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PENCE HAILS HOUSE HEARINGS ON U.N. OIL-FOR-FOOD SCANDAL

Participates in House International Relations Committee Hearings Today

Washington, Apr 28, 2004 - Washington, D.C.- As the House International Relations Committee starts hearings today on the U.N. Oil-for-Food scandal, Congressman Mike Pence gave the following speech on the House floor this morning. Pence is a member of the International Terrorism and Middle East and Central Asia Subcommittees of the House International Relations panel.

“Millennia ago, a question was asked that rings through history and through governance. That question is, ‘Can a corrupt throne be allied with you?’

“Today, in just a few moments, the International Relations Committee will gather to examine the United Nations’ Oil-for-Food program. We will begin to call for transparency and accountability in a program that the United Nations oversaw, but that the evidence suggests allowed Saddam Hussein to amass and divert, through kickbacks and various forms of graft, in excess of $4 billion.

“As we consider moving forward as a partner in Iraq with the United Nations, now is the time and the International Relations Committee is the place where we must begin to get to the bottom of the administration of the Oil-for-Food program.

“We must find the truth, have transparency and accountability, and go forward with the United Nations with our eyes open.”

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