

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 8, 1991

Dear Key Contact:

As Secretary of State James Baker prepares to meet with the Iraqi Foreign Minister tomorrow I thought you would be interested in seeing some of the more recent words of the President about the Gulf crisis.

The first document is a letter from the President to Congress asking for the adoption of a Resolution stating that Congress supports the use of all necessary means to implement United Nations Security Council Resolution 678. It is our hope that Members of Congress will support this Resolution and the President in the United States' stand against the "naked aggression" of Saddam Hussein.

The second document is a transcript of a radio address by the President to the nation. The address sums up our purpose for being in the Gulf and our diplomatic efforts in that area.

Please share this information with others. Feel free to contact my office if you have other concerns.

Sincerely,



David M. Carney

Special Assistant to the President and
Director, Office of Political Affairs

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 8, 1991

Dear Congressman Michel:

The current situation in the Persian Gulf, brought about by Iraq's unprovoked invasion and subsequent brutal occupation of Kuwait, threatens vital U.S. interests. The situation also threatens the peace. It would, however, greatly enhance the chances for peace if Congress were now to go on record supporting the position adopted by the UN Security Council on twelve separate occasions. Such an action would underline that the United States stands with the international community and on the side of law and decency; it also would help dispel any belief that may exist in the minds of Iraq's leaders that the United States lacks the necessary unity to act decisively in response to Iraq's continued aggression against Kuwait.

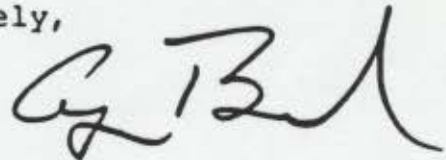
Secretary of State Baker is meeting with Iraq's Foreign Minister on January 9. It would have been most constructive if he could have presented the Iraqi government a Resolution passed by both houses of Congress supporting the UN position and in particular Security Council Resolution 678. As you know, I have frequently stated my desire for such a Resolution. Nevertheless, there is still opportunity for Congress to act to strengthen the prospects for peace and safeguard this country's vital interests.

I therefore request that the House of Representatives and the Senate adopt a Resolution stating that Congress supports the use of all necessary means to implement UN

Security Council Resolution 678. Such action would send the clearest possible message to Saddam Hussein that he must withdraw without condition or delay from Kuwait. Anything less would only encourage Iraqi intransigence; anything else would risk detracting from the international coalition arrayed against Iraq's aggression.

I am determined to do whatever is necessary to protect America's security. I ask Congress to join with me in this task. I can think of no better way than for Congress to express its support for the President at this critical time. This truly is the last best chance for peace.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Michel", written in a cursive style.

Representative Robert Michel
House Republican Leader
H232 Capitol
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Office of the Press Secretary

Embargoed for Release
Until 12:00 Noon EST
Saturday, January 5, 1991

RADIO ADDRESS
BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE NATION

The Oval Office

THE PRESIDENT: As the new year begins, new challenges unfold -- challenges to America and the future of our world. Simply put: 1990 saw Iraq invade and occupy Kuwait. Nineteen ninety-one will see Iraq withdraw, preferably by choice, by force, if need be. It is my most sincere hope 1991 is a year of peace. I've seen the hideous face of war and counted the costs of conflict in friends lost. I remember this all too well, and have no greater concern than the well-being of our men and women stationed in the Persian Gulf. True, their morale is sky-high. True, if they are called upon to fight the aggressors, they will do their job courageously, professionally and, in the end, decisively. There will be no more Vietnams.

But we should go the extra mile before asking our servicemen and women to stand in harm's way. We should, and we have. The United Nations, with the full support of the United States, has already tried to peacefully pressure Iraq out of Kuwait, implementing economic sanctions, and securing the condemnation of the world in the form of no less than 12 resolutions of the U.N. Security Council.

This week, we've taken one more step. I have offered to have Secretary of State James Baker meet with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz in Switzerland. Yesterday, we received word that Iraq has accepted our offer to meet in Geneva.

This will not be secret diplomacy at work. Secretary Baker will restate, in person, a message for Saddam Hussein: Withdraw from Kuwait unconditionally and immediately, or face the terrible consequences.

Eleven days from today, Saddam Hussein will either have met the United Nations deadline for a full and unconditional withdrawal, or he will have once again defied the civilized world. This is a deadline for Saddam Hussein to comply with the United Nations resolution, not a deadline for our own Armed Forces. Still, time is running out. It's running out because each day that passes brings real costs.

Saddam already poses a strategic threat to the capital cities of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Israel and Syria, as well as our own men and women in the Gulf region. In fact, Saddam has used chemical weapons of mass destruction against innocent villagers, his own people. Each day that passes brings Saddam Hussein further on the path to developing biological and nuclear weapons and the missiles to deliver them. If Saddam corners the world energy market, he can then finance further aggression, terror and blackmail. Each day that passes increases Saddam's worldwide threat to democracy.

The struggling newborn democracies of Eastern Europe and Latin America already face a staggering challenge in making the transition to a free market. But the added weight of higher oil prices is a crushing burden they cannot afford. And our own economy is suffering, suffering the effects of higher oil prices and lower growth stemming from Saddam's aggression.

MORE

Each day that passes, Saddam's forces also fortify and dig in deeper into Kuwait. We risk paying a higher price in the most precious currency of all -- human life -- if we give Saddam more time to prepare for war. And each day that passes is another day of fear, suffering and terror for the people of Kuwait, many who risked their lives to shelter and hide Americans from Iraqi soldiers. As the Amir of Kuwait said to our Vice President just last week, those who advocate waiting longer for sanctions to work do not have to live under such brutal occupation.

As I have discussed with Members of Congress, just two days ago and in our many other consultations, economic sanctions are taking a toll, but they are still not forcing Saddam out of Kuwait. Nor do we know when or even if they will be successful. As a result, America and her partners in this unprecedented coalition are sharing the burden of this important mission; and we are ready to use force to defend a new order emerging among the nations of the world, a world of sovereign nations living in peace.

We have seen too often in this century how quickly any threat to one becomes a threat to all. At this critical moment in history, at a time the Cold War is fading into the past, we cannot fail. At stake is not simply some distant country called Kuwait. At stake is the kind of world we will inhabit.

Last Thanksgiving, I broke bread with some of our men and women on the front lines. They understand why we are in Saudi Arabia, and what we may have to do. I witnessed courage unfazed by the closeness of danger and determination undiminished by the harsh desert sun. These men and women are America's finest. We owe each of them our gratitude and full support. That is why we must all stand together, not as Republicans or Democrats, conservatives or liberals, but as Americans.

END

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JANUARY 8, 1991

CONTACT: WALT RIKER
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DOLE ON BUSH LETTER

PERSIAN GULF

WASHINGTON - SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KS) TODAY ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT REGARDING PRESIDENT BUSH'S LETTER TO THE CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP ON THE PERSIAN GULF CRISIS.

"THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER SAYS IT ALL: IT'S LONG PAST TIME FOR CONGRESS TO GET IN THE GAME. NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, CONGRESS SHOULD ALREADY HAVE JOINED THE PRESIDENT IN SENDING A TOUGH MESSAGE OF UNITY AND RESOLVE TO BAGHDAD, THE KIND OF UNITED FRONT THAT GIVES US OUR BEST HOPE FOR A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION IN THE GULF.

MEANWHILE, THE ADMINISTRATION GOES THE EXTRA MILE FOR PEACE IN GENEVA. UNFORTUNATELY, IF TARIQ AZIZ ASKS JIM BAKER, 'WHAT HAVE YOU BROUGHT FROM CONGRESS', HE'LL HAVE TO SAY, 'NOTHING'".

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