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Iraqis practice terror

Training camp violates cease-fire

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SHORTFALLS, By The Washington Times

Iraq is training international terrorists again at a secret base near Baghdad for the first time since the Persian Gulf war, Bush administration officials said yesterday. The training, which violates the terms of the agreement that ended the Gulf war, includes practice with small arms, handling and use of explosives, and other paramilitary exercises, said officials with access to intelligence reports on the activity.

The renewed training activity is viewed by some officials as an ominous sign that Iraq may be stepping up its support for global terrorism after a hiatus of nearly two years since the Gulf war.

In a related development, the U.N. Security Council said yesterday that Iraq failed to comply with U.N. demands to destroy its weapons arsenals and with other postwar sanctions.

"Iraq has up to now only selectively and then partially complied with the obligations placed upon it by the council," said council President Andre Erdos, Hungary's U.N. ambassador.

Regarding Iraqi terrorist training, the administration officials said that the group involved in the training was not identified but that the camp was occupied by Arab terrorists in the past.

The terrorist training was spotted earlier this month by U.S. intelligence agencies based on photographs taken over Iraq, the officials said. Orbiting reconnaissance satellites and special aircraft currently are the primary sources of photographic intelligence on Iraq.

The training also appears to violate U.N. Resolution 687, which requires Baghdad to renounce its support for international terrorism. The resolution states that the Iraqi government must not allow any terrorist group to "operate within its territory."

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