, and as you know I have made it public, is that it would be better to have a second resolution, although Res. 1441, does not necessarily require that. But in my position, I think from our point of view, it would be much better to have a second resolution.

Question:

Do you think there is a gap between the US-EU in the way they are dealing with the situation?

Answer: At this time, as you know, all the countries are working together in the context of the United Nations and in the context of the Security Council. At this point, everybody has the same point of view. As I have said, I support Mr. Blix asking for a more proactive attitude from the regime of Saddam Hussein in order to convince the inspectors, the Security Council and the whole world that the regime has disarmed and got rid of weapons of mass destruction.

Question on a the list of scientists:

Answer: I asked him and he replied that he is going to do his utmost to see how he can handle the possibility of interviewing - in conditions which are relevant- the scientists who have been in contact with all WMD projects. He will do his best.

Question (in French): Vous avez parlé de votre position mais est-ce aussi la position de l'ensemble de l'Union européenne?

Answer: Je crois que ce que je viens de dire représente la position générale des pays membres de l'Union européenne.
