

Motion in support of:

“Not in Our Name- A Motion against the War on Iraq”

UBU General meeting, 17th October 2002.

This Union Believes:

- 1) George W. Bush is resolute on waging war on Iraq. He has made clear his presidency will be judged on his administration's ability to achieve "regime change" in the country with the second largest oil reserves in the world.
- 2) The British Government is compliant with Bush's demands and is preparing troops for military attack. British Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon stated that: *"Saddam can be confident that in the right conditions we would be willing to use our nuclear weapons."*
- 3) In February 2002, the US reversed its policy not to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear states, whilst in March the Pentagon leaked its "Nuclear Posture Review", a list of countries the US is prepared to use nuclear weapons against: including Iraq.
- 4) A war on Iraq would be both immoral and contrary to international law. It would inevitably further destabilise the situation in the Middle East and risk the deaths of thousands of Iraqi civilians.

This Union Further Believes:

- 1) Opposition to a war on Iraq is increasingly evident. The leaders of Germany, Russia, China, France and a number of Middle East countries have all expressed concern over the validity of such a US led war.
- 2) Scott Ritter the head of the last UN weapons inspection team, and a member of the Republican Party, has said that Iraq has no biological, chemical or nuclear weapons of mass destruction.
- 3) UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan has said: *"It would be unwise to attack Iraq, given the current circumstances of what is happening in the Middle East."*
- 4) Nelson Mandela has also voiced his concerns over the intentions of the US: *"What right has Bush to say that Iraq's offer is not genuine? The US think they're the only power in the world... we must condemn that."*
- 5) An estimated 400,000 protesters marched through London on 28th September to show their opposition to war, with more than ten coaches sent from Bradford.
- 6) Bradford West MP, Marsha Singh is one of 160 MP's to have signed an Early Day Motion in Parliament, voicing opposition to a war on Iraq.
- 7) NUS have adopted the principled position of opposing war on Iraq, as have many Trade Unions and other political organisations.

This Union Resolves:

- 1) To add our voices to the growing and broad range of domestic and international opinion opposed to the United States' proposed military action on Iraq.
- 2) To urge the British government to withhold support for a war on Iraq and call on all who support peace and respect international law to take a similar stand.
- 3) To publicise the fact that UBU oppose any war on Iraq, by issuing a statement to the local press, our local MP's and the University.
- 4) To advertise our opposition to war on campus with displays, posters banners and leaflets, to ensure students are aware of the current issues.
- 5) To send UBU representatives to relevant local meetings to represent our policy against war, and to encourage all students to get involved in local and national protests, demonstrations and vigils.

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