

News Release

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HARRY BROWNE
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Harry Browne: Cruise missile attack on Iraq shows U.S. military policy of "perpetual war"

WASHINGTON, DC — The missile attack on Iraq today is the latest bloody installment in the U.S. government's military policy of "perpetual war for perpetual peace," charged Libertarian presidential contender Harry Browne.

"This missile attack on Iraq is another example of how government foreign policy doesn't work," said Browne. "Instead of defending America, our government is attacking nations that pose no real military threat to us — and is making our country a more tempting target for murderous terrorists."

President Bill Clinton said the missiles "sent a message" to Iraqi ruler Saddam Hussein that he cannot abuse his people or threaten his neighbors.

"What was lacking in Clinton's statement was an explanation of how this attack makes America more secure — which is the alleged goal of our military," said Browne. "Or an explanation of why we need 15,000 U.S. troops, 200 warplanes, and 20 battleships in the Persian Gulf to defend America."

Unfortunately, said Browne, this kind of meddling in other nations' affairs is nothing new for the U.S. government.

"Since World War II, our government has shipped money, weapons, and soldiers to nearly 100 nations," said Browne. "Instead of defending our country, the government has sent Americans to die in the jungles of Asia, the shanty towns of Somalia, and the desert sands of the Middle East. Instead of focusing on defense, the government has seized on minor incidents to jump into conflicts that didn't threaten America."

"And thus we are almost always at war — cold or hot, but a conflict nevertheless. We have what historian Charles Beard called the 'perpetual war for perpetual peace' — the nonstop conflict that's always justified by the peace just around the corner. But government doesn't work. War doesn't work. Every war leaves America and the world as insecure as they were before — with new enemies to face or with old enemies threatening to get even," said Browne. "This latest skirmish is no exception."

The Iraqi attack also provides a compelling reason why he should be invited to the presidential debates, argued Browne. "Both Clinton and Bob Dole support this kind of endless foreign military action. My participation in the debates would guarantee that a voice for peace — and a sensible defense policy — would be heard."

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