While the Bush administration uses raw fear to sell unilateral, preemptive war on Iraq, it forgets to ask:

Will this war make us more secure – or less?

♦  *Truth, the first casualty.*  Secretary of State Colin Powell’s Feb. 5th UN speech was impressive until: the British dossier turned out to have been copied from old academic papers; the satellite photograph was recognized as dating from 1991; the alleged Al Qaeda cell is in part of northern Iraq outside Saddam Hussein’s control. No wonder CIA Director George Tenet looked away from the TV cameras.

♦  The UNSCOM weapons inspectors destroyed more Iraqi weapons than were destroyed in the 1991 war. The new inspection team is much tougher than the last one.

♦  CIA Director Tenet has told Congress that if Saddam Hussein has chemical or biological weapons, he will use them only if we attack. Shouldn’t we give inspectors a chance to find them rather than expose our troops and the world to this risk?

♦  The Bush administration has threatened to retaliate to Iraqi chemical or biological weapons with a US nuclear strike. That would open Pandora’s box to others, such as India and Pakistan.

♦  A secret UN study estimates 500,000 serious civilian injuries or deaths in Iraq even without nuclear weapons. The war in Afghanistan claimed more civilian deaths than the World Trade Center. This threatens to be hundreds of times worse.

♦  US depleted uranium shells will cause generations of Iraqi birth defects and “Gulf War syndrome” in our troops.

And then?

♦  Terrorists will still be able to get biological weapons in 12 countries, including the US (the source of the 2001 anthrax). They will find nuclear materials in Pakistan, North Korea, the former Soviet Union… Just why has the Bush administration abandoned virtually every arms control treaty, including verification to the Biological Weapons Convention, and undermined the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty?

♦  Millions more from Morocco to Indonesia will want to join Al Qaeda, as the CIA has warned.

♦  The US may have to occupy Iraq for decades. Yet it was US troops in Saudi Arabia that incited Osama bin Laden to strike us.

♦  America will be up to $1.6 trillion poorer – unable to invest in cities, schools, hospitals, renewable energy, all needed to build a truly secure society.

♦  America will have become an aggressor nation and betrayed its democratic heritage.

Mr. President, give inspections your real support. We can win peace.

For references, please see [http://traprockpeace.org](http://traprockpeace.org); [http://www.moveon.org/iraqletters.html](http://www.moveon.org/iraqletters.html)