Making the case on Syria

Obama calls potential surrender of chemicals a positive development

By WILLIAM K. ALCORN

WASHINGTON

Bashar al-Assad must immediately begin dismantling his chemical weapon arsenal, and the United States must be prepared to strike, President Barack Obama said Monday.

Obama, acknowledging that immediate military action would be a "tough" decision, said that Assad's regime has been "largely responsible" for the recent use of chemical weapons in Syria.

"I think it's fair to say that I haven't decided on a next step if [Syria's] control of its chemical weapons fails to vest," he said. "I think it's fair to say that I won't oppose the government [of Syria] in Congress for legislation I would like to see," he said on CNN.

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