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6th February 2003

Andren Moves UN-only Amendment to PM's Statement

Independent Member for Calare Peter Andren today moved an amendment to the Prime Minister's statement on Iraq calling on the House to reject Australian involvement in any war on Iraq without the specific and unanimous approval of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

"This is the most basic of messages our Parliament should be sending to the electorate, our neighbours and our allies," Mr Andren said.

"I am personally against our involvement in this conflict under any circumstances, but I am moving an amendment to reflect the most fundamental assurance that millions of Australians seek – that UN Security Council sanction is the essential prerequisite for any action against Iraq.

"As I did last September, in the so-called debate on the Foreign Minister's statement on Iraq, I have moved an amendment designed to lock both the Government and Opposition into the UN-only position.

"Both the Government and Opposition failed to support my amendment then, but the Parliament should now make a firm commitment to the UN process.

"I am not convinced by Mr Howard's assurances that our young men and women have not already been committed to war. This amendment is designed to confirm the sincerity of both Government and Opposition that under no circumstances will Australia follow the US into a war without the support of the Security Council's five permanent members.

"As was the case last September, Member for New England Tony Windsor will second my amendment, and I would hope it has the unanimous support of the entire Parliament," Mr Andren concluded.

NB: Andren amendment attached.

For more information: 02 6277 2341 or 0419 612 891

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The Parliament of the
Commonwealth of Australia

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Iraq – Prime Minister’s Statement

(Amendment to be moved by Mr Andren to motion to take note of paper)

That the following words be added to the motion:

“and insists that in the absence of specific, unambiguous and unanimous support of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, Australian defence forces not be involved in any military action in Iraq”.
