

**THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON**

December 7, 1990

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NOTE FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: James A. Baker III

At Tab 1 is Saddam Hussein's statement to the Iraqi National Assembly (see the first full paragraph of the second column for the key quote).

At Tab 2 is a clip of the DOD announcement that Iraq has beefed up its forces in the Kuwaiti Theater of Operations by 30,000 troops.

Attachments: As noted.

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FBIS-NES-90-235
6 December 1990

IRAQ

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Saddam Calls for Release of All Foreigners

JN0612125390 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1138 GMT 6 Dec 90

["Text" of President Saddam Husayn's message to the National Assembly speaker and members on 6 December—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Mr. National Assembly speaker, members: Peace be upon you. Under difficult conditions, the strength of the believers' affiliation and loyalty is put to the test. Their action in the service of principles is also put to the test. Iraqis in general, and you amongst them, have proved that on very dark nights the spark of faith glows in a much nicer way than on ordinary nights. Adherence to the supreme principles governing the relation between man and his creator and his duty toward Him, as well as the relation between the Iraqis with all peoples, becomes even stronger in the more difficult circumstances.

And, just as the continued endeavor is required on earth, the correct answers to the continuous test are also required, without making the test or success in it dependent on a certain phase and time.

On the basis of these principles and what we desire—that the influence of the believers expands, and that the knowledge of mankind in general expands with the believers' principles and the truth of their mission—we believe that, this time, the National Assembly is asked to take a decisive and final decision concerning a humanitarian issue, which you, and the whole world, know about.

National Assembly members, the thing that worries the faithful mujahid [struggler], the honorable struggler, and the brave fighter—who has the values of the chivalrous believer—most is when the trenches in the battle arena get mixed and when some people—who do not want to fight and who are not among the evildoers—get trapped in the space between the two trenches. This worry becomes deep grief when that kind of people are harmed because of the level and type of the conflict.

The foreigners who were prevented from traveling are among those people in the battle between right, led by Iraq's great people and valiant Armed Forces, and evil, whose failing mass is led by Bush, the enemy of God. As you and my brothers in the leadership know, I realize that, despite what they had to put up with, denying those people the freedom to travel has rendered a great service to the cause of peace. And, because God has taught us that forbidden things should never be resorted to except in very urgent cases and without any excesses, we must not keep these emergency measures, especially this measure, any longer.

The days, weeks, and months through which our people and nation have passed have been such that our options, even those concerning the nature and form of defense,

were not open or without limits in every area and all conditions. For instance, our valiant forces did not have the chance to complete their concentrations in order to confront the possibilities of military aggression against them in the Kuwaiti governorate. So, any measure that was taken to delay the war may not have been correct from the humanitarian and practical standpoints and under established norms, but it has provided an opportunity for us to prepare for any eventuality.

We have now reached the time when, with God's care, our blessed force has become fully prepared, if God wills that we should fight in defense of His values and ideals against the infidels, profligates, and traitors, and also in defense of the great national, pan-Arab, and humanitarian gains.

Gentlemen: Good people, men and women of different nationalities and political trends, have come to Iraq. Dear brothers from Jordan, Yemen, Palestine, Sudan, and the Arab Maghreb have also consulted with us on this issue, as on others. We have felt, guided by our humanitarian feelings, that the time has come to make a firm decision on this subject. We had considered a timing different from the present one; namely, the occasion of Christmas and New Year, which are of special significance to Christians in the world, including Christians in the West.

However, the appeal by some brothers, the decision of the Democratic majority in the U.S. Senate, and the European Parliament's invitation to our foreign minister for dialogue; all these have encouraged us to respond to these good, positive changes—changes that will have a major impact on world public opinion in general, and U.S. public opinion in particular, in restraining the evil ones who are seeking and pushing for war as the option they have chosen out of their evil tendencies and premeditated intentions to do harm.

In view of all this, we have found that the exigencies that permitted the impermissible, and thus prevented the travel of foreigners, have weakened and have been replaced by something stronger; namely, this positive change in public opinion, including the change in U.S. public opinion, which will constitute a restraint on the intentions and decisions of the evil ones, who are led in their evil intentions and steps by the enemy of God, Bush.

Therefore, I call on you, brothers, to make your just decision and allow all foreigners on whom restrictions were placed to enjoy the freedom of travel and to lift these restrictions, with our apologies for any harm done to anyone of them. God, the Almighty, grants forgiveness.

Brothers, I ask you, and through you I ask the Iraqi people and our brave Armed Forces, to maintain your alertness and vigil because the armies of aggression are still on our holy lands, in the Arabian Peninsula, and the evil ones are talking of war. Bush's invitation for talks, as

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far as we can discern, has continued to bear the possibilities of the inclination toward aggression and war. The buildup is growing.

Therefore, the steadfast believers, both on the level of the public and on the level of our Armed Forces, should not fall in the trap in which some have fallen in the past.

May God protect you and protect our people and nation, steer humanity from what God hates, help the faithful to carry out what God wishes, and smite the infidels and traitors after exposing them and their shameful deeds. He is the best supporter and backer. God is great, accused be the infidels and traitors, who gave the oppressors and infidels the opportunity to invade the holy land.

Glory and greatness to the mujahidin of the occupied land and all the steadfast mujahidin and fighters of our great Arab nation.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, Thursday, 18 Jumada al-'Ula, 1411 of the Hegira, corresponding to 6 December 1990.

National Assembly To Hold Session 7 Dec

JN0612141990 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1403 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: The following announcement has been issued by the National Assembly:

The National Assembly will hold an ordinary session at 1100 [0800 GMT] tomorrow, Friday, 19 Jumada al-Ula 1411 hegira, corresponding to 7 December 1990. Members of the Assembly are kindly requested to be present at the given time.

[Signed] National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih.

Nation Offers To Release 41 Japanese Hostages

OW0612125890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1242 GMT
6 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 6 KYODO—Iraq has offered to release five Japanese residents in addition to 36 of the 114 Japanese hostages held by Baghdad, Japanese parliamentarian Antonio Inoki said Thursday.

Inoki, now in Baghdad in an effort to win the release of Japanese hostages, told reporters Iraqi leaders have made the offer.

Those to be released include 36 hostages and five residents of Iraq out of 119 Japanese businessmen barred from leaving Iraq, he said.

Inoki, a popular pro wrestler, previously said 36 Japanese hostages would be released after meeting 'Uday Saddam Husayn, son of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Sa'di Mahdi Salih, chairman of the Iraqi National Assembly.

Iraq has been holding 114 Japanese nationals in Baghdad and occupied Kuwait as human shields against possible attack by the U.S.-dominant multinational force assembled in the Persian Gulf region, and has barred 119 other Japanese residents from leaving the country.

In Tokyo, the Foreign Ministry said it is considering sending a government-chartered special plane to Baghdad to bring back the Japanese hostages, along with Inoki.

A Japan Airlines DC-10 will leave Narita Airport for Amman, Jordan, at 6:00 A.M. Saturday and will return home that evening, the ministry said.

Japanese Nationals Allowed To Leave With Wives

JN0612130590 Baghdad INA in English 1250 GMT
6 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 6, INA—President Saddam Husayn has instructed to allow travel of Japanese nationals hosted by the Iraqi people with their wives who attended the world peace festival from Iraq, in appreciation of peace and the humanitarian motives.

The wives who attended the festival had been subjected to bids of threat and intimidation exercised by the hostile organs to ban them from attending the festival under alleged dangers.

However, the order to allow the Japanese nationals to leave was not attributed to any mediation, but was in response to a request of their wives.

Wives of British Nationals Arrive in Baghdad

JN0512215090 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
2130 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Twenty-four wives of British nationals hosted by the Iraqi people arrived in Baghdad this evening on a visit of several days to Iraq. Mrs. (Kate Patriots Lewis), the leader of the group, said in a statement to the INA [IRAQI NEWS AGENCY] correspondent that they came to Iraq with a message of love and peace for the Iraqi people. She added that the British women brought infants' milk as a simple gift for the children of Iraq and as an expression of anger and condemnation over the unjust economic blockade imposed on the children and people of Iraq.

Saddam Addresses European Parliament Members

JN0512181990 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1707 GMT 5 Dec 90

["Text" of President Saddam Husayn's address to a European Parliament delegation in Baghdad on 5 December—read by announcer]

[Text] We thank God—to whom is ascribed all majesty and perfection—because he has not removed the attributes of mercy and humanity from the hearts of the

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CURRENT NEWS

EARLY BIRD

FRIDAY, December 7, 1990

WASHINGTON POST

Dec. 7, 1990

Pg. 1

Saddam Orders the Release of All Hostages**Bush Welcomes Pledge but Bars Any Concessions**By Dan Balz
Washington Post Staff Writer

SANTIAGO, Chile, Dec. 6—President Bush today cautiously welcomed Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's decision to release the hostages in Iraq, but maintained his hard line against offering Saddam any concession to withdraw his troops from Kuwait such as linking the Persian Gulf crisis to a resolution of the Palestinian issue.

Bush said Saddam's move to release the hostages shows that the U.S. strategy of economic sanctions and the threat of war "is working," and insisted that Saddam comply fully with United Nations resolutions calling for complete withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait and the restoration of the Ku-

waiti government.

"We've got to continue to keep the pressure on," Bush told a news conference here during a tour of five Latin American nations. He added later: "The release of all hostages would be a very good thing, but the problem is the aggression against Kuwait, and the man must leave Kuwait without reservation, without condition."

Bush's rhetoric, and similar remarks in Washington today by Secretary of State James A. Baker III before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, reflected the administration's determination to prevent mounting talk about a possible diplomatic deal from eroding the international coalition aligned against Saddam and the threat to use force if Iraqi troops have not withdrawn by early next year. U.S. officials appeared particularly anxious to ensure that a hostage release not boost sentiment on Capitol Hill and around the United States in favor of delaying military action against Iraq for months in order to give economic sanctions administration officials are worried that Bush's decision last week to open

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By Dana Priest
Washington Post Staff Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq, Dec. 6—Iraqi President Saddam Hussein said today that all the 2,000 or more foreigners being held hostage in Iraq and Kuwait are to be released promptly and the country's rubber-stamp National Assembly scheduled a special session for Friday to carry out his order.

The surprise announcement—which meets one of the three U.N. objectives for resolution of the four-month-old Persian Gulf crisis—was cautiously applauded by U.S. Embassy officials and visiting hostage relatives here. While there was no official indication when the hostages would be freed, Iraq's U.N. ambassador said they would be home by Christmas.

Saddam cited appeals by other Arab leaders, expressions of concern about war by U.S. Senate Democrats and pleas from a European Parliament delegation as positive factors in his decision. He said all this "encouraged" him "to respond to these good, positive changes—changes that will have a major impact on world public opinion in general."

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WASHINGTON TIMES

Dec. 7, 1990

Pg. 5

Cheney seeks NATO focus on 'instability' as challengeBy Rowan Scarborough
The Washington Times

BRUSSELS, Belgium — U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney yesterday proposed that a revamped NATO strategy include "instability" among "serious security challenges" facing the West.

A senior U.S. official briefing reporters here did not elaborate on Mr. Cheney's closed-door presentation to his 15 NATO counterparts. But NATO officials say European leaders increasingly are concerned about the prospect that a billion Soviet refugees will flood Europe to escape the famine and civil war threatening that country.

"This is a rich, rich part of the world," said Martin McCusker, director of the Defense Committee for the North Atlantic Assembly, NATO's de facto legislative body.

"If I were in Lithuania with a family of four and civil war broke out,

where would I go?"

"We have to find a way to keep those people in Eastern Europe," he said. "To do that, you have to give them hope."

NATO is rewriting its strategy as it searches for new roles to replace an outdated mission — keeping the Soviet military in check.

Mr. Cheney told the defense ministers the Soviet nuclear arsenal still threatens the West, the U.S. official told reporters. But Mr. Cheney urged the alliance to tackle other problems, such as nuclear proliferation, "global security" and potential chaos in Eastern Europe.

His concerns were echoed by British Defense Minister Tom King.

"There are considerable imbalances, uncertainties, instabilities in that whole European scene, partly due to the rise of nationalism," Mr. King said.

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NEW YORK TIMES

Dec. 7, 1990

Pg. 1

New Computer Failure Imperils U.S. Shuttle Astronomy Mission

By WILLIAM J. BROAD

The space agency's already troubled astronomy mission aboard the orbiting shuttle Columbia was thrown into turmoil yesterday when a computer overheated and failed, apparently because it was clogged by lint from astronauts' and workers' uniforms.

Ground controllers tried to salvage the 10-day mission by taking over some operations that had been conducted by the shuttle's seven astronauts and the failed computer.

The automatic pointing system for the ultraviolet telescopes aboard the shuttle malfunctioned from the start of the mission, and the astronauts were struggling with a manual backup con-

trol system when the new problem struck. The ground control system now being improvised has not been rehearsed and its success is not assured.

Nonetheless, officials of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration expressed hope that all had not been lost.

"We haven't played this thing out," Jack Jones, the mission's manager at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., said in a telephone interview. "We're going to get our full 10 days on orbit and we're going to get some pretty good stuff between here and the way out."

MISSION...Pg. 8



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Foreign Leaders Hope Iraqi Move Will Lead to Pullout From Kuwait

By CRAIG R. WHITNEY
Special to The New York Times

LONDON, Dec. 6 — Governments around the world expressed hope today that President Saddam Hussein's plan to release all foreign hostages by year's end could be the first step toward a peaceful withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait.

The British Prime Minister, John Major, said confirmation that the hostages were being released would be "wonderful news." More than 1,100 Britons are in Iraq.

Many government figures in other countries said Mr. Hussein's change of mind on the hostages could be the first signal that military pressure and international sanctions against Iraq were working, and could lead him to withdraw peacefully from Kuwait, which the Iraqis invaded on Aug. 2.

But nothing in Mr. Hussein's statement today hinted that he was consid-

ering withdrawal, and Iraq's move could increase pressure on the United States and other nations that have sent more than half a million troops to the Persian Gulf to wait and give United Nations sanctions against Mr. Hussein a long time to work.

A United Nations Security Council resolution last week authorized the use of force if Iraq did not withdraw by Jan. 15.

"I hope this represents a first step toward complete compliance with U.N. resolutions," said Gianni De Michelis, the Italian Foreign Minister.

His Danish counterpart, Uffe Elleman-Jensen, said, "We must now hope the coming diplomatic efforts will lead to the unconditional withdrawal of Saddam Hussein's troops from Kuwait, opening the way for a peaceful resolution of this unhappy conflict."

Vitaly Churkin, the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman, said, "I think it would be a sign of hope that Iraq is changing its position on other elements of the United Nations Security Council resolution." About 3,300 Soviet citizens are in Iraq, most of them military advisers, but Iraq agreed earlier this week to let them leave.

The French Foreign Minister, Roland Dumas, called Iraq's decision to free the hostages a step "in the right direction." He had said on Tuesday that after the crisis ended, an international conference to discuss all Middle East

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Iraq Pushes Force In Kuwait Area To 480,000 Men

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Iraq has added 30,000 troops and 200 tanks to its heavily fortified positions in Kuwait and southern Iraq, and an additional 10,000 U.S. troops have arrived in the Gulf area, the Pentagon announced Thursday.

A Pentagon spokesman, Bob Hall, said that more than 480,000 Iraqi troops were now in the region. Most of the new arrivals came from the Iranian border area, he said.

The reinforcements have enabled Iraq to extend its defensive line of forces further west of the Kuwait border, he said. Such a move would appear to be designed to make it harder for any offensive campaign by American and allied ground forces to slip around the Iraqi defenses inside Kuwait.

Mr. Hall said there were now more than 250,000 U.S. military personnel in the Gulf area, an increase of 10,000 from the total reported by the Pentagon on Nov. 29.

With a major new deployment now under way, about 430,000 American troops are expected to be in the Gulf area by late January.

WASHINGTON TIMES

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Pearl Harbor service to mark anniversary

HONOLULU — The 49th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor will be marked today with a memorial service.

The service at the USS Arizona Memorial Visitor Center will honor the 2,403 persons killed in the Dec. 7, 1941, attack that drew the United States into World War II.

Ted Mason, a Pearl Harbor survivor and author of the book "BattleShip Sailor," will be the keynote speaker.

A special prayer will be offered by a representative of the World Federation of Japan Religious Committee.

The ceremony also will include a flyover by F-15 jets from the Hawaii Air National Guard, a 21-gun salute by U.S. Marines and Taps played by the Fleet Marine Force Band.

During the day, American flags will be briefly raised, then lowered at the USS Arizona Memorial.

NEW YORK TIMES

Dec. 7, 1990

Pg. 12

Jordanian Terms Iraq Firm on Linkage

By JOEL BRINKLEY
Special to The New York Times

AMMAN, Jordan, Dec. 6 — Even as Iraq announced its decision to release all the foreign hostages it is holding, King Hussein of Jordan warned today that the next step — persuading Saddam Hussein to pull his troops out of Kuwait — would not be so easy.

After meeting with the Iraqi leader in Baghdad this week, the King said in an interview today that he was wholly convinced that Iraq will not leave Kuwait unless the Palestinian problem is solved. And several analysts here said they were certain that Mr. Hussein believes that he has strengthened his ability to hold onto Kuwait by releasing the hostages.

The King's meeting in Baghdad on Tuesday, he said in the interview, convinced him that the Iraqi leader had made the decision to release the hostages as an act of cold pragmatism, not fear.

Jordanian officials said it was clear, given the American-led troop buildup, the bellicose statements coming from Washington and the United Nations resolution calling for the use of force, that the hostages were not serving as a deterrent to attack, as President Hussein had first intended. In fact, world revulsion over the hostage-taking seemed to be making a military attack more likely.

Watching the U.S. Debate

Senior Jordanian officials suggested that while debate and disagreement blossomed in the United States over the possibility of war, President Hussein watched and waited until he saw a moment when he could help turn that debate in his favor.

In the view of these Jordanians, who say they are familiar with the Iraqi leader's thinking, President Hussein hopes that releasing the hostages will weaken the Bush Administration's case for war and strengthen Iraq's hand, helping the Iraqis hold onto Kuwait or gain significant concessions if they are forced to leave.

On Tuesday the Iraqi leader met with King Hussein, Yasir Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organization leader, and Ali Salem al-Bedh, Yemen's Vice President. The three visitors, who are among the Iraqi leader's few allies, pressed President Hussein to let the hostages go.

"It's no secret that we have urged all along that this was to happen," the King said, referring to the Jordanians. "And we are happy that he called us this morning to tell us it was about to happen."

President Hussein, too, said his decision today came after "our dear broth-

ers from Jordan, Yemen, Palestine Sudan and the Arab Maghreb consulted with us on this issue."

Iraq Said to Feel Strong

Now that Mr. Hussein is preparing to put the hostage problem behind him, the King says the Iraqi leader feels strong and confident.

"The atmosphere as far as the President is concerned in Iraq, and among Iraqis as a whole, should not be misconstrued as weakness," the King said. "They are not weak. They are very confident and they are definitely committed to the cause of a just and peaceful solution to their problem and all problems in the region, not just their own." The King particularly cited the Palestinian problem.

With that, President Hussein's closest ally confirmed what President Bush and others said they feared: President Hussein remains wedded to his insistence that any solution to the Persian Gulf crisis must be linked to a solution of other regional problems, chiefly that of the Palestinians.

If that is true, the American-Iraq talks may turn out to be just as difficult as Mr. Bush and Secretary of State James A. Baker 3d have predicted. But the Jordanians said, the Iraqi apparently believes that his act today lessens the likelihood that the United States will be able to attack him, should the talks fail.

Bush Bars Linkage

Mr. Bush made it clear again today that he would not accept linkage.

"The question is the aggression against Kuwait," he said at a news conference in Santiago, Chile. "There will be and is no linkage to the Palestinian or the West Bank question."

If Mr. Baker does what he has promised in his talks with the Iraqis and simply explains the demands contained in the United Nations resolution, King Hussein said, the talks will accomplish nothing.

"The Iraqis and all of us welcomed this," the King said of the prospect of talks. "I hope that this dialogue is not limited to threats of using force or otherwise, but to try and really to look at the root cause of all the problems and try to resolve them adequately."

The King asserted that President Hussein wanted to link the problems out of an altruistic interest in healing a long-feathering regional wound.

"I believe, having seen President Saddam Hussein again, that he is very genuinely contributing to a comprehensive peace in the area," he said.

But his brother, Crown Prince Hassan, in a separate interview, had a dif-

LINKAGE...Pg. 7

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HOSTAGES
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PERSONS: HUSSEIN, SADDAM

SUBJECT: MSG BY HUSSEIN TO IRAQI NATL ASSEMBLY RE RELEASE OF ALL HOSTAGES

ACTION: OBE PER HAASS

DUE DATE: 12 DEC 90

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STAFF OFFICER: HAASS

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to Scowcroft

Brent
did President
ask JAB
for these?
RLH

USCP:-----

Donna or Kathy — 12/11

It looks ^{like} Mr. Haass wants to
pass a msg to Scowcroft. It will have
to be done with a memo for us
to formally log up to the general.



WALTER USC/S

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ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9009675

DOC ACTION OFFICER

001 HAASS
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Z 90121108 PREPARE MEMO FOR SCOWCROFT
X 90122709 OBE PER HAASS