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DENIAL AND DECEPTION

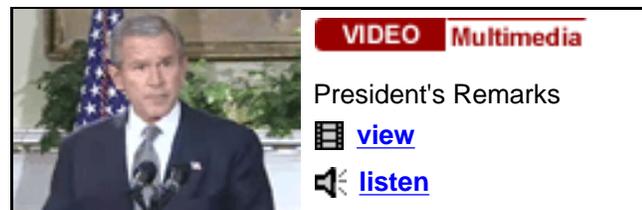
For Immediate Release
Office of the Press Secretary
October 10, 2002

President Bush Pleased with House Vote on Iraq Resolution

Remarks by the President on the House Vote on the Resolution Authorizing the Use of Force in Iraq
The Roosevelt Room

4:00 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: I would like to thank the members of the House of Representatives, just as I thanked Speaker Hastert and Leader Gephardt a few minutes ago, for the very strong bipartisan vote authorizing the use of force in Iraq if it becomes necessary.



The House debate was conducted in the best traditions of the United States Congress. It was spirited, it was civil, and it was informed. This is a debate and a decision that all Americans can be proud of.

I'm also pleased with the progress being made in the Senate, and I look forward to a final vote soon.

The House of Representatives has spoken clearly to the world and to the United Nations Security Council: the gathering threat of Iraq must be confronted fully and finally. Today's vote also sends a clear message to the Iraqi regime: it must disarm and comply with all existing U.N. resolutions, or it will be forced to comply. There are no other options for the Iraqi regime. There can be no negotiations. The days of Iraq acting as an outlaw state are coming to an end.

The United States is committed to helping make the world more peaceful and more just. We are committed to freedom for all. We're also committed to protecting human dignity, and today's vote is an important step toward fulfilling those great American commitments.

Thank you.

END 4:03 P.M. EDT

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