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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**WORLDBLINK TV AIRS ARAB WORLD REACTION TO
SADDAM REPORT, U.S. RESPONSE**

Only Network to Show What 280 Million Arabs Think.

(San Francisco, December 9, 2002) – This week America’s television news will be dominated by a single story – the December 7 Iraq weapons report, and the response of the Bush Administration. On every network and cable channel, analysts will parse the 12,000-page report in minute detail, read the tea leaves of the White House utterances, and try to weigh the impact of this milestone event on whether America will go to war.

But only one U.S. network, WorldLink TV, will broadcast a full hour on what the 280 million citizens of 22 diverse Arab nations are thinking and saying about the current confrontation.

Mosaic Special Report: Iraq - The View from the Middle East will be broadcast nationally Saturday, December 14, at 10:00pm EST on DirecTV Channel 375 and DISH Network 9410. News reports from more than 15 Middle East nations, ranging in political diversity from Egypt to Abu Dhabi, Israel to Iran, will be distilled and analyzed by Arab-American experts who have spent years studying the region.

The program is an outgrowth of WorldLink’s daily *Mosaic* series, which has been monitoring and presenting Middle East television news since February 2002. *Mosaic* broadcasts news from 15 Middle East networks and closely monitors nine others. The *Mosaic* producers review at least 12 hours of Arab television daily and from that cull one half-hour that is most representative. In addition they rely on Arab newspapers, personal contacts, and travel to maintain their expertise. For example, Jamal Dajani, director of Arabic Programming, recently

returned from three weeks in five Middle East countries. He reads six Arab newspapers daily, and watches seven hours of Arab television each day.

“The Mosaic material gave us a huge database and specialized insights to use in constructing our Iraq special,” said Kim Spencer, president of WorldLink. “To guide our viewers through this complex material we have brought on Sandy Tolan, accomplished journalist and journalism professor, and one of the nation’s top Middle East experts who has been honored by the Overseas Press Club, the Robert F. Kennedy Foundation and the United Nations for his Middle East reporting.”

The program will show footage from the national broadcasters in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt and more. Some of the most timely and close up reports are from Abu Dhabi Television, which has reporters on the ground in Baghdad and throughout Iraq. Reports from Israeli TV are in sharp counterpoint to what is shown in Iran, or on Al Manar, a conservative Islamic channel in Beirut that is funded by the Hezbollah. Throughout the program Arab news clips will be contrasted side-by-side with U.S. news reports.

Providing deep analysis of what is on the screen will be two guests with outstanding Middle East credentials: Kiren Aziz Chaudhry, professor of political science at UC Berkeley; and Beshara Doumani, professor of Middle Eastern history at UC Berkeley.

Dr. Chaudrey, who is an expert in oil economics and the geopolitics of the Gulf States, teaches comparative politics and the political economy of the Middle East. An MA and Ph.D. from Harvard, she has published several seminal books on economic development and oil economics.

Dr. Doumani was born in Palestine, lived in Lebanon, returns to the Middle East frequently, but has lived in the U.S. since age 13. He holds a Ph.D. in history from Georgetown.

“Together with Sandy Tolan these guests will decode the messages of the Arab Street for our viewers,” said Jamal Dajani, executive producer. “Unlike many reporters from U.S. networks, Kiren and Beshara have not been in Iraq or the Middle East for just a few weeks, but were born there and have spent their lives traveling to and studying about the region.

They are eminently qualified to explain that the Arab perspective is not monolithically anti-American, but is layered and complex and diverse.”

Dajani said some of the most widely held Arab viewpoints which will be examined on the program are:

- “The U.S. is hypocritical in threatening Iraq for weapons of mass destruction; it helped Israel develop a nuclear arsenal, and ignores North Korea’s weapons.”
- “Regime change because Iraq is not a democracy is a U.S. charade; none of the U.S. Mid-East allies — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, UAE, Jordan, or Egypt — are democracies.”
- “The U.S. really wants control of Iraqi oil, leading to the destruction of OPEC.”
- “Iraq is only the beginning; the U.S really wants to redraw the map of the Middle East to serve its own ends.”

“As the drumbeat of war gets louder, the attitudes of 280 million people representing some of the oldest and most revered civilizations on earth cannot be dismissed by Americans who want to preserve the values our nation was built on, “ said Spencer. “On December 14, WorldLink will be the only place on television where viewers can get a wide sampling of this important world opinion.”

WorldLink TV is the only U.S. network offering a global perspective on news, current events and cultures, presenting viewpoints seldom covered in the U.S. media. It is accessible nationwide to more than 19 million households on satellite channels Direct TV Channel 375 and DISH Network Channel 9410. WorldLink is a non-commercial network funded by viewer contributions and grants from major foundations. For additional information, go to www.worldlinktv.org.

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