

Tudeh News



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Perilous and Adventurous Policies Threaten the Middle East

(From the editorial in the supplement of "Nameh Mardom", Central Organ of the Tudeh Party of Iran No. 643, 15 September 2002)

George W. Bush, the US president, in his speech on September 12th in the general assembly of the UN, presented a dossier on Saddam Hussein's regime declaring it an immediate and serious danger for global peace. He announced that if the UN does not act upon this situation, the US administration would directly take the necessary measures to topple Saddam Hussein's regime. In his speech he said, the USA had been more than patient and that Saddam Hussein had ignored UN resolutions sixteen times so far... He warned that the United Nations should do what it was founded to do or risk becoming irrelevant. The United States would not stand by and do nothing while dangers grew".

George Bush did not mention how these dangerous weapons of mass destruction, including Iraq's chemical weapons got into the hands of that regime. Many political analysts, have pointed out that a major portion of chemical and weapons of mass destruction, were supplied to Saddam Hussein's regime by Western countries, US and Britain in

particular, in the 1980's during the Iran-Iraq war. What is transparent in George Bush's address to the United Nations is that the US administration has already made a definite decision to attack Iraq and is now seeking an international endorsement for its plan, by pressing Iraq's neighbours and the UN and by giving an ultimatum to the Security Council of the UN.

According to CNN, Collin Powell, the US secretary of defence, rejected Tariq Aziz (Iraq's deputy prime minister) and his country's conditions for the return of the UN inspectors, and stated that only an unconditional acceptance of the UN inspectors by Iraq is acceptable to the US. Powell pointed out that the US would not wait months to watch Iraq's maneuvers and UN inaction.

The Tudeh Party of Iran, firmly opposes war and the military intervention of NATO and the US in the Middle East. Today, it is obvious for most countries and people of the world that the policies of the US administration in this region are conducted with the goal of imposing the new world order in the region and attaining long term benefits for the US, especially in the area of

energy supply. Many political analysts, progressive forces and human-rights activists, in the Middle East and the world over, correctly reason that many of George Bush's charges against Iraq, such as possession of weapons of mass destruction, raiding and occupying neighboring countries and constantly ignoring UN resolutions, also apply to the Israeli regime. However, not only is the US not planning a military attack against Israel, but it continues to supply hundreds of billions of dollars worth of weapons to that regime.

The Tudeh Party of Iran believes that any military action will have extremely dangerous consequences. The Middle East region is like a powder keg that can ignite in the event of any military conflict, with bloody consequences. The issue of disregard for UN resolutions shown by Iraq and other countries is, undoubtedly a crucial one that the UN has to address; but giving an ultimatum to the UN is indicative of the Bush administration's disregard for this international organisation as it challenges the administration's hegemonist policies as evidenced last year in various areas, such as the unilateral withdrawal of the US from various international conventions.

The toppling and overthrowing of the dictatorial and anti-people regime of Saddam Hussein is a task that has to be carried out only, and only by the people of Iraq and not by any foreign force. Our party, in accordance with the progressive forces of Iraq, including the Iraqi Communist Party, strongly opposes military intervention in Iraq and is in favour of leaving the destiny of this country to its own people.

A military attack by the US on Iraq will certainly have tremendous impact on other countries in the region, such as Iran. In the past few weeks we have witnessed that reactionary forces, taking advantage of the potential danger of the US intervention in the region and in Iran, have started and newly intensified attack on the reform process within

Iran. Hiding behind the slogan of "protecting national security", they are calling all the dissenters to obey and follow the "Velayat-e-Faqih" regime blindly. Undoubtedly, the worsening crisis in the region and the start of military action can be used by the reactionaries to suppress the popular movement in Iran.

Our people will never forget how the imposed war with Iraq, started by the Saddam's regime and as a result of intrigues of the USA and Britain against the Iranian revolution, was used as a means to destroy the revolution, and how eight years of vicious war, in addition to catastrophic human and material losses, became one of the major factors in undermining our people's revolution. Our party and other progressive forces in the region cannot remain silent and indifferent about warmongering policies that threaten countries like ours.

The US political position regarding Iraq, and its ultimatum to the UN Security Council, is a dangerous cycle of dictatorial and hegemonistic policies in the international arena that in the end will only result in more instability in the region and damage international relations. The Tudeh Party of Iran, along with other progressive and peace-loving forces in the world believes that it is only the global resistance that can prevent the start of a new war in the region.