



ホワイトハウスが攻撃支持45カ国リストを発表

【ワシントン佐藤千矢子】ホワイトハウスは20日、米国のイラク攻撃への支持を表明している英国、日本、韓国など「有志連合」45カ国のリストを発表した。国務省が30カ国リストを発表したのに続くもので、ブッシュ大統領は「有志連合は増え続けている」と強調し、米国に対するユニラテリズム（単独行動主義）批判をかわすのに懸命だ。

大統領は20日、記者団に「40カ国以上が我々の努力を支持しており、感謝する」と表明した。またラムズフェルド米国防長官も「『イラクの自由』作戦の連合は、増えている。メディアが言うような単独行動でなく、この連合は91年の湾岸戦争の時よりも大きいぐらいだ」と述べた。

国務省は18日に実名30カ国と匿名15カ国の計45カ国が、軍事行動への参加やその他の支援を表明していると発表。ホワイトハウスのリストには、国務省発表の30カ国に加えて、ブルガリア、コスタリカ、ドミニカ、ホンジュラス、クウェート、マーシャル諸島、ミクロネシア、モンゴル、パラオ、ポルトガル、ルワンダ、シンガポール、ソロモン諸島、ウガンダと、当事国の米国の計15カ国が明記された。

この中には、クウェートを除き、米中東軍の前線司令部が置かれているカタールや領空通過を認めているヨルダンなど戦争協力姿勢が明白なアラブ諸国が含まれていない。ホワイトハウスのリストは匿名15カ国とは別に新たに支持を増やした結果が反映されたものと見られる。

ただ、軍事行動に1000人規模以上に参加させるのは、米、英、豪州の3カ国にとどまる。湾岸戦争ではエジプト、シリアなどアラブ諸国9カ国や英仏など欧州10カ国を含む29カ国（日本外務省調べ）が多国籍軍に参加した。このため米メディアも、米政府のリストについて「誇張」「あつかましいうそ」との声を伝えるなど、やや批判的に報じている。

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White House touts international support for military campaign

Official describes Bush as 'undeterred'

By Sean Loughlin
 CNN Washington Bureau
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WASHINGTON (CNN) -- With the nation at war, President Bush summoned his Cabinet to the White House Thursday where he touted international support for the attack on Iraq, thanked the armed forces for their "great skill and great bravery" and expressed his confidence in "the future of our country."

Bush, who described the military campaign as an effort to "make the world more peaceful," touted the international support for the operation even though some world leaders, such as Russian President Vladimir Putin, have called for an end to hostilities.

"Over 40 nations now support our efforts," Bush declared. "We are grateful for their determination, we appreciate their vision and we welcome their support." In brief comments to reporters, Bush highlighted domestic priorities -- specifically changes to Medicare and education -- suggesting his administration would not neglect the home front even with a conflict abroad.

"We're confident we can achieve our objectives," he said.

Throughout the day, the Bush administration stressed the cooperation of what it has dubbed the "coalition of the willing," apparently sensitive to criticism that the United States was acting largely on its own.

White House spokesman Ari Fleischer outlined in broad terms the contributions from other nations, saying the contributions included military, logistical and intelligence support, specialized chemical and biological response teams, overflight rights and humanitarian aid. Most of the nations were not directly involved in the military operations.



President Bush receives an update on the status of the war. From left are: Vice President Dick Cheney, CIA Director George Tenet, the president and Chief of Staff Andy Card.

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"Every major race, religion and ethnic group in the world is represented," Fleischer said, adding that the coalition represents about 1.18 billion people from countries with a combined gross domestic product of \$21.7 trillion. "The coalition includes nations from every continent on the globe. And for this, the president is grateful."

Fleischer said the president respected the views of world leaders who disagreed with him about the need for military action, but he made it clear it would not alter the U.S. strategy.

"That will not deter the United States and the coalition of the willing from disarming the Iraqi regime," Fleischer said.

The president spoke by phone Thursday with several world leaders, keeping them abreast of the military campaign and shoring up support, aides said.

Bush -- who notified the nation Wednesday night that strikes against Iraq had begun -- met with top advisers at the White House throughout the day, following his decision to launch a "broad and concerted" military campaign to topple the regime of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

After a brief night of sleep, Bush started his day with a briefing from National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice. He also met with Vice President Dick Cheney, CIA Director George Tenet and Chief of Staff Andy Card.



President Bush meets with his Cabinet at the White House, including Secretary of State Colin Powell, left, and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

Administration officials, including Fleischer and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, encouraged Iraqi leaders to surrender. Asked specifically about Saddam, Fleischer replied, "One thing you can rest assured of is, after a military action is taken to disarm Saddam Hussein's regime, we have no intention of leaving Saddam Hussein in charge of Iraq."

The administration, Fleischer said, is still working on a cost estimate for the war and will send a supplemental budget request to Congress when one is ready.

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Congressional leaders were quick to issue statements of support for U.S. armed forces, and lawmakers rushed to the floor Thursday to make their sentiments clear.

A somber Bush addressed the nation Wednesday night and prepared Americans for the possibility that the war would not be quick or easy.

"A campaign on the harsh terrain of a nation as large as California could be longer and more difficult than some predict," he said. "And helping Iraqis achieve an united, stable and free country will require our sustained commitment."