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[H.N.S.C. No. 105–51]

UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARD IRAQ

HEARING

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

HEARING HELD
SEPTEMBER 16, 1998

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QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY MR. BATEMAN

Mr. BATEMAN. What nations facilitate or cooperate in the illicit transfer of technology to Iraq?

Mr. RITTER. I may not be in a position to know all of the nations that have participated in the transfer of technology to Iraq in violation of UN resolutions, however, during my experience with Unscom I became aware of inappropriate technology transfers emanating from the U.S., UK, China, France, Germany, Russia, Romania, Switzerland, Italy, and the Netherlands. There may well have been others. I am unable to say definitely whether such transfers took place with or without cooperation of the governments of the countries that the transfers emanated from.

Mr. BATEMAN. Is the international community losing skilled weapons inspection personnel because of the contradictory policy and actions of the Clinton Administration?

Mr. RITTER. As I have stated publicly, my departure from Unscom was partially attributable to my disappointment with US policies and performance. I cannot speak for anyone else.

Mr. BATEMAN. Would you rate the support of the intelligence community as adequate to carry out the mission of the UNSCOM inspection team? How does the current level of intelligence support compare to the support prior to the Annan Agreement?

Mr. RITTER. The US intelligence community has been appropriately helpful on some occasions and not on others. I am unable to comment on the current level of participation. However, after the 23 Feb 98 Memorandum of Understanding between Kofi Annon and Tariq Aziz, there was a marked effort of the U.S. intelligence community to take control of Unscom efforts to gather intelligence through inspectors as well as special relationships with third party governments.

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