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WHITE HOUSE GUIDELINES, AUGUST 28, 1997

BY NARA, DATE 1/22/01

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WHITE HOUSE QUIDELINES, AUGUST 28.

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National Security Council The White House

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 28, 1990

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

Room 450 Old Executive Office Building

3:19 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Let me just start off by thanking all of the members of Congress who were able to get back here to discuss this situation of deep concern to every American. What we will do is, I'll make a few remarks here and then we'll go into executive session, and I will be glad to respond to your questions as best I can and -- backed up ably by the team that's here with me.

But meeting the challenge in the Persian Gulf is not something that I or this administration can do by ourselves. We can only succeed if all of us -- Executive and Legislative, Republican and Democrats -- work together. And that was one of the reasons I wanted you to come here today. Let no one at home doubt that -- my commitment to work with the Congress, and let no one abroad doubt our national unity or our staying power.

Let me begin by providing some background to the unfolding drama in the Gulf. And then later, I want to hear from you and, as I say, respond to questions.

First, the background. When this administration began, we sought to strengthen the cease-fire between Iran and Iraq and to improve relations with Iraq. We held no illusions about that. We hoped, along with many in the Congress, that Iraqi behavior might be moderated. But even before the current crisis, though, Iraq was moving at odds to our interests and to the interests of many around the world. So we suspended the provisions of the CCC agricultural credits, stopped the export of furnaces that had the potential to contribute to Iraq's nuclear capabilities.

You all know the events of the last several weeks. Iraq threatened Kuwait, lied about its intentions, and finally invaded. In three days, Iraq had 120,000 troops and 850 tanks in Kuwait, moving south toward the Saudi border. And it was this clear and rapidly escalating threat that led King Fahd of Saudi Arabia to ask for our assistance. We knew that an Iraq that had the most powerful military machine in the Gulf and controlled 20 percent of the world's proven reserves of oil would pose a threat to the Persian Gulf, to the Middle East and to the entire world.

We responded to this quickly, without hesitation. Our objectives were obvious from the start: the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of all Iraqi forces from Kuwait; the restoration of Kuwait's legitimate government; security and stability of Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf; and the protection of American citizens abroad.

Our actions to achieve these objectives have been equally clear. Within hours of the assault, the United States moved to freeze Iraq's assets in this country and to protect those of Kuwait. I asked Dick Cheney, Secretary Cheney, to go to Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Morocco to arrange for military cooperation between us in key Arab states. And I asked Jim Baker, Secretary Baker, to go to Turkey and to Brussels to rally the support of our NATO allies. Both of

these missions were extraordinarily successful. The world response to Iraq was a near unanimous chorus of condemnation.

With great speed, the United Nations Security Council passed five resolutions. These resolutions condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, demanded Iraq's immediate and unconditional withdrawal, and rejected Iraq's annexation of Kuwait. The U.N. has also mandated sanctions against Iraq, those Chapter 7 sanctions, and endorsed all measures that may be necessary to enforce these sanctions. And the United Nations has demanded that Iraq release all foreign nationals being held against their will without delay.

The United Nations sanctions are in effect and have been working remarkably well, even on a voluntary basis. Iraqi oil no longer flows through pipelines to ports in Turkey and Saudi Arabia. And again, I want to thank both the Saudis and the Turks for their lead role in all of this. And today, reports indicate that traffic through Aqaba has come virtually to a halt.

U.S. military forces stand shoulder to shoulder with forces of many Arab and European states to deter and, if need be, defend Saudi Arabia against attack. And U.S. naval forces sail with the navies of many other states to make the sanctions as water-tight as possible. This is not, as Saddam Hussein claims, the United States against Iraq. It is truly Iraq against the majority in the Arab world, Iraq against the rest of the world.

And so the basic elements of our strategy are now in place. And where do we want to go? Well, our intention and, indeed, the intention of almost every country in the world is to persuade Iraq to withdraw; that it cannot benefit from this illegal occupation; that it will pay a stiff price by trying to hold on and even stiffer price by widening the conflict. And, of course, we seek to achieve these goals without further violence.

The United States supports the U.N. Secretary General and other leaders working to promote a peaceful resolution of this crisis on the basis of Security Council Resolution 660.

I also remain deeply concerned about the American and other foreign nationals held hostage by Iraq. As I've said before, when it comes to the safety and well-being of American citizens held against their will, I will hold Baghdad responsible.

That's the general comments I wanted to make for public consumption. And then I'd now like to suggest that we all remain, if we could, and excuse our friends from the press and go into executive session here so I can just make one or two more comments and then respond to the questions that may come to me or any of the others here. But thank you all very much for attending.

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet (George Bush Library)

Document No. and Type	Subject/Title of Document	Date	Restriction	Class.
01a. Talking Points	Case Number 174052 RE: 28 August 1990 meeting in the Cabinet Room with bipartisan congressional leadership concerning Persian Gulf crisis (Small Group) [SENT FOR AGENCY REFERRAL] (6 pp.)	08/28/90	(b)(1)	С

Collection:

Record Group: Bush

Bush Presidential Records

Office:

Records Management, White House Office of (WHORM)

Series:

Subject File - C.F.

Subseries:

WHORM Cat.:

at.: SP

File Location:

174052 to 350375

Date Closed:	7/22/2001	OA/ID Number: 00002-001
FOIA/SYS Case #:	2001-2222-S	Appeal Case #:
Re-review Case #:	2004-1521-S	Appeal Disposition:
P-2/P-5 Review Case	#:	Disposition Date:
AR Case #:		MR Case #:
AR Disposition:		MR Disposition:
AR Disposition Date:		MR Disposition Date:

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- P-1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P-2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P-5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [a)(5) of the PRA]
- P-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]
- C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

- (b)(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- (b)(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
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- (b)(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- (b)(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- (b)(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information

PRM. Removed as a personal record misfile.

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Select Committee on Intelligence

Glenn, John (D-OH) Metzenbaum, Howard (D-OH)

Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense

Bumpers, Dale (D-AR) Lautenberg, Frank (D-NJ) Leahy, Patrick (D-VT) Rudman, Warren (R-NH)

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Leahy, Patrick (D-VT), Chairman Lautenberg, Frank (D-NJ) Mikulski, Barbara (D-MD) Rudman, Warren (R-NH)

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Hefner, Bill (D-NC)
AuCoin, Les (D-OR)
Young, Bill (R-FL)
Miller, Clarence (R-OH)
Livingston, Robert (R-LA)

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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet (George Bush Library)

Document No. and Type	Subject/Title of Document	Date	Restriction	Class.
01b. Draft	Case Number 174052 RE: Presidential Remarks to Congressional Leaders (Large Group) with edits by General Scowcroft (8 pp.)	08/27/90	P-5	

Collection:

Record Group: Bush Presidential Records

Office: Records Management, White House Office of (WHORM)

Series: Subject File - C.F.

Subseries:

WHORM Cat.: SP

File Location: 174052 to 350375

Date Closed:	7/22/2001	OA/ID Number: 00002-001
FOIA/SYS Case #:	2001-2222-S	Appeal Case #:
Re-review Case #:	2004-1521-S	Appeal Disposition:
P-2/P-5 Review Case	#:	Disposition Date:
AR Case #:		MR Case #:
AR Disposition:		MR Disposition:
AR Disposition Date:		MR Disposition Date:

RESTRICTION CODES

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Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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- (b)(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information

PRM. Removed as a personal record misfile.

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS / ROOM 450 3 P.M. / TUESDAY, Aug. 28

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

I THANK YOU FOR RETURNING TO WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS A SITUATION OF DEEP CONCERN TO EVERY AMERICAN. MEETING THE CHALLENGE WE FACE IN THE PERSIAN GULF IS NOT SOMETHING I OR THIS ADMINISTRATION CAN DO ALONE. WE CAN ONLY SUCCEED IF ALL OF US, EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE, REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRAT, WORK TOGETHER. THAT IS WHY I ASKED YOU TO THE WHITE HOUSE TODAY.

- 2 -

LET NO ONE AT HOME DOUBT MY COMMITMENT TO WORK WITH CONGRESS. AND LET NO ONE ABROAD DOUBT OUR NATIONAL UNITY OR STAYING POWER.\\\

LET ME BEGIN BY PROVIDING SOME BACKGROUND TO THE UNFOLDING DRAMA IN THE PERSIAN GULF. THEN, LATER, I WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU, AND ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS -- ALONG WITH OUR TEAM OF ADMINISTRATION EXPERTS.

BUT FIRST, THE BACKGROUND.

WHEN THIS ADMINISTRATION BEGAN, WE SOUGHT TO STRENGTHEN THE CEASE-FIRE BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ, AND TO IMPROVE OUR RELATIONS WITH IRAQ. WHILE WE HELD NO ILLUSIONS, WE HOPED -- ALONG WITH MANY IN CONGRESS -- THAT IRAQI BEHAVIOR COULD BE MODERATED. BUT EVEN BEFORE THE CURRENT CRISIS, THOUGH, IRAQ WAS MOVING AT ODDS TO OUR INTERESTS.

- 4 -

So we suspended the provisions of CCC agricultural credits and stopped the export of furnaces that had the potential to contribute to Iraq's nuclear capabilities.

You all know the events of the last several weeks. Iraq threatened Kuwait, lied about its intentions, and finally invaded. In three days, Iraq had 120,000 troops and 850 tanks in Kuwait, moving south toward the Saudi Border. And it was this clear and rapidly escalating threat that led King Fahd to ask for our help.

WE KNEW THAT AN IRAQ THAT HAD THE MOST POWERFUL MILITARY MACHINE IN THE GULF, AND CONTROLLED 20 PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S PROVEN RESERVES OF OIL, WOULD POSE A THREAT TO THE PERSIAN GULF, THE MIDDLE EAST, AND TO THE WORLD. WE RESPONDED TO THIS THREAT QUICKLY, WITHOUT HESITATION.

- 6 -

OUR OBJECTIVES WERE OBVIOUS FROM THE START: THE IMMEDIATE, COMPLETE AND UNCONDITIONAL WITHDRAWAL OF ALL IRAQI FORCES FROM KUWAIT; THE RESTORATION OF KUWAIT'S LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT; SECURITY AND STABILITY OF SAUDI ARABIA AND THE PERSIAN GULF; AND THE PROTECTION OF AMERICAN CITIZENS ABROAD.

OUR ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE THESE OBJECTIVES HAVE BEEN EQUALLY CLEAR.

WITHIN HOURS OF THE ASSAULT, THE UNITED STATES MOVED TO FREEZE IRAQ'S ASSETS IN THIS COUNTRY AND TO PROTECT THOSE OF KUWAIT. I SENT DICK CHENEY TO SAUDI ARABIA, EGYPT AND MOROCCO TO ARRANGE FOR MILITARY COOPERATION BETWEEN US AND KEY ARAB STATES. AND I SENT JIM BAKER TO TURKEY, AND TO BRUSSELS, TO RALLY THE SUPPORT OF OUR NATO ALLIES.

THE WORLD RESPONSE TO IRAQ WAS A CHORUS OF CONDEMNATION. WITH GREAT SPEED, THE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL PASSED FIVE RESOLUTIONS.

- 8 -

THESE RESOLUTIONS CONDEMNED IRAQ'S INVASION OF KUWAIT, DEMANDED IRAQ'S IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONAL WITHDRAWAL, AND REJECTED IRAQ'S ANNEXATION OF KUWAIT. THE U.N. HAS ALSO MANDATED SANCTIONS AGAINST IRAQ AND ENDORSED ALL MEASURES THAT MAY BE NECESSARY TO ENFORCE THESE SANCTIONS. AND THE U.N. HAS DEMANDED THAT IRAQ RELEASE ALL FOREIGN NATIONALS BEING HELD AGAINST THEIR WILL WITHOUT DELAY.

THE U.N. SANCTIONS ARE IN EFFECT AND HAVE BEEN WORKING REMARKABLY WELL, EVEN ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS.

IRAQI OIL NO LONGER FLOWS THROUGH PIPELINES TO PORTS IN TURKEY AND SAUDI ARABIA -- AND TODAY REPORTS INDICATE THAT TRAFFIC THROUGH AQABA HAS COME VIRTUALLY TO A HALT. U.S. MILITARY FORCES STAND SHOULDER-TO-SHOULDER WITH FORCES OF MANY ARAB AND EUROPEAN STATES TO DETER, AND IF NEED BE, DEFEND, SAUDI ARABIA AGAINST ATTACK.

- 10 -

AND U.S. NAVAL FORCES SAIL WITH THE NAVIES OF MANY OTHER STATES TO MAKE THE SANCTIONS AS WATERTIGHT AS POSSIBLE. This is not, as Saddam Hussein claims, the U.S. Against Iraq. It is truly Iraq against the WORLD.\\\

SO THE BASIC ELEMENTS OF OUR STRATEGY ARE NOW IN PLACE.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO? OUR INTENTION, AND INDEED THE INTENTION OF ALMOST EVERY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD, IS TO PERSUADE IRAQ TO WITHDRAW, THAT IT CANNOT BENEFIT FROM THIS OCCUPATION, THAT IT WILL PAY A STIFF PRICE BY TRYING TO HOLD ON -- AND AN EVEN STIFFER PRICE BY WIDENING THE CONFLICT.

OF COURSE, WE SEEK TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS WITHOUT FURTHER VIOLENCE.

- 12 -

THE UNITED STATES SUPPORTS THE U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL AND OTHER LEADERS WORKING TO PROMOTE A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THIS CRISIS ON THE BASIS OF U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 660.

I ALSO REMAIN DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE AMERICAN AND OTHER FOREIGN NATIONALS HELD HOSTAGE BY IRAQ. AS I HAVE SAID BEFORE, WHEN IT COMES TO THE SAFETY AND WELLBEING OF AMERICAN CITIZENS HELD AGAINST THEIR WILL -- I WILL HOLD BAGHDAD RESPONSIBLE.

((THAT IS AS GOOD A NOTE AS ANY TO CONCLUDE MY REMARKS -- A NOTE OF RESOLVE. AND NOW, IF I MAY, I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS MEETING INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.)) \\\

[[PRESS DEPARTS]]

WE HAVE MANY OTHER CONCERNS, INCLUDING THE RISE IN THE PRICE OF OIL. HERE, THOUGH, THERE IS GOOD NEWS TO REPORT. ALREADY MORE THAN HALF OF THE LOST IRAQI AND KUWAITI OUTPUT HAS BEEN MADE UP BY SAUDI ARABIA AND OTHER PRODUCERS.

- 14 -

EXPANDED PRODUCTION BY THOSE WHO CAN, CONSERVATION WHERE POSSIBLE, AND USE OF THE STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE, IF NECESSARY, SHOULD BRING DOWN THE PRICE OF OIL.

THERE ARE REAL ECONOMIC COSTS INVOLVED HERE, NOT SIMPLY FOR THE UNITED STATES, BUT FOR ALL THOSE COMING TO SAUDI ARABIA'S AID, COMPLYING WITH SANCTIONS OR DEPENDENT UPON ENERGY FROM THE GULF.

I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE WE ARE IN THE FINAL STAGES OF PUTTING TOGETHER AN INITIATIVE THAT WILL DIRECTLY ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF COST. I SHOULD BE ABLE TO SAY MORE ON THIS SOON.

BUT THE COSTS WE ARE BEING ASKED TO BEAR ARE MODEST COMPARED TO WHAT IS AT STAKE.

- 16 -

WHAT IS AT STAKE IS THE SWALLOWING WHOLE OF A NATION, THE PRINCIPLE OF STANDING BY OUR FRIENDS, AND THE POTENTIAL DOMINATION OF THE MAJORITY OF THE WORLD'S ENERGY RESERVES BY A BRUTAL AND AGGRESSIVE REGIME. BY ANY MEASURE, OUR INTERESTS IN THE PERSIAN GULF ARE VITAL.

AND THERE IS SOMETHING ELSE AT STAKE -- THE SHAPE OF THE FUTURE.

THIS CRISIS MAY PROVE TO BE ONE OF THOSE EVENTS THAT DEFINE THE WORLD ORDER FOR DECADES TO COME. THAT IS WHY WE HAVE STRIVED TO BUILD A SPIRIT OF COOPERATION THAT IS WITHOUT PRECEDENT. THE SOVIETS, THE CHINESE, AS WELL AS OUR TRADITIONAL ALLIES, AND OUR FRIENDS IN THE ARAB WORLD -- ALL HAVE JOINED TOGETHER IN AN HISTORIC RESISTANCE AGAINST AN AGGRESSOR.

LAST, I WANT TO THANK THOSE WHO HELPED PUT THIS POLICY INTO ACTION.

- 18 -

WITH US TODAY ARE MEMBERS OF AN OUTSTANDING TEAM --BILL WEBSTER, JIM BAKER, DICK CHENEY AND COLIN POWELL.

THE MASSIVE MILITARY BUILDUP NOW TAKING PLACE IN THE GULF IS PROCEEDING WITH UNPRECEDENTED SPEED AND WITH SMOOTH PRECISION. IT IS A TRIBUTE TO THE OUTSTANDING SKILLS, TRAINING AND DEDICATION OF THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT, AND THE THOUSANDS NOW SERVING IN SAUDI ARABIA.

THEY ARE THE TRUE HEROES OF OUR TIME. MAY GOD BLESS THEM ALL.

AND NOW, I WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO HEAR FROM YOU.

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