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 B1, 1.4(C), 1.4(D)

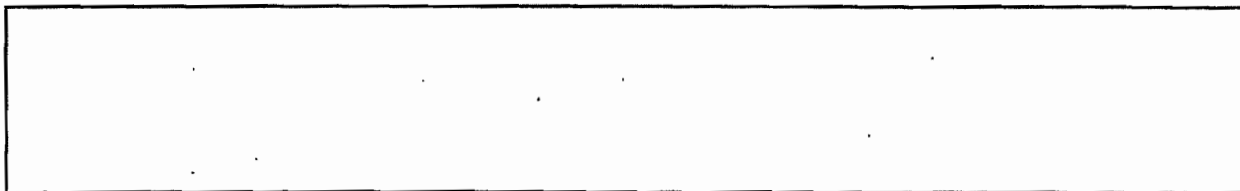
(U) Western Europe: Publics Support Action Against Iraq

(C) European publics are far ahead of their governments in support for possible military action in Iraq, as long as it is taken multilaterally. Arguments that draw attention to human rights in addition to terrorism and weapons of mass destruction (WMD) will be the most persuasive with Allied publics.

(C) INR surveys conducted before the current Israeli crackdown in the West Bank and Gaza show half or more among key Allied publics supporting military action against Iraq. Backing for action to eliminate Iraq's WMD capabilities reaches majority levels in the United Kingdom, France, and Spain (Table 1). This argument has slightly more influence than using force to "remove terrorists" and eliminate their training camps.

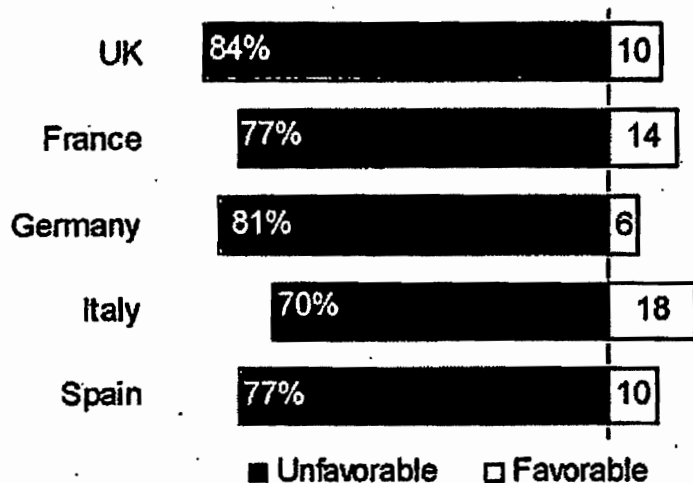
(U) Table 1: Views on Own Country Taking Part in Military Action Against Iraq (percent)					
	UK	France	Germany	Italy	Spain
Forcibly to remove terrorists and shut down training camps					
Support	73	62	48	47	57
Oppose	23	34	50	48	36
To eliminate Iraq's ability to produce weapons of mass destruction					
Support	72	70	53	55	61
Oppose	24	28	44	40	33

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Figure 1: European Attitudes Toward Iraq



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(U) Underlying support for military action, European publics are widely negative toward Iraq (Figure 1). Even more than concerns over WMD, European publics take issue with Iraq on terrorism and human rights (Table 2).

(U) Table 2: Reasons for Unfavorable Views
(percent of those "somewhat" or "very" unfavorable toward Iraq)

	UK	France	Germany	Italy	Spain
It is an oppressive regime where human rights are not respected	54	59	58	63	65
It sponsors terrorism	23	25	25	23	20
It possesses weapons of mass destruction	19	11	12	8	10
It is a Muslim state	1*	3	2	3	2

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Other	3	1	2	1	1
Don't know/no answer	2	2	1	2	2
<i>* volunteered answer in the UK</i>					

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