Subject: NSC draft report to Congress regarding 1990's invasion and occupation of Kuwait: War Powers

Route To:
Office/Agency (Staff Name)

Action
Tracking Date
Type of Response
Completion Date

Originiator
Referral Note: 9-8-08
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Action Codes:
A - Appropriate Action
B - Non-Special Referral
C - Completed
D - Draft Response
E - For Signature
F - Furnish Fact Sheet
I - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary
R - Direct Reply w/Copy
S - Suspended
X - Interim Reply

Disposition Codes:
A - Answered
B - Non-Special Referral
C - Completed
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FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:
Type of Response = Initials of Signer
Code = "A"
Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments:

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MEMORANDUM FOR C. BOYDEN GRAY
COLONEL FRED GREEN
MICHAEL LUTTIG
MICHAEL MATHESON
TERRENCE O’DONNELL

SUBJECT: Draft Report to Congress

Attached is a draft report to Congress. I would like your comments/clearance as soon as practicable today.

Thank you.

Nicholas Rostow
Special Assistant to the President and Legal Adviser

Attachment

cc: Daniel Levin
    Nelson Lund
    Stephon Rademaker
Dear Mr. President:

Iraq's invasion and continuing occupation of the sovereign State of Kuwait in flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations poses a direct threat to neighboring countries and to vital U.S. interests, which every President and every Congress have affirmed for over forty years, in the Persian Gulf region. Iraq has massed an enormous and sophisticated war machine on the Saudi border, capable of initiating hostilities with little or no additional preparation. Given the Iraqi government's history of aggression, to assume Iraq would not attack again would be unwise.

Mindful of Security Council Resolution 661 of August 6, 1990, and following consultation with congressional leaders, I have, at the request of the Government of Saudi Arabia, ordered the forward deployment of substantial elements of the United States Armed Forces into Saudi Arabia. I am providing this report on the deployment and mission of our Armed Forces in accordance with my desire that Congress be fully informed on this matter and consistent with the War Powers Resolution.

The Forces primarily comprise two squadrons of F-15 aircraft and one brigade of the 82nd Airborne Division and began arriving in Saudi Arabia at approximately 9:00 a.m. (EDT) on August 8, 1990. These Forces are equipped for combat, and their mission is defensive. They are prepared to take action in concert with Saudi forces, regional friendly forces and other allies to deter Iraqi aggression and to preserve the integrity of Saudi Arabia.

Although I do not believe involvement in hostilities is imminent, the Forces are fully prepared to exercise their inherent right of individual or collective self-defense should that be required. Should events require, it may be necessary to introduce U.S. Armed Forces into other countries of the region. Although it is not possible to predict the precise scope and duration of this deployment, I believe it is imperative that our Armed Forces remain so long as their presence is required to contribute to the security and stability of the region and enhance the capability of Saudi armed forces to defend the Kingdom.

I have taken these actions pursuant to my constitutional authority with respect to the conduct of foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and consistent with our inherent right of
individual and collective self-defense. I look forward to cooperation with the Congress in pursuit of our mutual aim of restoring peace and stability to the Persian Gulf region.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd
President Pro Tempore
of the Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

cc: The Honorable Robert J. Dole