



Conseil de sécurité

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LETTRE DATÉE DU 1er DÉCEMBRE 1998, ADRESSÉE AU PRÉSIDENT DU CONSEIL
DE SÉCURITÉ PAR LE REPRÉSENTANT PERMANENT DU SOUDAN AUPRÈS DE
L'ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES

J'ai l'honneur de vous faire tenir ci-joint (voir annexe) un article de l'agence France-Presse daté du 29 novembre 1998, qui reprend les propos du sénateur Arlen Specter (républicain, Pennsylvanie), qui a déclaré à Fox News qu'il ne pensait pas que les éléments liant l'usine de Al-Shifa à la fabrication d'armes chimiques soient très probants. Il a également indiqué que "nous devrions établir les faits" et invité le Congrès à ouvrir une enquête sur l'attaque lancée à l'aide de missiles contre l'usine de Al-Shifa à Khartoum.

Je vous serais obligé de bien vouloir faire distribuer le texte de la présente lettre et de son annexe comme document du Conseil de sécurité.

Le Représentant permanent

(Signé) Elfatih ERWA



Annexe

Specter wants probe into U.S. missile attack on Sudan

[Latest News From Sudan At Sudan.Net]

News Article by AFP on November 29, 1998 at 18:48:08

Specter wants probe into U.S. missile attack on Sudan

WASHINGTON (November 29, 1998) - Congress should look into whether a U.S. missile strike on a pharmaceuticals plant in Sudan in August was justified, a leading senator said Sunday.

Speaking on the Fox News talk show Sunday, Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Penn., said evidence linking the plant to chemical weapons production had not been "overwhelming."

"I do not believe that the evidence is overwhelming," said Specter. "We ought to be finding the facts."

The Aug. 20 strike ordered by President Clinton came two weeks after U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania were blown up in terrorist attacks.

U.S. officials maintain that the plant was engaged in chemicals weapons production and was linked to the chief suspect in the embassy bombings, terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden.

Specter said Congress should hold closed-door hearings to probe the missile attack on the Al Shifa plant in Khartoum, which Sudan says produced only medicine.

"We ought to be having closed door hearings to find out exactly what went on," Specter said.

<http://www.sudan.net/wwwboard/news/40990.html>

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Former president Jimmy Carter has also called for an investigation into the attack on the factory, suggesting that a technical team inspect the remains of the plant and take samples of soil and building materials.

U.S. officials say soil samples taken near the factory prove the plant was engaged in production of an agent used in deadly nerve gas

The attack was launched three days after Clinton acknowledged in a nationally-televised address that he had an "inappropriate" relationship with former intern Lewinsky.

On the day of the strike, Specter, a member of the Senate defense appropriations subcommittee, said that the timing raised "certain concerns."

Many Clinton critics have charged that the president ordered the attack to divert attention away from the White House sex-and-perjury probe.