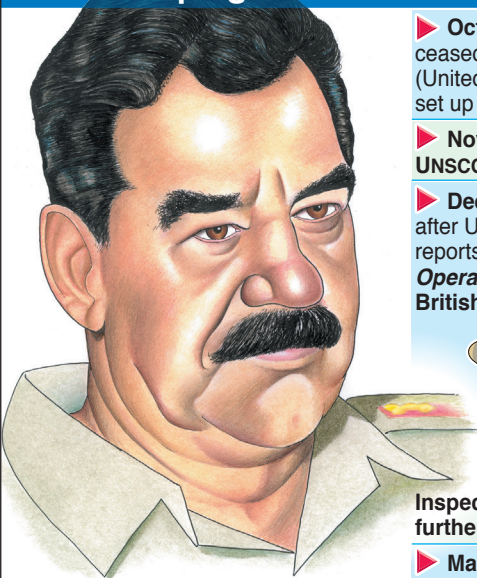


# Keeping track of Saddam's weapons



As the Bush administration presses its case for a pre-emptive strike against Iraq, weapons experts say there is mounting evidence that Saddam Hussein has amassed large stocks of chemical and biological weapons

▶ **Feb 28, 1991:** *Gulf War* ends, leaving Iraq subject to UN sanctions and arms inspections

▶ **Oct 1997:** Iraq bars U.S. weapons inspectors, provoking diplomatic crisis which is defused by Russian-brokered compromise

▶ **Jan 1998:** Iraq blocks inspection by U.S.-dominated team and accuses its leader, **Scott Ritter**, of spying for United States

▶ **Feb:** UN Secretary General **Kofi Annan** announces deal on weapons inspections after meeting **Saddam Hussein** in Baghdad

▶ **Oct:** Iraqi leadership says it has ceased all co-operation with **UNSCOM**, (United Nations Special Commission) set up for weapons inspections in Iraq

▶ **Nov:** Baghdad agrees to return of UNSCOM weapons inspectors

▶ **Dec 16:** UN orders inspectors out after UNSCOM chief **Richard Butler** reports Iraqis are refusing to co-operate. **Operation Desert Fox:** U.S. and British air strikes begin hours later



▶ **Dec 1999:** UNSCOM replaced by **UNMOVIC** (Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission). Iraq rejects further UN inspections

▶ **Mar 1 2000:** Sweden's **Hans Blix** becomes chief UNMOVIC inspector

▶ **May 3 2002:** UNMOVIC and Iraqi officials hold first technical level talks since December 1998

▶ **Jul 5:** UN-Iraq talks end without agreement on inspections as Baghdad demands lifting of sanctions

▶ **Jul 31:** Richard Butler tells U.S. Senate committee that Iraq stepped up production of chemical and biological weapons after UN inspections ended – and may be close to developing a nuclear bomb

▶ **Aug:** Iraq says Hans Blix is welcome in Baghdad for talks

▶ **Sep:** UN weapons experts estimate Iraq may have more than 600 tonnes of chemical agents, including mustard gas, VX and sarin, plus some 25,000 rockets and 15,000 artillery shells incorporating chemical warheads