

Statements made by Democrats

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NOW

Sen. John Kerry

“When I vote to give the president of the United States the authority to use force, if necessary, to disarm Saddam Hussein because I believe that a deadly arsenal of weapons of mass destruction in his hands is a real and grave threat to our security.” (Congressional Record, 10/9/02, p.S10174)

“The United Nations should have control over most of our foreign military operations. ‘I’m an internationalist. I’d like to see our troops dispersed through the world only at the direction of the United Nations.’” (Harvard Crimson 1/18/70)

“[W]ithout question, we need to disarm Saddam Hussein. He is a brutal murderous dictator, leading an oppressive regime...He presents a particularly grievous threat because he is so consistently prone to miscalculation...And now he is miscalculating America’s response to his continued deceit and his consistent grasp for weapons of mass destruction.” (Remarks At Georgetown University, 1/23/03)

“I believe the record of Saddam Hussein’s ruthless, reckless breach of international values and standards of behavior which is at the core of the cease-fire agreement, with no reach, no stretch, is cause enough for the world community to hold him accountable by use of force, if necessary.”(10/9/02)

“Now that [the Cold War] struggle is over, why is it that our vast intelligence apparatus continues to grow...?” (Congressional Record, 5/1/97, p.S3981)

“I think it was the right decision to disarm Saddam Hussein, and when the President made the decision, I supported him, and I support the fact that we did disarm him.” (ABC News, 5/4/03)

"I voted to threaten the use of force to make Saddam Hussein comply with the resolutions of the United Nations. I believe that was right, but it was wrong to rush to war without building a true international coalition and with no plan to win the peace." (Remarks At Announcement Of Candidacy, Patriot's Point, SC, 9/2/03)

Chris Matthews: “Do you think you belong to that category of candidates who more or less are unhappy with this war, the way it’s been fought, along with General Clark, along with Howard Dean and not necessarily in companionship politically on the issue of the war with people like Lieberman, Edwards and Gephardt? Are you one of the anti-war candidates?” Kerry: “I am - Yes, in the sense that I don’t believe the president took us to war as he should have, yes, absolutely.” (1/6/04)

Doyle McManus (LA Times): "If that amendment does not pass, will you then vote against the \$87 billion?" Kerry: "I don't think any United States senator is going to abandon our troops and recklessly leave Iraq to – to whatever follows as a result of simply cutting and running. That's irresponsible." (9/14/03)

“Here is the value that John Edwards and I will put in place. I’m proud to say that John joined me in voting against that \$87 billion when we knew the policy had to be changed.” (7/12/04)

Sen. Ted Kennedy

“There is no doubt that Saddam Hussein’s regime is a serious danger, that he is a tyrant, and that his pursuit of lethal weapons of mass destruction cannot be tolerated.” (9/27/02)

"We are confident that Saddam Hussein retains some stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons, and that he has since embarked on a crash course to build up his chemical and biological warfare capabilities. Intelligence reports indicate that he is seeking nuclear weapons..."(9/27/02)

“There was no imminent threat. This was made up in Texas, announced in January to the Republican leadership that war was going to take place and was going to be good politically. This whole thing was a fraud.” (Interview with Associated Press, 9/18/03)

Sen. Carl Levin

“We begin with the common belief that Saddam Hussein is a tyrant and a threat to the peace and stability of the region. He has ignored the mandates of the United Nations and is building weapons of mass destruction and the means of delivering them.” (9/19/02)

“Dr. Kay’s recent statements raise serious questions about the accuracy and objectivity of our intelligence and about the Administration’s public statements before the war that were supposedly based on that intelligence.” (1/28/04)

Former Vice President Al Gore

“We know that he has stored secret supplies of biological and chemical weapons throughout his country.” (9/23/02)

“Despite our swift victory and our efforts since, there is no doubt in my mind that Saddam Hussein still seeks to amass weapons of mass destruction you know as well as I do that as long as Saddam Hussein stays in power, there can be no comprehensive peace for the people of Israel or the people or the Middle East. We have made it clear that it is our policy to see Saddam Hussein gone.” (5/23/00)

“The real meaning of Kay's devastating verdict is that for more than two years, President Bush and his administration have been distorting America's political reality by force-feeding the American people a grossly exaggerated fear of Iraq that was hugely dis-proportionate to the actual danger posed by Iraq.” (2/5/2004)

<p>Former Secretary of Defense William Cohen “Noted again Tuesday, that in the past Iraq imported enough material to produce up to 200 tons of the deadly chemical agent VX, ‘theoretically enough to kill every man, woman, and child’ on earth. Finding and eliminating all such chemical and biological warfare stocks must be an international priority.” (11/26/1997)</p>	<p>“I am absolutely convinced that there are weapons...I saw evidence back in 1998 when we would see the inspectors being barred from gaining entry to a warehouse for three hours with trucks rolling up and then moving those trucks out.” (4/03)</p>
<p>Sen. Robert Byrd “We are confident that Saddam Hussein retains some stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons, and that he has since embarked on a crash course to build up his chemical and biological warfare capabilities. Intelligence reports indicate that he is seeking nuclear weapons, but has not yet achieved nuclear capability...” (10/4/02)</p>	<p>“The revelation by Dr. Kay that he does not believe that any stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction existed in Iraq has dealt a blow to the President's case for war, and shaken the American people's faith in their government. We owe it to them to get to the bottom of what went wrong with our intelligence agencies, and whether the Administration misused the intelligence it was provided.” (3/3/04)</p> <p>“The American people deserve answers on why the Administration relied on faulty intelligence to take this country to war without the presence of an imminent threat.” (3/3/04)</p>
<p>Sen. John D. Rockefeller “I do believe Iraq poses an imminent threat. To insist on further evidence could put some of our fellow Americans at risk. Can we afford to take that chance? I do not think we can.”(10/10/02)</p> <p>“There is unmistakable evidence that Saddam Hussein is working aggressively to develop nuclear weapons and will likely have nuclear weapons within the next 5 years.” (10/10/02)</p> <p>“Saddam’s existing biological and chemical weapons capabilities pose real threats to America today... He could make these weapons available to many terrorist groups, third parties which have contact with his government. Those groups, in turn, could bring those weapons into the United States and unleash a devastating attack against our citizens. I fear that greatly.”(10/10/02)</p>	<p>“The Bush Administration's case against Iraq was largely based on the argument that we knew with certainty that Iraq possessed large quantities of chemical and biological weapons, was aggressively pursuing nuclear weapons, and that an established relationship between Baghdad and al Qaeda would allow for the transfer of these weapons for use against the United States. This national security rationale being put forth publicly by senior administration officials in support of regime change in Iraq was simple, direct and often fundamentally misleading.” (The Weekly Standard, 7/12/04)</p>
<p>Rep. Maxine Waters “I submit that it is time to totally eliminate the CIA.” (3/18/97)</p> <p>“Mr. Speaker, what is the mission of the CIA in a post-cold war environment? Is it really necessary to continue allocating \$30 billion to the CIA?” (3/18/97)</p>	<p>“I don't think we want to give more power to a government that seems to have abused the power it already has and, as we are now learning, has still failed in its intelligence-gathering responsibility.” (66/03)</p>