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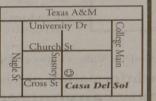
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# Iraq's military threat growing

U.S., British defense chiefs warn of increasing danger from Ira

LONDON (AP) — Iraq poses an increasing threat that must be met, the defense chiefs of the United States and Britain said Wednesday, showing growing impatience with Saddam Hussein.

'We know that Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq has had a sizable appetite for weapons of mass destruction" and is finding ways to acquire the ingredients, Defense Secretary Donald H.

Rumsfeld said. 'We know the borders into that country are quite porous," he added, allowing Iraq to import technologies with applications in both civilian and military industries as well as illicit

'There is not a doubt in the world that with every month that goes by their programs mature," he said.

Iraq denies it has or is developing any weapons of mass destruction, but it has refused to allow the international inspections that it agreed to accept as a condition of ending the 1991 Gulf War.

Rumsfeld would not discuss. the possibility of U.S. military action to topple Saddam's government, saying that was a matter for President Bush to decide. He spoke at a joint news conference with British Defense Secretary Geoff Hoon after meetings to discuss Iraq and other issues.

Rumsfeld and Hoon both expressed their governments' hope for a lowering of tensions between nuclear rivals India and Democratic Pakistan. Rumsfeld's stop in London was the first on a 10day journey that is to take him to the Indian and Pakistani capitals next week.

For months the Bush administration has been publicly making the case for taking strong action — possibly military against Iraq, but allied nations have been slow to offer support.

In Washington Wednesday, Senate Majority Tom Leader Daschle of South Dakota said his fellow Democrats support a push to unseat Saddam. "The question is when and how and under what circumstances,' Daschle said.

Sen. Joseph Biden, D-Del., the chairman of the

Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said he had cautioned Bush that any major attack would require a U.S. presence for two to five years, to keep battling factions away from each other

"I reminded him, there's a reason why your father stopped and didn't go to Baghdad. It wasn't that he wasn't able to. He wasn't prepared to stay for five years," Biden said after meeting with Bush at the White

day earlier, House

Gephardt volunteered his support if the administration resorted to force. "I share President Bush's resolve to confront this menace head-on," he said.

Bush spokesman Ari Fleischer declined to comment on the Democrats' remarks, beyond reiterating that the administration supports a "regime change" in Iraq.

On Tuesday, Bush said that

"one option, of course, is the military option." The president added, however, he had no plans to had a sizable appetite attack. for weapons of mass Hoon

described the

Iraqi military

inter-

- Donald Rumsfeld increasing in U.S. Defense Secretary recent weeks. Asked in a

We know that

Saddam Hussein's

regime in Iraq has

destruction.

later view to elaborate, Hoon said Iraq's air defenses are more aggressively trying to shoot down the U.S. and British pilots who regularly fly combat air patrols over northern and southern Iraq.

Pilots have reported attacks in recent week by Iraqi anti-aircraft artillery and surface-to-air missiles. The allied planes have responded by bombing various elements of Iraq's air defense system.

Since the start of U.S. and British enforcement of the "no deception.

fly" zones more than a ago, Iraq has considered violation of its sovere has vowed to shoot planes.

Hoon said that imm after the Sept. 11 attack United States there marked decline in Iraq ing of allied pilots.

'We judged that th in Iraq seemed to have message - that militar would follow if they very careful," Hoon's interview with reports panying him and aboard an Air Force London to Brussels, Be

The recent aggres would suggest a new, m risome Iraqi attitude, Hod Americ "Clearly they are feets, the St

little more confident th have in the recent past," he state 1. Hoon said the United went dor and Britain "can only be orism ir suspicious" of how far 8 m of cro

has progressed in dev weapons of mass destruct in the ca long as United Nations i tors are not allowed to monitor Iraq's military fathereme C

He said the best answuck dow problem is to return ate's 50-y the problem is to return inspectors, with Iraqi conty bannin freely monitor military farming in suspected of devel e court nuclear, chemical or biolie law cri weapon. Rumsfeld ha rticular 1 doubt on that approach, ying a c ing that previous efforts monitoring accomplished preme ( because of Iraqi deni



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## India calls for joint monitorin of Kashmir region with Pakista or and and a region with Pakista or and a r

NEW DELHI, India (AP) - India made a conciliatory gesture to Pakistan on Wednesday, calling for joint monitoring of their disputed Kashmir frontier — a proposal that Pakistan played down as old and unlikely to work.

Even as the United States and Britain sent top officials to pressure the nuclear-armed rivals, they stepped up warnings asking their own citizens to

In phone calls to Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf and Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, President Bush appealed to leaders of both nations to "choose the path of diplo-

"We want to move away from a path of confrontation to a path of cooperation," Vajpayee said earlier wednesday, before leaving Kazakhstan, where he attended an Asian security conference along with Musharraf

Vajpayee said India and Pakistan should work together to patrol the border and verify that Islamic militants were no longer crossing into Indian-controlled Kashmir to launch attacks against Indian security forces and Kashmiris.

It was the first indication in the six-month standoff that India might cooperate with Pakistan to end the Kashmir insurgency and solve the dispute that dates to independence from Britain in 1947. Kashmir has been the flashpoint in two of the three wars between the South Asian rivals.

Pakistan's Foreign Ministry responded that if the Indian proposal were serious, it should be conveyed formally.

Such proposals could be discussed "as soon as

India signifies a willingness to resume a con hensive dialogue with Pakistan," the ministry in a statement. "The proposal is not new," the ministry

"Given the state of Pakistan-India re mechanisms for joint patrolling are unlike rginia o The ministry noted that a small U.N. m

ing force already had a mandate to patrol the frontation line in Kashmir and that it " expanded to perform this role more effective o recogn

India has previously ruled this out, how and Vajpayee said it was not necessary to hishould be third country check for infiltration -

Musharraf suggested Tuesday. The international community has been seed speec bling to avert a potential fourth war between and Pakistan as fears of a nuclear confront have escalated. Some one million Indian has argu Pakistani soldiers have been posted along

1,800-mile frontier since December. Musharraf suggested on Wednesday that ho ities could ease with upcoming visits by De Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and Der

Secretary of State Richard Armitage. In London, Rumsfeld said Vajpayee Musharraf each recognize that war is the option and so they "may very well be looki ways to tamp things down rather than see the escalate.

Rumsfeld added that "there's no question I for the Kashmir crisis has distracted Pakistan from ing the United States finish the war against Qaida in neighboring Afghanistan.

### Prosecutors hope to wrap up case in trial of slain reporter HYDERABAD, Pakistan

Prosecutors said Wednesday they hoped to wrap up their case this week against four Islamic militants charged in the slaying of Daniel Pearl, after deciding to drop the Wall Street Journal reporter's widow as a Chief

Prosecutor Raja Quereshi said he decided not to pursue Mariane Pearl's testimony after her attorney filed a statement in court saying she would be unable to travel to London or Pakistan for medical reasons.

Her attorney did not elaborate on her condition. Pearl, 38, gave birth to her first child, Adam, a week ago in Paris, where the French free-lance journalist lives. She earlier said she was willing to testify as long as her doctors approved the trip.

The prosecution has been trying to speed up the case, dropping 13 other witnesses last month because of potential legal complications arising from the discovery of a dismembered body May 17 in Karachi believed to be Daniel Pearl's.

"With God willing and luck on my side, we shall conclude our case in two days," Quereshi

The trial, which began April 22, resumes Thursday, with the prosecution examining its final witness, police officer Hamid Ullah Memon. The four Islamic radicals, including suspected mastermind Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh, charged with Pearl's kidnapping and murder have all pleaded innocent.

Quereshi said Wednesday that not having Mariane Pearl as a witness "would neither hurt nor help the prosecution case at this time.

She would have testified only that she made the initial criminal complaint and showed e-mails she received show her husband in captiv Quereshi said, adding that bo the complaint and the e-ma are already in the court recon

Daniel Pearl, the Journa South Asia bureau chief, disa peared from the port city Karachi on Jan. 23 while working on a story about Pakistani m tants. After his disappearance, mails — with photos showing - were sent captive Pearl news agencies from an unknown group demanding better tre ment for al-Qaida and Talib prisoners held at the U.S. Nav. Guantanamo Bay base in Cub Last month, police found

body in a shallow grave near blood-splattered shed in Pakista

Authorities had been tip off to the body by three suspec in custody, identified by Pakis television as members of a ra cal Muslim group, Lashkal Janghvi, with links to al-Qal

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