

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

CD 072

DATE RECEIVED: AUGUST 24, 1990

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MS. JUDITH VIORST

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT TO TALK WITH IRAQ BEFORE
ANY FURTHER MILITARY ACTION

		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
ROUTE TO:		ACT	DATE	TYPE	C COMPLETED
OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	CODE	YY/MM/DD	RESP	D YY/MM/DD
DEPARTMENT OF STATE		ORG	90/08/24 ²⁸		90/08/29
REFERRAL NOTE:			/ /		/ /
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COMMENTS: AUTHOR

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:T INDIVIDUAL CODES: 4620

MI MAIL USER CODES: (A) (B) (C)

*ACTION CODES:	*DISPOSITION	*OUTGOING	*
*	*	*CORRESPONDENCE:	*
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION	*A-ANSWERED	*TYPE RESP=INITIALS	*
*C-COMMENT/RECOM	*B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL	*OF SIGNER	*
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE	*C-COMPLETED	*CODE = A	*
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET	*S-SUSPENDED	*COMPLETED = DATE OF	*
I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC		*OUTGOING	*
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *			*
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE *			*
*X-INTERIM REPLY *			*

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE
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KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
MANAGEMENT.

UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

TRANSMITTAL FORM

S/S 9018854

Date August 31, 1990

FOR: Mr. William F. Sittmann
Executive Secretary
National Security Council Staff
The White House

REFERENCE:

To: The President

From: Judith Viorst

Date: August 22, 1990

Subject: Urges the President to talk with Iraq before
any further military action

WH Referral Dated: August 28, 1990
NSCS ID# (if any): 169190

☐ The attached item was sent directly to the
Department of State.

ACTION TAKEN:

☐ A draft reply is attached.

☐ A draft reply will be forwarded.

☐ A translation is attached.

☒ An information copy of a direct reply is attached.

☐ We believe no response is necessary for the reason
cited below.

☐ The Department of State has no objection to the
proposed travel.

☐ Other (see remarks).

REMARKS:

UNCLASSIFIED

Karen Emmerson
for Director
Secretariat Staff

90 SEP 4 A7: 28

RECEIVED



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

August 29, 1990

Ms. Judith Viorst
3432 Ashley Terrace, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008

Dear Ms. Viorst:

Thank you for your August 22 telegram to the President concerning the situation in the Persian Gulf. The White House has asked me to respond.

For your information, I have enclosed copies of the President's address to the nation on August 8, as well as his August 20 speech before the VFW. I hope these are useful in addressing the concerns raised in your letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edmund J. Hull".

Edmund J. Hull
Director
Office of Northern Gulf Affairs

Enclosure: As stated.

TEXT OF PRESIDENT BUSH'S ADDRESS ON THE MIDDLE EAST

WASHINGTON, Reuter - The following is the text of President Bush's speech to the nation Wednesday. (Approx. 1460 words)

In the life of a nation, we're called upon to define who we are and what we believe. Sometimes, these choices are not easy. But today, as president, I ask for your support in a decision I've made to stand up for what's right and condemn what's wrong, all in the cause of peace.

At my direction, elements of the 82nd Airborne Division, as well as key units of the United States Air Force, are arriving today to take up defensive positions in Saudi Arabia. I took this action to assist the Saudi Arabian government in the defense of its homeland. No one commits American armed forces to a dangerous mission lightly, but after perhaps unparalleled international consultation, and exhausting every alternative, it became necessary to take this action.

Let me tell you why. Less than a week ago in the early morning hours of August 2, Iraqi armed forces, without provocation or warning, invaded a peaceful Kuwait. Facing negligible resistance from its much smaller neighbor, Iraq's tanks stormed in blitzkrieg fashion through Kuwait in a few short hours. With more than a hundred thousand troops, along with tanks, artillery and surface-to-surface missiles, Iraq now occupies Kuwait.

This aggression came just hours after Saddam Hussein specifically assured numerous countries in the area that there would be no invasion. There is no justification whatsoever for this outrageous and brutal act of aggression.

A puppet regime, imposed from the outside, is unacceptable. The acquisition of territory by force is unacceptable.

No one, friend or foe, should doubt our desire for peace, and no one should underestimate our determination to confront aggression.

Four simple principles guide our policy.

First, we seek the immediate, unconditional and complete withdrawal of all Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

Second, Kuwait's legitimate government must be restored to replace the puppet regime.

And third, my administration, as has been the case with every president from President Roosevelt to President Reagan, is committed to the security and stability of the Persian Gulf.

And fourth, I am determined to protect the lives of American citizens abroad.

Immediately after the Iraqi invasion, I ordered an embargo of all trade with Iraq, and together with many other nations, announced sanctions that both froze all Iraqi assets in this country and protected Kuwait's assets.

The stakes are high. Iraq is already a rich and powerful country that possesses the world's second-largest reserves of oil, and over a million men under arms. It's the fourth largest military in the world.

Our country now imports nearly half the oil it consumes, and could face a major threat to its economic independence. Much of the world is even more dependent on imported oil, and is even more vulnerable to Iraqi threats.

We succeeded in the struggle for freedom in Europe because we and our allies remain stalwart. Keeping the peace in the Middle East will require no less.

We're beginning a new era. This new era can be full of promise, an age of freedom, a time of peace for all peoples. But if history teaches us anything, it is that we must resist aggression, or it will destroy our freedoms.

Appeasement does not work. As was the case in the 1930s, we see in Saddam Hussein an aggressive dictator threatening his neighbors. Only 14

days ago, Saddam Hussein promised his friends he would not invade Kuwait. And four days ago, he promised the world he would withdraw. And twice we have seen what his promises mean. His promises mean nothing.

In the last few days I've spoken with political leaders from the Middle East, Europe, Asia, the Americas, and I've met with Prime Minister Thatcher, Prime Minister Mulroney, and NATO Secretary-General Woerner. And all agree that Iraq cannot be allowed to benefit from its invasion of Kuwait.

We agree that this is not an American problem or a European problem, or a Middle East problem. It is the world's problem, and that's why soon after the Iraqi invasion, the United Nations Security Council, without dissent, condemned Iraq, calling for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of its troops from Kuwait.

The Arab world, through both the Arab League and the Gulf Cooperation Council, courageously announced its opposition to Iraqi aggression. Japan, the United Kingdom and France, and other governments around the world have imposed severe sanctions.

The Soviet Union and China ended all arms sales to Iraq, and this past Monday, the United Nations Security Council approved for the first time in 23 years mandatory sanctions under Chapter VII of the United Nations charter.

These sanctions, now enshrined in international law, have the potential to deny Iraq the fruits of aggression, while sharply limiting its ability to either import or export anything of value, especially oil.

I pledge here today that the United States will do its part to see that these sanctions are effective and to induce Iraq to withdraw, without delay, from Kuwait. But we must recognize that Iraq may not stop using force to advance its ambitions.

Iraq has massed an enormous war machine on the Saudi border, capable of initiating hostilities with little or no additional preparation. Given the Iraqi government's history of aggression against its own citizens as well as its neighbors, to assume Iraq will not attack again would be unwise and unrealistic. And therefore, after consulting with King Fahd, I sent Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney to discuss cooperative measures we could take.

Following those meetings, the Saudi government requested our help and I responded to that request by ordering U.S. air and ground forces to deploy to the kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Let me be clear: the sovereign independence of Saudi Arabia is of vital interest to the United States. This decision which I shared with the congressional leadership grows out of the longstanding friendship and security relationship between the United States and Saudi Arabia. U.S. forces will work together with those of Saudi Arabia and other nations to preserve the integrity of Saudi Arabia, and to deter further Iraqi aggression.

Through the presence, as well as through their training and exercises, these multinational forces will enhance the overall capability of Saudi armed forces to defend the kingdom.

I want to be clear about what we are doing, and why. America does not seek conflict, nor do we seek to chart the destiny of other nations. But America will stand by her friends. The mission of our troops is wholly defensive. Hopefully, they will not be needed long.

They will not initiate hostilities, but they will defend themselves, the kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and other friends in the Persian Gulf.

We are working around the clock to deter Iraqi aggression and to enforce U.N. sanctions. I'm continuing my conversations with world leaders. Secretary of Defense Cheney has just returned from valuable consultations with President Mubarak of Egypt and King Hassan of Morocco. Secretary of State Baker has consulted with his counterparts in many nations, including the Soviet Union. And today he heads for Europe to consult with President

Ozal of Turkey, a staunch friend of the United States. And he'll then consult with the NATO foreign ministers.

I will ask oil-producing nations to do what they can to increase production in order to minimize any impact that oil-flow reductions will have on the world economy. And I will explore whether we and our allies should draw down our strategic petroleum reserves.

Conservation measures can also help. Americans everywhere must do their part.

And one more thing: I'm asking the oil companies to do their fair share. They should show restraint and not abuse today's uncertainties to raise prices. Standing up for our principles will not come easy. It may take time and possibly cost a great deal, but we are asking no more of anyone than of the brave young men and women of our armed forces and their families, and I ask that -- and the churches around the country -- prayers be said for those who are committed to protect and defend America's interests.

Standing up for our principles is an American tradition. As it has so many times before, it may take time and tremendous effort, but most of all it will take unity of purpose. As I've witnessed throughout my life in both war and peace, America has never wavered when her purpose is driven by principle, and on this August day, at home and abroad, I know she will do no less.

Thank you, and God bless the United States of America.

(END TEXT)

REUTER Reut09:53 08-08

America's Stand Against Aggression



United States Department of State
Bureau of Public Affairs
Washington, DC

Following is an address by President Bush to the 91st National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Baltimore, Maryland, August 20, 1990. (Introductory remarks deleted.)

This morning, I am grateful to have this special opportunity to discuss an issue of great concern to all Americans: the crisis in the Persian Gulf; a crisis that will require American planning, patience, and, yes, personal sacrifice. But a crisis that we must—and will—meet if we are to stop aggression, help our friends, and protect our own interests and the peace and stability of countries around the globe.

Eighteen days ago, these beliefs prompted me to take action in the Middle East to restore the sovereignty of Kuwait and deter those who threaten friendly countries and the vital interests of America. I acted knowing that our cause would not be easy—but that our cause is right. And that while one should not underestimate those who endanger peace, an even greater mistake would be to underestimate America's commitment to our friends when our friends are imperiled, or our commitment to international order when that, too, is imperiled.

Today, the outcome is not yet decided. Hard choices remain. But of this we are certain: America will not be intimidated. When some ask, where does America stand, our answer is, America stands where it always has—against aggression, against those who would use force to replace the rule of law.

And who better than this group know? Throughout history, we have learned that we must stand up to evil. It is a truth which the past 18 days have reaffirmed. Its lessons speak to America and to the world.

The first lesson is as vivid as the memories of Normandy, Khe Sanh, Pork Chop Hill. We have been reminded again

that aggression must and will be checked. So at the request of our friends, we have sent US forces to the Middle East—reluctantly, but decisively. Knowing as Teddy Roosevelt said, that America “means many things. Among them, equality of rights and, therefore, equality of duty and obligation.”

Yet we are not acting alone, but in concert—helping to protect our own national security interests as well as those of the broader community of nations. Which brings me to the second lesson reaffirmed by the past 18 days. By itself, America can do much. Together, with its friends and allies, America can do much more—for peace and for justice.

Think back with me to World War II, when together allies confronted a horror which embodied hell on Earth. Or Korea, where UN forces opposed totalitarianism. Today, once again, many nations—many of them Muslim—have joined to counter aggression and, thus, to restore the peace.

Our Saudi friends, under the wise leadership of King Fahd, asked for our help in deterring further aggression by Iraq. I salute the many countries who have courageously responded to Saudi Arabia's request. I also salute those governments who were responding to the Emir of Kuwait's call for the full enforcement of UN sanctions.

We must not delude ourselves—Iraq's invasion was more than a military attack on tiny Kuwait; it was a ruthless assault on the very essence of international order and civilized ideals. And now, in a further offense against all norms of international behavior, Iraq has imposed restrictions on innocent civilians from many countries. This is unacceptable. And that is why the UN Security Council voted unanimously Saturday night [August 18] to condemn Iraq's action, just as it earlier voted to condemn the invasion itself. They know, as we do, that leaders who use citizens as pawns deserve—and will receive—the

scorn and condemnation of the entire world.

And so to the leaders of Iraq I will now make two points clear. In moving foreign citizens against their will, you are violating the norms of your own religion. You are going against the age-old Arab tradition of showing kindness and hospitality to visitors. And so my message is: Release all foreigners now. Give them the right to come and go as they wish. Adhere to international law and UN Security Council Resolution 664.

We have been reluctant to use the term “hostage.” But when Saddam Hussein specifically offers to trade the freedom of those citizens of the many nations he holds against their will in return for concessions, there can be little doubt that whatever these innocent people are called, they are, in fact, hostages.

And I want there to be no misunderstanding. I will hold the government of Iraq responsible for the safety and well-being of American citizens held against their will.

Let me also take a moment to thank [Soviet] President Gorbachev for his recent words condemning the Iraqi invasion. He has shown, if anyone doubted it, that nations which joined to fight aggression in World War II can work together to stop the aggressors of today.

A third lesson has also been reaffirmed by the last 18 days—as veterans, it will not surprise you—the steadfast character of the American will. Look to the sands of Saudi Arabia and the waters offshore where brave Americans are doing their duty, just as you did at Anzio and Inchon and Hamburger Hill, and think of the men and women aboard our planes and ships—young, alone, and so very far from home. They make us humble. They make us proud. And I salute the finest soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines that any nation could

possibly have. And moreover, I pledge to you: We will do whatever it takes to help them complete their mission.

This means realizing the fourth lesson reaffirmed by the past 18 days. Although the size of America's Armed Forces in the years ahead will be smaller because the threat to our security is changing, future American defense capacity must be even more "a lean, mean fighting machine." By 1993, we estimate that our security needs can be met by an active force 25% smaller than today's—the lowest level since 1950. And yet, we must ensure that a reduction of numbers does not mean a reduction in American strength.

Operation Desert Shield proves vividly that instead of relieving past contingencies, we must prepare for the challenges of the 1990s and beyond. By ensuring that our troops are ready and trained, we can exert our presence in key areas and respond effectively to crisis. And this is readiness measured in days and hours, not weeks and months. Operation Desert Shield has underscored the need to be able to get our soldiers where they are needed, and when they are needed. This kind of responsiveness will be critical in the crises of the future.

Recently, our outstanding Chairman of the Joint Chiefs [of Staff], Gen. Colin Powell, spoke to this when he praised "the finest peacetime military in the history of America." We will be smaller in troop strength and restructured, but we will remain purposeful, proud, and effective. Just look at the last 18 days. Desert Shield has been a classic case of America's military at its best.

I think, for instance, of Airman First Class Wade West, home on leave to be married. On August 7th, he was called up. And within an hour he had the ceremony performed and left for the Middle East. And he is now stationed over in Saudi Arabia. You talk about a guy that gets things done. But I would like to empathize with his bride wherever she may be. And another example: 7 years ago, Diana Kryptavich worried at home while her husband, Walter, steamed off the Lebanon coast on the *USS New Jersey* defending the Marines. Today, their roles are reversed. Retired, Walter is at home with their 6-year-old son, and Diana serves aboard the destroyer *USS Yellowstone*. Here's an Army couple: Today, Paratrooper Joseph Hudert of the 82d Airborne Division is serving in Saudi Arabia, and his wife, Nurse Dominique Allen of the 44th Medical Brigade, will be deployed there within the next 2 weeks. Finally, recall the 8-year-old who, watching her dad leave for the Mediterranean, spoke truth from the months of babes. "I just think," she said, "that they should not let daddies go away this long. But they still have to, to keep the world safe."

These profiles show the true caliber of America and the vital essence of our mission. What is more, they remind us of the fifth and final lesson reaffirmed by the past 18 days: The need for a continued strong defense budget to support American troops. Or as George Washington said in his first inaugural address, "To be prepared for war is one of the most effectual means of preserving the peace." History has shown the wisdom of his words—especially in our century. What Desert Shield has shown is that America can ensure the peace by remaining militarily strong.

Now, I know that we are operating in a time of budget restraint. We have limited resources—we must use them wisely. The budget deficit is a threat to our vital interests at home, and will not be made easier by today's threat abroad. Everyone realizes that the deficit is too large, that it's got to be brought down, and that Congress must act—courageously and immediately—when it returns from recess.

But here is the point—we cannot attack the deficit by attacking the very heart of our armed forces—committed men and women who are motivated and ready. Last week, I asked Congress to do what we have done; produce a budget proposal, including defense, that is both responsive and responsible and most of all, fair. When they do, I will listen—listen, but not break faith with the troops who are defending our nation. Make no mistake: to prevent aggression, to keep America militarily prepared, I will oppose the defense budget-slashers who are out of tune with what America needs to keep freedom secure and safe.

You know, most Americans know that when it comes to national defense, finishing second means finishing last. So they reject what the House Armed Services Committee recently suggested: unacceptable cuts from our defense budget for fiscal year 1991. Most Americans know, too, that giving peace a chance does not mean taking a chance on peace. So they endorse giving the military the tools to do its job: the Peacekeeper, the Midgetman, B-2 bomber, and the Strategic Defense Initiative. Americans want arms negotiations to succeed but they know that even a START [strategic arms reduction talks] treaty will not help our security if we disarm unilaterally. Let us never forget that our strong national defense policies have helped us gain the peace. We need a strong defense today to maintain that peace. I will fight for that defense, and I need your help. So help me convince the Congress, given recent

events, to take another look and to adequately fund our defense budget.

Let me tell you a little story about why I feel so strongly. I was talking to some of the young soldiers who liberated Panama; we invited them to come with General Thurman and others to the Cabinet Room for a briefing from me. I asked one of them, a medic, about the operation. Corporal Roderick Ringstaff spoke of combat and he spoke of the heroics of others, but not of his own. Next to him was his commanding officer, and his commanding officer filled in the rest. This medic had been wounded, but repeatedly braved fire to rescue other wounded, pulling soldier after soldier to safety. For that, he was awarded the Silver Star for bravery. Listening, I thought to myself: I will never send young men and women into battle with less than the very best that this nation can provide them. I will never—I will never, ever—let Americans like this down.

August 1990 has witnessed what history will judge one of the most crucial deployments of allied power since World War II. Two weeks ago, I called for the complete, immediate, and unconditional withdrawal of all Iraqi forces from Kuwait; second, the restoration of Kuwait's legitimate government; third, the security and the stability of Saudi Arabia, and the Persian Gulf; and fourth, the safety and protection of American citizens abroad.

Today, I say, those objectives are, and will remain, unchanged. Will it take time? Of course, for we are engaged in a cause larger than ourselves—a cause perhaps best shown by words many of you remember—words spoken by one of the greatest Americans of our time to allied soldiers and sailors and airmen.

"The eyes of the world are upon you," he told them. "The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you." And then he concluded with this moving prayer: "Let us all beseech the blessing of almighty God, upon this great and noble undertaking."

Fellow veterans, more than half of all VFW members fought in World War II—many of you serving under the man who spoke those words, Dwight David Eisenhower. You know how America remains the hope of "liberty-loving people everywhere." Half a century ago, the world had the chance to stop a ruthless aggressor and missed it. I pledge to you: We will not make that mistake again.

For, you see, together we can successfully oppose tyranny and help those nations who look to us for leadership and vision. Thank you for your support and your prayers. And may God bless the land we so deeply love—the United States of America. ■

T H E W H I T E H O U S E O F F I C E

REFERRAL

AUGUST 28, 1990
9018834
'90 AUG-27 8:08 PM

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:

DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 169190

MEDIA: TELEGRAM, DATED AUGUST 22, 1990

TO: PRESIDENT BUSH

FROM: MS. JUDITH VIORST
3432 ASHLEY TERRACE, NW.
WASHINGTON DC 20008

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT TO TALK WITH IRAQ BEFORE
ANY FURTHER MILITARY ACTION

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN
TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE
UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE
(OR DRAFT) TO:
AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 91, THE WHITE HOUSE, 20500

SALLY KELLEY
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

~~Dr. J. W. D. S.~~

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WASHINGTON DC 20008

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