

CNN CONNIE CHUNG TONIGHT

Interview With Jermaine Jackson; Celebrities Speak Out Against War With Iraq

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CONNIE CHUNG, HOST: Good evening. I'm Connie Chung.

Tonight: 100 stars tell President Bush: Stop the war talk. Should the president care?

ANNOUNCER: Celebrities out in force protesting a war with Iraq.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

JANEANE GAROFALO, ACTRESS: We feel that military action in Iraq will allow the terrorists to fan the flames of anti-American sentiment.

MIKE FARRELL, ACTOR: We feel that it is a preordained fact that the war will go forward, whether the inspectors do their job or not.

MARTIN SHEEN, ACTOR: It's the responsibility of all of us to pursue peace for its own sake.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

ANNOUNCER: But the war drums continue to beat louder.

And the story of one family, all three children sent to fight for their country.

A parish priest is dead, a church trainee accused of murdering his mentor and setting a fire as a cover-up.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: He is going to be missed. He was a heck of a guy,

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: The one that murdered him has to suffer. And he'll pay the price.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

ANNOUNCER: The community and the congregation are left wondering why.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I loved him. I really did. And I'm going to miss him terribly. (END VIDEO CLIP)

ANNOUNCER: Why is Michael Jackson off the charts and making more headlines off stage? Tonight, Jermaine Jackson answers tough questions and offers an inside look at his brother Michael.

And who will be our "Person of the Day"?

This is CONNIE CHUNG TONIGHT. Live from the CNN Broadcast Center in New York: Connie Chung.

CHUNG: Good evening.

The war drums are getting louder and, tonight, so are the anti-war voices. Today, former President Jimmy Carter, accepting the Nobel Peace Prize in Norway, expressed his views on the subject, saying peace cannot be built by -- quote -- "killing each other's children." Carter warned Saddam Hussein to come clean, but also warned against any nation launching an unprovoked attack on Iraq.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

JIMMY CARTER, FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: We must remember that today there are at least eight nuclear nations on earth, and three of these are threatening to their own neighbors in areas of great international tension. For powerful countries to adopt a principle of preventive war may well set an example that can have catastrophic consequences.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

CHUNG: And, as a bigger force of U.N. inspectors fanned out over Iraq, anti-war rallies echoed the sentiment in dozens of cities and towns across America today, though few drew more than a couple of hundred protesters.

And A letter released today signed by dozens of celebrity said an unprovoked attack on Iraq would kill innocent Iraqis, fuel anti- American sentiment, and increase the likelihood of anti-U.S. terrorism. Signers included singer David Mathews, Bonnie Raitt, actors Matt Damon, Noah Wyle, Samuel L. Jackson, and Martin Sheen.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

MARTIN SHEEN, ACTOR: We love our country enough to risk its wrath by calling attention to its dark spots, the areas that it's blind to.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

CHUNG: We begin tonight with actress Janeane Garofalo; and, in Los Angeles, actor Mike Farrell of "M.A.S.H." and "Providence."

Thank you both for being with us.

Janeane, let's start with you. FARRELL: Thank you.

CHUNG: Yes, thank you, Mike.

We'll start with you.

You are against, according to the letter, a preemptive strike. Now, if the inspectors find a material breach, would you support war?

JANEANE GAROFALO, ACTRESS: That's a tough, very difficult question to answer, because I think one needs to wait and see if they find something.

I'd hate to -- you are going to profile that family with their three kids. I would hate to see them get injured in a war against Iraq. Wait a minute, and I also want to take issue about -- with what you said about a couple of hundred of people attending these peace rallies. I don't believe that. And I think the mainstream media has been guilty of under...

CHUNG: Do you think we're misreporting that, actually, that we're saying that there are a couple hundred when there aren't?

GAROFALO: I think the mainstream media has been guilty of under- reporting a vast and growing peace movement. I've been attending some peace rallies for months and months now. And every time you read about them in the paper, it under-reports how many people. I'm not accusing you on this point. I'm saying I'm skeptical about

(CROSSTALK)

CHUNG: Are you saying we're actually counting these people and misrepresenting how many people are there?

GAROFALO: No, I'm saying you are probably actually undercounting these people. And, again, we are getting off point for that.

But I do believe, in the mainstream media, what you said, the drums of war are beating. I don't really know why there this kind of anxious rush to war. It seems as if -- this is just me as a citizen, not an actor. And, again, I wish people would forget that actors are signing something. There's diplomats and military personnel on this letter to the president, and people from all walks of life, Howard Zinn, and many wonderful people.

I don't understand the rush to war that puts Americans in further danger. It's going to put Israel and Palestine in more escalated danger. I just don't -- I feel the mainstream media has decided it's real ratings coup to be excited about war. That's me as a citizen talking. You are skeptical.

CHUNG: All right, but you just said something earlier that I just want to address before I go to Mike Farrell.

And that is, you talked about this family with three children who are all soldiers. But the reality is, don't you feel a bit of responsibility in the sense of being supportive of them?

GAROFALO: Yes, I do. How is me wanting to keep Americans safe and wanting to keep them safe unsupportive? That's another bizarre tactic of trying to get people not to speak out. You accuse them...

CHUNG: All right, Mike Farrell.

GAROFALO: OK. Yes, Mike Farrell, go.

(LAUGHTER)

CHUNG: Mike Farrell, in the letter, you call the talk of war in Washington alarming and unnecessary. But this isn't a tea party. Won't you concede that Saddam Hussein needs tough talk in order to comply with the U.N. requirements?

FARRELL: Connie, I think that the United Nations inspectors found 95 percent of Saddam Hussein's weapons in the era between 1991 and 1998. There's no reason to believe that these inspectors can't do...

CHUNG: How do you know that?

FARRELL: The inspectors themselves have said so, found and dismantled and/or destroyed. And the inspectors unilaterally said so. And that was not disputed by anyone.

CHUNG: And what about now, though? How do you know...

FARRELL: What about now? What we are finding now is that inspectors are going in with a tougher mandate than they had before, with the absolute support of the Security Council. And they are getting the cooperation of the Iraqis.

So, my question is: What is the value of the administration's undercutting the job of the inspectors by picking at it, by criticizing them, by continuing to criticize the Iraqi government, when what we see so far is cooperation? What we see so far is the inspectors being able to do their jobs.

What we ought to be doing at this point, it seems to me, or what the administration ought to be doing is taking yes for an answer and ratcheting down rather than ratcheting up the drums of war.

CHUNG: Do you believe that the United States and Great Britain do not have solid evidence that there are weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, that they're misrepresenting the information?

FARRELL: Connie, we don't know that, because they have never been willing to produce it. The CIA said there were none. The testimony before the House and Senate said there were none. Hans Blix, the chief of the inspection team, said: If the United States or Great Britain has this evidence, it ought to give it to us so that we can then check it out.

What we are hearing is a lot of war talk, when we're not seeing any evidence that it's supported by anything, which brings me to the question of: What is the actual agenda that is being pursued here?

CHUNG: Janeane Garofalo, do you...

GAROFALO: Thank God Mike Farrell is here.

(LAUGHTER)

GAROFALO: You make me nervous.

I'm sorry, go ahead.

CHUNG: No, you don't mean that.

Do you believe that Saddam Hussein is a threat to world peace?

GAROFALO: I believe that Saddam Hussein, yes, seems like a very bad guy.

I went and saw Scott Ritter speak, former U.N. weapons inspector, Marine, on Monday morning. And, actually, he was corroborating what Mike Farrell said. He and his team in 1998, when they were withdrawn, had found about 95 percent of the weapons. If there was chemical weapons existing, their shelf life had basically expired.

CHUNG: He's the one inspector who's saying that.

GAROFALO: I doubt that that's true.

And, actually, like I said, I really feel that there's something wrong again with the mainstream media, to keep using that phrase. I feel, again, as a citizen, I'm just not getting any information. And all I keep hearing is war, war, war. It's this showdown in Iraq. It's this very aggressive and inflammatory and dangerous rhetoric that is pouring out of U.S. televisions.

And the innocent Iraqi people are not Saddam Hussein, you know? A lot of innocent Iraqis will suffer if we have a military strike against Iraq, and Americans as well, and Israelis and Palestinians.

CHUNG: Janeane Garofalo, Mike Farrell.

FARRELL: Hear, hear. Hear, hear.

GAROFALO: Thanks, Mike.

CHUNG: Thank you so much for being with us.

FARRELL: If I may. If I may, Connie.

CHUNG: Yes.

FARRELL: What we are being treated to is a kind of dualism, you know? It's either, Saddam Hussein is a bad guy or he's not. If he's a bad guy, we get to kill him.

There are a lot of people in the world who are bad guys. There are a lot of people in the world who are international criminals. And they ought to be brought before an international tribunal, like the **International Criminal Court**, which the United States continues to oppose, rather than support. It seems to me that we have an obligation in this country to demand that we live up to the principles that this country was based on and abide by the rule of law. And we're not doing that in this case.

CHUNG: All right, thank you, Mike. Mike Farrell, we thank you so much for being with us.

Janeane, also appreciate it.

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