



# NEWS RELEASE



## Congressman Robin Hayes 8<sup>th</sup> District, North Carolina

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**Contact:** Jonathan Felts  
(202) 226-7486

### **Congressman Robin Hayes Continues Call to Disarm Saddam**

*“Inspections with limits are unacceptable.”*

**WASHINGTON, DC** – Congressman Robin Hayes (NC-8) today called Iraq’s proposal to allow arms inspectors in, but only with limits unacceptable. Hayes continued his call to disarm Saddam Hussein. Hayes also criticized the three congressmen who traveled to Iraq and criticized U.S. policy during several interviews that they conducted from Baghdad.

**“I am unimpressed with Saddam’s latest offer of allowing inspectors to come in, as long as they only inspect where Saddam wants them to,”** said Hayes. **“This is just more of the same empty rhetoric that we’ve been experiencing for the past 10 years. While Hussein talks peace, he continues to fire on our pilots almost daily as they enforce the no-fly zone instituted after the Gulf War.**

**“Republicans and Democrats alike are concluding that action needs to be taken to ensure that Saddam Hussein never has the opportunity to use his weapons of mass destruction against the United States. Iraq needs to not only subject itself to full inspections, but also disarm itself of all existing chemical, biological and nuclear weapons.”**

**“We know that Saddam has been working to build weapons of mass destruction. Saddam started the Gulf War. We finished it. He agreed to the terms of surrender and has been working to evade them ever since. This must stop now.”**

Hayes also criticized the three congressmen who chose to go to Iraq and criticize U.S. policy from Baghdad. Congressmen Jim McDermott (D-WA), David Bonior (D-MI), and Mike Thompson (D-CA) all traveled to Iraq over the weekend. On Sunday and Monday, McDermott and Bonior made several appearances to defend Saddam Hussein and criticize the President.

- *“I think you have to take the Iraqis on their face value.”* (McDermott, ABC News’ *This Week*, 9/29/02).
- *“I think the President would mislead the American people.”* (McDermott, ABC News’ *This Week*, 9/29/02)
- *“We can do all that blame game we want but we’ll repeat all of that unless we clearly understand that we’ve got to move forward in a way that’s fair and impartial. That means not having the United States...dictate the rules to these inspections.”* (Bonior, ABC News’ *This Week*, 9/29/02).

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**“I think it is wrong for members of Congress to criticize U.S. policy while they are on foreign soil. To defend the position of Saddam Hussein is unconscionable. Three U.S. Congressmen going to Baghdad to criticize U.S. policy is not unlike Jane Fonda going to Hanoi.**

**“Following the Gulf War, The United Nations ordered Iraq to completely open themselves to arms inspectors to ensure that Saddam Hussein is not developing weapons of mass destruction. Saddam Hussein has continued to defy that order, and there is strong evidence that indicates Saddam is developing mass quantities of chemical, biological and even nuclear weapons. Saddam has used these weapons against other nations and against his own people. With these weapons, Saddam will become the merchant for weapons of mass destruction for terrorists around the globe. Under this scenario, Saddam and Iraq pose a serious threat to peace and stability in the world. We cannot stand idly by and watch this happen.”**

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