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October 7, 2002

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear President Bush:

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) opposes unilateral, pre-emptive military action by the United States against Iraq. The human, social, and economic costs of war are immense. Such action should be undertaken only under imminent and immediate threat to our country, and with the sanction of the United Nations and support of our allies.

NASW policies have long advocated the abolition of all chemical, biological, and nuclear warfare. We support U.N.-sponsored multinational efforts to eliminate weapons of mass destruction, as well as efforts by countries to cease production of, and destroy any stockpiles of such weapons. We strongly urge the non-violent resolution of international conflicts.

NASW policies also support the premise that the welfare of all people, and balanced economic and social development of all nations, should be the goals of U.S. foreign policy. Social workers, who work with immigrants and refugees, are acutely aware of the frequent connection between war and poverty. We know that those who are already poor and powerless are further victimized in violent confrontations. Therefore, NASW calls for the United States to foster cooperation and collaboration with allies and international bodies in all its foreign policy initiatives.

Jane Addams, the 1931 co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize and a pioneer social worker, said, "We believe that war, seeking its end through coercion, not only interrupts but fatally reverses the process of cooperating good will, which if it has a chance, would eventually include the human family itself."

We urge you to oppose any pre-emptive or unilateral military action against other countries, including Iraq.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry Mizrahi".

Terry Mizrahi, PhD, MSW
President