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Subject: Re: United States using chemical weapons in Iraq?

Posted by [NeoSaber](#) on Sun, 04 Dec 2005 03:31:51 GMT

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I think we're getting a little mixed up here. The date that resolution referred to was for the first Gulf War. Iraq had to withdraw from Kuwait to comply with that deadline as far as I'm aware. I was going to mention something about the UN's declaration that Iraq breached the ceasefire for the first Gulf War, but I cut it out, since I figured it wasn't really part of the discussion yet...

I took your reference to "Member States" to mean that the UN was in charge because members of the UN were involved in the war. I'm saying that the UN organization itself wasn't involved in the war at all, regardless if some of its members participated in the conflict. The resolutions make distinctions between the UN itself and the countries that participated in the fighting. The ceasefire applied to the combatants, which the UN itself is not listed to be among. The UN took on some responsibilities as part of the ceasefire, but that didn't make it the authority on it.

The way I read it is that "All States" is basically a reference to the UN body as a whole, whereas "Member States" are countries that although are part of the UN, are not acting on its behalf. Iraq was a member state too, but it certainly wasn't acting on behalf of the UN.

A judge has to settle a dispute between two parties. When he does, that doesn't make him a part of the dispute, just the arbiter of it. The UN played a similar role in the first Gulf War. That didn't make them the victorious side of the conflict, just a mediator of it. That left the ceasefire agreement between Iraq, Kuwait and the US. The UN wasn't part of it. Although they agreed to supervise some parts, that doesn't give them the authority to nullify the ceasefire.

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