

Our voices join the chorus for peace

*We call to friends and neighbors —
Act to stop the war with Iraq*

We, the undersigned, oppose the United State's planned war against Iraq and the culture and policy of militarism and aggression that underlies it.

By following our course of militarizing international relations, substituting force for diplomacy and marginalizing efforts at creating meaningful international law we risk losing our moral, political and legal foundation as leaders.

By relying on brute force and showing callous disregard for the civilian and humanitarian costs of our martial adventurism we risk becoming the very type of aggressor nation we have fought against in previous wars, and by so doing we risk creating a world far less safe for ourselves, for our allies and friends, and for our children.

By ignoring the nearly universal opposition to our war plans from countries around the world and by forcing our will on any country that opposes us simply because we are too powerful for them to resist we risk undermining the very idea of democracy itself, substituting the decrees of a powerful elite for the will of the common people. *(continued in right column)*



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Join us in downtown Chicago

United for Peace
VIGIL & CANDLELIGHT PROCESSION
Sunday, Dec. 15, 2002, 3:30 pm
St. James Cathedral, 65 E. Huron, Chicago
For information contact: www.grassrootsvoices.org

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Our aggressive actions and disregard for international opinion have already produced new threats to our safety by reinforcing the radical Islamists' claims that the U.S. is the enemy of Islam and Arabs, by creating widespread suspicion of U.S. motives in Indonesia, East Asia, the Middle East and Europe, and by emboldening a new wave of militarism and repression on the part of other nations around the world.

And most frighteningly our aggression overseas is being cynically used to justify a dangerously anti-democratic shift at home by authorizing actions such as detention without trial of U.S. citizens, confiscation of private property without bringing legal charges, secret courts whose rulings cannot be appealed, racial profiling and intimidation, and such alarmingly intrusive domestic spying efforts as the TIPS and TIA programs, which threaten to turn our neighbors into spies and open up our most sensitive personal information to government data analysts.

We call on the Bush administration to reverse its course and instead pursue a policy aimed at reducing conflict, finding common ground, and respecting the human rights, political rights, and legal rights of peoples around the world.

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