

SCHWEIZERISCHE VERTRETUNG
REPRESENTATION SUISSE

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Washington

Ihr Zeichen Votre référence	Ihre Nachricht vom V/communication du	Unser Zeichen Notre référence	Datum Date
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Gegenstand/Objet Die Schweiz, ein wohlbekanntes Refugium für
Waffenhändler und Lieferanten

Auf der OP-ED Seite der New York Times vom 26. September 1991 ist ein Artikel abgedruckt, der auf einer Rede des einflussreichen Senators Al Gore aus Tennessee beruht, die er am 19. September 1991 im Senat hielt. In diesem Artikel, der mit "Defeating Hussein, Once and for All" bezeichnet ist, vertritt Al Gore unter anderem die Ansicht, dass man die Lieferanten, die es Saddam Hussein ermöglichten, auf der Atomwaffenherstellung weit voranzuschreiten, entlarven sollte, selbst auf die Gefahr hin, dass dabei Länder, zu denen gute Beziehungen bestehen, stark betroffen würden. Dabei geht er insbesondere mit der Schweiz stark ins Gericht; ich zitiere :

"I would like to draw attention to the Swiss, who have benefited enormously from the security we provided in Europe for the last 50 years. Switzerland has become a well-known haven for arms dealers and proliferators. Its Government values the security and tranquillity of its own people, but in this area its contribution to the security of other people in this world is substantially negative. It is time for the Swiss to live up to their image of clean rectitude. Other countries may feel pinched by that same shoe. So be it."

Es ist natürlich nicht das erstemal, dass sich die Schweiz mit derartigen Vorwürfen konfrontiert sieht. Meiner Ansicht nach ist es aber ein weiteres Glied in der Kette von negativen Berichten, die seit einigen Jahren das Bild der Schweiz im Ausland trüben. Die Kette enthält mittlerweile recht unterschiedliche Glieder wie Bankenskandale, Geldwäscherei, Insider Trading, Handelsprotektionismus, Benachteiligung der Frauen, Drogenprobleme, Para-

dies für Waffenschieber und Profiteure, Unentschlossenheit in Europafragen und Profit-Egoismus.

Es ist wohl langsam an der Zeit, die notwendigen Massnahmen zu ergreifen oder - falls sie schon ergriffen worden sind - zu intensivieren, um die Ursachen zu analysieren und dergestalt zu verändern, dass schlussendlich wieder positiver über die Schweiz berichtet werden kann.

Selbstverständlich ist auch oft die Berichterstattung tendenziös, unvollständig und entbehrt der notwendigen Objektivität. Alleine mit dem Zitieren dieses Argumentes können bestehende Missstände jedoch nicht beseitigt werden.

Ich bin mir bewusst, dass die angetönte Problematik von anderen Leuten schon vor längerer Zeit erkannt worden ist und ich mit diesen Zeilen nichts Neues aufbringe. Trotzdem wollte ich diese Gedanken zu Papier bringen, da es sich um eine Thematik handelt, die uns alle berührt und die man nicht einfach mit einem Achselzucken abtun kann.

DER SCHWEIZERISCHE GENERALKONSUL

H.-P. Erismann

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N.B.: Betreffend den Artikel von Senator Al Gore habe ich zur Kenntnis genommen, dass Sie ihn sowie die New York Times direkt von Washington aus kontaktieren werden.

P.S.: Vergleiche auch den Leitartikel der NZZ vom 27.9.1991, Nr. 224, S. 1.

Beilage: New York Times OP-ED Artikel von Senator Al Gore v. 26.9.1991.

Verteiler: (mit Beilage)

- Schweiz. Beobachtermission bei der UNO, New York
- EDA - Politische Abteilung I
- EDA - Politisches Sekretariat
- EDA - Information und Presse
- Schweiz. Generalkonsulat in Atlanta (zuständig für Tennessee)



Defeating Hussein, Once and for All

By Al Gore

WASHINGTON

I support the President's moves to force Saddam Hussein to comply with the terms of the gulf cease-fire. But I disagree with the President's policy at a more fundamental level — namely, his persistent view of Saddam Hussein as an acceptable part of the landscape, if and when we finally get him cut down to size.

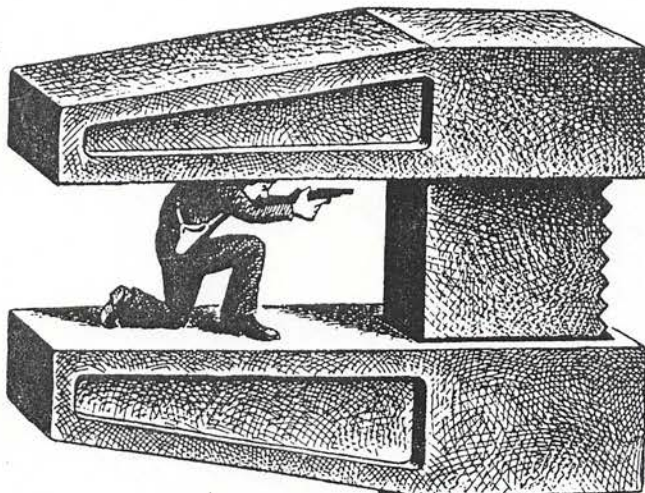
The only way we can hope for long-term relief from Saddam Hussein is if Saddam Hussein ceases to hold power, and if his Baathist regime is dismantled as well. Realizing that the burden of proof rests with those who say that Mr. Hussein can be toppled, I think it possible to describe how that might be done.

In general, the formula for deposing him involves these elements: blocking his access to international support, building up his opponents and cutting off resources for rebuilding his military machine.

Under the first heading — blocking Saddam Hussein's access to outside support — I have to ask again why we didn't long ago begin documenting Iraqi war crimes against Kuwait. Even though we may never get him or his lieutenants into the dock to face war-crimes charges, the historical record should be filled in rather than allowed to fade. The truth should be spread in Iraq and the Arab world, using overt and covert methods to make sure that the message gets through.

We also need to isolate Saddam Hussein by improving our relations with Iran as rapidly as conditions permit. Meanwhile, the central U.S. role in Mideast peace talks, from

Al Gore, Democrat of Tennessee, is a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee. This article is adapted from a Sept. 19 Senate speech.



Among other acts,
expose Iraq's
foreign suppliers.

which Iraq is completely excluded, has the benefit of destroying his usefulness to the Palestinians.

As for building the stock of Saddam Hussein's opponents, we should be using every resource to weaken his image and destroy the illusions his propaganda machine labors to create. Surely that is something our intelligence services know how to do! At the same time, we should be helping opposition forces — most of them in exile — to unify and improve their organization.

Under the third heading — stopping Iraq from rebuilding its military — we have to make sure that the economic tourniquet stays on tight, but

take steps to assist the Iraqi people. The U.N. has it about right: sales of oil for humanitarian purchases, with neither the money nor the goods passing through the hands of the Iraqi Government. The message to the Iraqi people has to be that Saddam Hussein is not only powerless to end their misery but is its cause.

There are other steps we should take, aimed at blocking Iraqi access to knowledge and technology. That means doing everything to halt Iraqi work in space science and nuclear physics to the extent they depend on equipment, services or training — including university training — from countries with advanced capabilities.

We also need to encourage a flow of intelligence from Iraq by offering protection and rewards to anyone who comes forward with useful, verifiable information. The standoff between Saddam Hussein and the courageous team of U.N. inspectors has been a perfect summary of what we face. Nothing could more clearly demonstrate that U.S. policy must address the underlying problem: Saddam Hussein's rule and system of Government are incompatible with the peace and security of our own country.

Finally, we have to get much tougher about exposing the foreign suppliers that Iraq used to acquire nuclear, chemical and biological facilities in the first place. If this means deeply embarrassing certain friendly governments, so be it. Otherwise, nothing will change.

There are other examples, but I would like to draw attention to the Swiss, who have benefited enormously from the security we have provided in Europe for the last 50 years. Switzerland has become a well-known haven for arms dealers and proliferators. Its Government values the security and tranquillity of its own people, but in this area its contribution to the security of other people in the world is substantially negative. It is time for the Swiss to live up to their image of clean rectitude. Other countries may feel pinched by that same shoe. So be it.

We can no more look forward to a constructive long-term relationship with Saddam Hussein than we could hope to housebreak a cobra. But it is not just enough to say that there will not be normal U.S. relations with Iraq while he is in power.

It is time to get down to cases. Sooner or later, he will go. Sooner is better. And with him, the entire Baathist rule by terror has to go as well, or we may simply exchange one brutal character for the next. []

Illustrations by Christophe Voriel