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FOIA MARKER

**This is not a textual record. This is used as an
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Library Staff.**

Record Group/Collection: George H.W. Bush Presidential Records
Collection/Office of Origin: Office of the President
Series: Daily Files
Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 90575
Folder ID Number: 90575-008

Folder Title:
Thursday, December 27, 1990

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
V	12	12	4	6

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet (George Bush Library)

Doc. No. / Type	Subject/Title	Date	Restriction	Classification
01a. Log	White House Telephone Log [President Bush] [redaction of personal information] (1 pp.)	12/27/90	(b)(6)	
01b. Log	White House Telephone Log [Signal Switchboard] [redaction of personal information] (1 pp.)	12/27/90	(b)(6)	
02. Paper	Options in the Gulf [written by former President Nixon] (9 pp.)	12/25/90	(b)(1)	

Page 1 of 1

Collection:

Record Group: Bush Presidential Records
Office: Office of the President
Series: Daily Files
Subseries:
WHORM Cat.:
File Location: Thursday, December 27, 1990

Pinksheet Number: dw1924
OA/ID Number: 90575-008
Date Closed: 3/14/2011
FOIA/Sys Case #: 2009-0166-S
Re-review Case #:
P-2/P-5 Review Case #:

daily



SCHEDULE OF THE PRESIDENT

Thursday, December 27, 1990

8:00 am	The President arrives <u>White House</u>	South Lawn
2:00 pm	<u>Depart for Camp David</u>	South Lawn
2:30 pm	Arrive Camp David	
	B <u>RON Camp David</u>	

UNP 12/26/90
4:00 pm

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

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WHORM Cat.:

File Location: Thursday, December 27, 1990

Date Closed: 3/14/2011	OA/ID Number: 90575-008
FOIA/SYS Case #: 2009-0166-S	Appeal Case #:
Re-review Case #:	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)]

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.

PRM. Removed as a personal record misfile.

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

(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]
(b)(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
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(b)(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
(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

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TELEPHONE MEMORANDUM

DECEMBER 27

, 19⁹⁰

PRESIDENT BUSH

	TIME		DISC	NAME	ACTION
	PLACED				
OUT XXX	9:14	AM	9:15	MRS. DOROTHY LEBLOND (b)(6)	TLKD-OK
INC		PM			
OUT		AM			
INC		PM			
OUT XXX	11:29	AM		SENATOR PETE V. DOMENICI (b)(6)	TLKD-OK 12:29 P.M.
INC		PM	12:38		
OUT		AM			
INC		PM			
OUT XXX	11:52	AM	11:53	MRS. PATRICIA A. PRESOCK OFC: WASHINGTON, D.C. WHITE HOUSE ADMIN. EXT. 514	TLKD-OK
INC		PM			
OUT		AM			
INC		PM			
OUT		PM		MR. CHARLES G. UNTERMEYER OFC: WASHINGTON, D.C. WHITE HOUSE ADMIN. EXT. 689	TLKD-OK 12:11 P.M.
INC	12:10	PM	12:11		
OUT		AM			
INC		PM			
OUT		PM		MRS. SARAH GEE (b)(6)	TLKD-OK 12:13 P.M.
INC	12:12	PM	12:14		
OUT		AM			
INC		PM			
OUT		PM		MRS. PATRICIA A. PRESOCK OFC: WASHINGTON, D.C. WHITE HOUSE ADMIN. EXT. 500	TLKD-OK
INC	1:14	PM	1:15		

TELEPHONE MEMORANDUM

, 19⁹⁰_____

[illegible]

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

(George Bush Library)

Document No. and Type	Subject/Title of Document	Date	Restriction	Class.
01b. Log	White House Telephone Log [Signal Switchboard] [redaction of personal information] (1 pp.)	12/27/90	(b)(6)	

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Office: Office of the President
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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TELEPHONE MEMORANDUM
SIGNAL SWITCHBOARD

December 27, 1990

	TIME		DISC	NAME	ACTION
	PLACED				
OUT		AM		Major Michael Gould Hawthorn Cabin Camp David, Maryland Camp David Signal 4-1748	Tlkd-ok 2:49 PM
INC	2:48	PM	2:50		
OUT		AM		Message: "Can you check and see if my brothers bags have been	Acknowledged 3:22 PM Completed 3:24 PM
INC	3:22	PM			
OUT		AM		delivered to his cabin, and check back with me?"	
INC		PM			
OUT		AM		Message: "Notify the bowling alley that Mrs. Bush and avid bowlers are on their way."	Passed 3:32 PM
INC	3:30	PM			
OUT		AM		Mr. Andrew H. Card Office, Washington, D.C. White House Signal 2-2250	Tlkd-ok 3:45 PM
INC	3:44	PM	3:50		
OUT		AM		Commander Michael G. Berry Hemlock Cabin Camp David, Maryland Camp David Signal 4-1718	Tlkd-ok 4:04 PM
INC	4:03	PM	4:05		
OUT		AM		Ms. Patty Presock/ [REDACTED] (b)(6)	Tlkd-ok 5:01 PM
INC	4:59	PM	5:03		
OUT		AM		Doctor Allen H. Roberts Hawthorn Cabin Camp David, Maryland Camp David Signal 4-1747	Tlkd-ok 6:27 PM
INC	6:27	PM	6:30		
OUT		AM			
INC		PM			
OUT		AM			
INC		PM			
OUT		AM			
INC		PM			

PRESIDENTIAL MOVEMENTS

Camp David, Maryland
Washington, D.C.

LOCATION Camp David, Maryland

DATE 27 December 1990

[illegible]

Daily

News Summary

OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1990
6:00 A.M. EST EDITION

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

GORBACHEV CANDIDATE FAILS TO WIN VICE PRESIDENCY -- OFFICIALS -- Gennady Yanayev, President Gorbachev's candidate for vice president of the Soviet Union, failed to win the new post, parliamentary officials said Thursday. (Reuter)

KEY RUSSIAN REFORMIST MINISTER RESIGNS -- Boris Fyodorov, the strongly reformist finance minister of the giant Russian Federation and a key figure in the struggle for a radical reshape of the Soviet economy, has resigned, Moscow Radio said Thursday. (Reuter)

ARMY WARNINGS WON'T STOP BUSH IF WAR IS NEEDED, U.S. AIDES SAY - Warnings from some military commanders that American troops will not be ready for action by Jan. 15 will not constrain President Bush from ordering military action if he thinks it is necessary, senior administration officials said Wednesday. (New York Times)

U.S. OPENS DOOR TO LINK OF 2 CRISES -- The U.S. is slowly beginning to do what Saddam Hussein has wanted all along -- link the Gulf crisis to a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. (Washington Times)

NETWORK NEWS (Wednesday evening)

GULF -- U.S. forces are likely to adopt a far more aggressive posture if the Jan. 15 deadline passes without agreement on Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

The Iraqis held another test firing of a Soviet-made missile with enough range to strike deep into Saudi Arabia.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS...A-1

NATIONAL NEWS.....A-8

NETWORK NEWS.....B-1

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

ARMY WARNINGS WON'T STOP BUSH
IF WAR IS NEEDED, U.S. AIDES SAY

Warnings from some military commanders that American troops will not be ready for action by Jan. 15 will not constrain President Bush from ordering military action if he thinks it is necessary, senior administration officials said Wednesday.

The White House was aware of the military's concerns about readiness when it agreed at the U.N. to a resolution fixing a Jan. 15 deadline for Iraq to leave Kuwait....

They repeated the official position that the deadline is not the date on which the U.S. is committed to beginning a war, but rather an "authorization date" after which Bush will have the sanction of the U.N. to go to war if necessary....

"The military are always more comfortable with more time, but I would not take that to mean we are expanding our timetable," a senior official said. (Andrew Rosenthal, New York Times, A1)

U.S. TELLS 200 CITIZENS TO LEAVE
JORDAN AND SUDAN BY JAN. 15

With diplomacy apparently stalled in the Gulf, the State Department ordered more than 200 U.S. dependents and non-essential personnel to leave Jordan and Sudan "well before Jan. 15."...

The department's advisory, citing "unstable conditions" growing out of the U.S.-led confrontation with Iraq, also urged thousands of U.S. citizens to leave the two nations "as soon as possible."...

Administration officials, meanwhile, denied a report in the Israeli newspaper, Maariv, that Washington and Baghdad had agreed on a Jan. 9 meeting of Secretary Baker and Saddam.

A senior State Department official said no progress had been made on setting a date for talks....

At a briefing in Riyadh Wednesday, Maj. Gen. Dane Starling, logistics chief for U.S. forces in the Gulf, said it is still logistically possible for the about 500,000 Iraqi troops in Kuwait to withdraw by Jan. 15 "if Saddam Hussein set his mind to it." He did not say how long the withdrawal would take.

In Baghdad, U.S. Charge d'Affaires Joseph Wilson told reporters, "I have not given up on the diplomatic process."

But Saddam, speaking to his envoys in Baghdad, continued to link Kuwait's future to the "liberation of Palestine," Reuters reporter. "Iraq's linkage between the region's issues, with priority to the Palestinian question...is a correct patriotic, nationalist and humanitarian policy," he said.

(Barton Gellman, Washington Post, A19)

ISRAEL SHUNS FIRST STRIKE AGAINST IRAQ

JERUSALEM -- Israel is signaling that it will not launch a preemptive strike against Iraq, despite repeated threats from Baghdad to attack it at the onset of any military conflict in the Persian Gulf.

Instead, Israel is now seeking to deter Saddam with warnings that it will respond massively if Iraqi missiles or bombs are aimed at its territory. Although they concede that such an attack is increasingly possible, Israeli defense officials are telling people here that any Iraqi offensive is unlikely to wreak much damage or cause many casualties in Israel....

Government officials and defense analysts here say the Israeli strategy appears carefully calibrated to satisfy appeals by the U.S. that Israel stay out of the Gulf conflict, while maintaining the military's "freedom of action" in the event Israel is attacked....

Air Force Lt. Col. Tom Coury, an intelligence officer in the U.S. Central Command in Saudi Arabia, said Wednesday that Saddam wishes to avoid conflict in the Gulf in the near future. But if war appears inevitable, Coury said, Saddam could order an attack against Israel in a desperate attempt to break the alliance....

"We see absolutely no indication that Saddam Hussein intends to withdraw from Kuwait," Coury said. "Rather, he continues to pour both men and materiel into the country" to strengthen his defenses.

(Jackson Diehl, Washington Post, A1)

U.S. OPENS DOOR TO LINK OF 2 CRISES

The U.S. is slowly beginning to do what Saddam Hussein has wanted all along -- link the Gulf crisis to a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict....

The concern was evident in an Israeli press report Wednesday that the State Department appears to be preparing a proposal to open peace talks between Israel and Arab countries in tandem with holding municipal elections for 1.7 million Palestinians in the occupied territories.

The newspaper Maariv said that would be the subject of a planned visit to Israel by Dennis Ross, the State Department's policy planning chief, which it said would take place on Jan. 7.

The State Department denied that a date had been set for Mr. Ross' visit as well as a related Maariv report that Secretary Baker would meet Saddam Hussein on Jan. 9.

But the department did not deny reports the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad made contact with the Iraqi foreign minister on Christmas Day for the first time in more than a week....

Saddam may hitch his drive for Kuwaiti-Palestinian linkage to a new Algerian peace initiative. Algerian President Benjedid...will promote a compromise formula on Iraq's demand that the Palestinian and Gulf crises be resolved simultaneously, Arab sources in Baghdad told Agence-Presses Wednesday.

(news analysis, Martin Sieff, Washington Times, A1)

AMERICAN DIPLOMAT REJECTED ALMOST DAILY BY IRAQIS

Nearly every day, Joseph Wilson, the American ambassador in charge of the...U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, telephones or visits the Iraqi foreign ministry with standing instructions from Washington.

It is to find out if Secretary Baker would be welcome for a visit before Jan. 3 to talk to Saddam about releasing his grip on Kuwait....

The reply to Wilson, with a slight variation, is either a repetition of Jan. 12 as the only acceptable date or no reply at all, U.S. officials said Wednesday as the deadlock in arranging talks continued.

"The Iraqis don't have much to say," one official remarked. "They just stick to Jan. 12." (Barry Schweid, AP)

IRAQ TESTS ANOTHER MISSILE,
BUILDS ELABORATE DEFENSES IN KUWAIT

RIYADH -- Iraq launched another surface-to-surface missile Wednesday, according to a ranking U.S. military official....

U.S. military officials also said Wednesday that Iraq appears serious about staying in Kuwait...for the "long haul." The extensive defenses Iraq is building there, they said, indicate Saddam is digging his forces in for a bloody showdown, not merely staging a face-saving bluff before agreeing to withdraw.

Wednesday's test-firing of a Scud-B missile added fuel to growing U.S. military concern that Saddam may attack Israel before the Jan. 15 deadline for withdrawing from Iraq....

"As the clock ticks down, we see a growing danger that a desperate Saddam will try to stage a preemptive provocation...intended to draw Arab attention away from Kuwait," a senior U.S. military source said Wednesday....

"If Saddam moves first, and Israel hits back, the whole Islamic-Western alliance could unravel," a Western diplomat based in Riyadh said. "The Islamic coalition would be in a very touchy position. Those that had the guts to stick by the Yanks and Brits would risk becoming pariahs if they joined in an attack against a sister Arab state at war with Israel."...

"Saddam could rise from the ashes in glory: the man who dared strike at the Zionist enemy," the diplomat said. "Whatever happens on the battlefield, the U.S. could be plunged into political quicksand if Saddam plays the Israel card. It is the one scenario in the alliance, including the Saudis and Egyptians, fear the most." (Colin Nickerson, Boston Globe)

TOO LATE FOR NEW GULF INITIATIVES, SAYS KUWAITI MINISTER

BEIJING -- Kuwait's exiled foreign minister said Thursday it was too late for new initiatives to end the Gulf crisis and unless Iraq withdrew from Kuwait there would be war.

Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmed al-Sabah told a news conference during an official visit to China that Kuwait was being destroyed and looted....

Any new initiatives to solve the crisis by Arab or friendly countries, the major powers or the Third World would be "too late" and "not useful," the sheikh said. (Reuter)

U.S. SAILORS, CREW SCUFFLE ON IRAQI SHIP
Naval Team Finds Sanctions Violations

RIYADH -- A U.S. Navy boarding party fired a warning shot and scuffled briefly with crew and passengers of an Iraqi cargo ship in the Arabian Sea, a U.S. military spokesman said.

The ship...was en route to Iraq carrying milk, sugar, rice, cooking oil "and other prohibited cargo," Lt. Col. Greg Pepin told reporters here. The boarding party declared the ship in violation of a U.N. trade embargo against Iraq and sent it to an unidentified port to be unloaded....

The ship had 42 crewmen and 240 passengers aboard, most of them women on a "peace mission" to bring food to Iraq. The AP quoted Baghdad Radio as saying the women were from 10 Arab countries, the U.S., Japan, Italy and China.

(Guy Gugliotta, Washington Post, A20)

BRITISH GENERAL SAYS SADDAM MAY NOT WAIT FOR JANUARY 15

NICOSIA -- Britain's top soldier in the Gulf fears Saddam could spark a war before the U.N. Jan. 15 deadline for his troops to leave Kuwait.

"It's going to be a very brittle few weeks ahead of us as we see how the political situation develops and how Saddam Hussein is going to make up his mind about what he is going to do," Lt. Gen. Sir Peter de la Billiere said.

"He will do something to take the initiative and if he decides he is going down the military road, he will try to take a military initiative and that initiative could well come before Jan. 15."

"So there is nothing sacrosanct about Jan. 15 in military terms," the commander of British forces in the Middle East said.

(Reuter)

ANALYSTS: DON'T UNDERESTIMATE IRAQI MILITARY

Iraq looms as a tough enemy, but one that can be beaten, according to analysts at the U.S. Army War College's Strategic Studies Institute....

"The Iraqis are much better fighters than was formerly believed," said the analysts, two civilians and one military official....

In the study, Lt. Col Douglas Johnson, Persian Gulf expert Stephen Pelletiere and economist Leif Rosenberger said that Iraq: If "formidable" and experienced in defensive warfare....

Relies less on chemical weapons and more on its long-range artillery and missiles....

Has "genuinely competent" officers. "Iraq boasts...some of the Arab Middle East's best educated forces."...

Saddam's perceived weakness: lack of air muscle.

(Juan White, USA Today, A4)

PRIME MINISTER URGES WITHDRAWAL FROM KUWAIT

TOKYO -- Prime Minister Kaifu has sent a letter to Saddam Hussein calling on him to withdraw his forces from Kuwait, Japan's foreign ministry said Thursday.

Recalling Japan's bitter experience of war and its long, hard recovery, Kaifu urged Saddam to avoid conflict, according to a summary of the contents released by the ministry....

Kaifu told Japanese reporters in Tokyo that he wrote the letter in hopes of spurring Iraq on to dialogue with the U.S.

(UPI)

TWO SOVIET OFFICIALS FLY TO IRAQ

MOSCOW -- All Soviet citizens will be evacuated from Iraq by Jan. 10 if they want to leave, Foreign Ministry spokesman Churkin said.

Churkin also said Wednesday that two high-level Soviet officials have left for Baghdad to discuss the evacuation and [hold] "a variety of meetings" in the capital....

Churkin said Igor Belousov, deputy chairman of the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers before Wednesday's government reorganization, and Vasily Kolotusha, head of the Middle East and North African division of the Foreign Ministry, had left for Baghdad....

Churkin did not say whether they would be meeting with Saddam or what the two officials would talk about besides the evacuation of Soviet workers.

(UPI)

GORBACHEV ELEVATES PARTY AIDE
Conservatives Praise Choice For No. 2 Post;
Reformers Dismayed

MOSCOW -- President Gorbachev Wednesday chose as his vice president Gennady Yanayev, a Communist Party apparatchik with little political standing outside the Kremlin bureaucracy....

Many reform-minded deputies objected that Yanayev is an evident opponent of radical economic reform and that also, as a Russian, he brings no ethnic diversity to the government at a time when Moscow is trying to resolve its myriad nationalities conflict....

Earlier in the day, Gorbachev told the legislature that his prime minister, Nikolai Ryzhkov, suffered a heart attack Tuesday night....

Gorbachev said Ryzhkov was in the hospital but "at the moment there is no threat to his life."...

The Congress also formally approved Gorbachev's plan for a restructured executive, which will now be subordinate to him rather than to the prime minister. (David Remnick, Washington Post, A1)

GORBACHEV CANDIDATE FAILS TO WIN VICE PRESIDENCY -- OFFICIALS

MOSCOW -- Gennady Yanayev, President Gorbachev's candidate for vice president of the Soviet Union, failed to win the new post, parliamentary officials said Thursday.

The officials, members of the commission counting votes at the Congress of People's Deputies, told reporters Yanayev fell short by 34 votes.

(Reuter)

KEY RUSSIAN REFORMIST MINISTER RESIGNS

MOSCOW -- Boris Fyodorov, the strongly reformist finance minister of the giant Russian Federation and a key figure in the struggle for a radical reshape of the Soviet economy, has resigned, Moscow Radio said Thursday.

The radio said the 33-year-old Fyodorov, part of the young ministerial team around Boris Yeltsin, stepped down arguing that no progress was being made toward creation of a market system.

The radio quoted Fyodorov...as telling [a] newspaper the federation government was sliding into old-style command methods of economic control. (Reuter)

YELENA BONNER CALLS FOR U.S. TO DROP SUPPORT OF GORBACHEV

BOSTON -- Human rights activist Yelena Bonner Wednesday predicted a crackdown on President Gorbachev's opponents by security forces, and said the U.S. should switch its support from Gorbachev to dissident republics.

"Gorbachev is not going toward democratization, but instead is going back toward a cruel totalitarian regime," said Bonner. "And like any totalitarian regime...without assistance from the West and Western leaders, we can expect it will bring incomparable problems for the people who now inhabit territories (republics) that used to be one single state."

Asked if she meant that President Bush should switch U.S. backing from Gorbachev to dissident republics, she replied: "Yes, absolutely." (Reuter)

SOVIET ECONOMY CLOSE TO BASKET CASE

U.S. officials are studying a detailed analysis of the Soviet Union which confirms what any Moscow shopper or visitor suspected: the Soviet economy is a basket-case and Gorbachev's perestroika reforms have so far succeeded only in making the problem worse.

The reports suggests that outside help may not be possible or effective....

The [IMF] report says the Gorbachev reforms sometimes had a negative effect because they were introduced in piecemeal fashion, thus introducing the factors of confusion and inconsistency.

As a result of the partial reforms, according to the report, inflation and unemployment began to creep into the Soviet economy. The report puts the current annual rate of inflation at about 12 percent and unemployment at about 1.5 percent. (Jim Anderson, UPI)

SALVADORAN REBEL ASSAULTS TAKE TOLL IN LIVES, AIRCRAFT

CHALATENANGO, El Salvador -- Attacks by leftist rebels that started last month have provoked the heaviest fighting outside the capital in years, killing more than 400, including 25 civilians who died when the rebels attacked military bases in populated areas....

The rebels deny that their latest actions are an offensive, in deference to the recent halving by Congress of U.S. military aid to El Salvador. That aid could be restored if a rebel offensive were determined to be underway. (Tom Gibb, Washington Post, A19)

DENG, REPORTEDLY ILL, IS SEEN ON TV

BEIJING -- China's senior leader Deng Xiaoping, who has been rumored to be seriously ill, made his first public appearance in nearly five months, casting his ballot in city-wide elections.

(Lena Sun, Washington Post, A25)

EDITOR'S NOTES: "Bush's Logistical Problem: War Threatens Outrun Supply Lines," a news analysis by Michael Gordon, appears in the New York Times, A12.

"Diplomacy Resumed By U.S. And Iraq," by Patrick Tyler, appears in the New York Times, A12.

"Banking's Limited Crisis," by Stephen Labaton, appears in the New York Times, A1.

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NATIONAL NEWS

BUSH, GETTING BORED AT CAMP DAVID,
MAKES BRIEF RETURN TO WHITE HOUSE

President Bush, a well-known workaholic, just doesn't seem to be able to stay away from the office too long, even when he's supposed to be on vacation.

Bush, only midway through an 11-day stay at...Camp David, was returning to the White House Thursday for a day of what aides described as routine paperwork....

One White House source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Bush was "bored to tears" at Camp David. (AP)

GOP VETERAN BILL FRENZEL LEAVING CONGRESS,
'WEARY OF 90-HOUR WEEKS'

Rep. Frenzel (R.-Mn.) is retiring after 20 years in Congress, a move that mystifies many other lawmakers. He explains it simply: "I have grown weary of 90-hour weeks."...

"The budget was an acute frustration," Frenzel said. "I can't express how horrible it was over the last six months." (AP)

1990 CENSUS FIGURE FALLS 3.8 MILLION SHORT OF PROJECTION

The government announced Wednesday that the 1990 census showed the official U.S. population is 249,632,692, a number that falls considerably below earlier Census Bureau estimates and leaves unsettled the question of the accuracy of the...headcount.

While critics focused on a discrepancy of nearly 4 million residents...census officials defended the accuracy of their numbers.

"I believe we have seen here a full, fair and efficient census," said Michael Darby, Commerce Department Undersecretary with responsibility for the census bureau.

But Rep. Sawyer (D.-Ohio), chairman of the House Post Office and Civil Service subcommittee on census and population, said the numbers released Wednesday should be viewed as preliminary. "I don't think we can be satisfied yet that we have the most accurate count that we are capable of producing as a nation," he said.

(Barbara Vobejda, Washington Post, A1)

POTENT CALIFORNIA: MORE HOUSE MEMBERS
THAN 21 STATES COMBINED

In the politics of the future, California will exercise more clout than any smoke-filled room of politicians ever did.

California emerges from the 1990 census as a political behemoth, with 52 House seats....

The news is nothing but promising for the Republicans. California hasn't voted for a Democratic presidential candidate since 1964....

The industrial Northwest and Midwest will lose standing in Congress and the electoral college. The West, the South and the Sun Belt, increasingly Republican, gain.

"The political consequences advantage the Republicans," summed up Stephen Hess, political analyst at the Brookings Institution.

(Mike Feinsilber, AP)

FREE FALL IN CONSUMER OPTIMISM
DEEPEST SINCE 1981-82 RECESSION

After humming along nicely for 92 months, the great U.S. job machine has ground to a halt. And though nobody likes to hear that a recession has begun, Americans are being very bad sports this time around.

The Conference Board, a business-funded research group that has been taking the public's temperature for 20 years, says its monthly index of consumer sentiment dropped more sharply from July to October than any time in the survey's history. The University of Michigan's Survey Research Center, which has published its own measure of economic cheer since 1946, reports an equally record-breaking decline. "In four decades, we have never seen a change of this magnitude," says center Director Richard Curtin....

"This is an amazing drop in the consumer survey," says Jeff Fuhrer, a Federal Reserve Board economist. "If I were living in a vacuum and that's the only thing I got to see, I'd be worried. But the fact is, taking a reading on the economy overall, that kind of drop is not supported in the other data by any stretch of the imagination." (Holman Jenkins, Washington Times, C1)

NOT EASY BEING GREEN
Environmental Fever Fades With Overkill

After Earth's Day bearhug, the national embrace of the environment has slacked off to little more than a limp handshake....

Despite heavy pressure from environmentalists, the Bush administration has resisted endorsing a new round of regulation to control the buildup of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

A protection plan for the spotted owl remains up in the air....

Mr. Bush's pledge to elevate the EPA to Cabinet status remains unfulfilled, even though Congress has approved the plan.

The Bush administration also is retreating from an announced goal of reducing the nation's municipal solid waste by 25 percent through recycling. EPA chief Reilly emerged from a White House meeting last week with orders to abandon that goal, officials said.

"There's still strong support for the environment, but what we're seeing now is a refinement of the public view," said Lynn Scarlett, vice president of the Reason Foundation, a conservative think tank in Santa Monica, Ca. "They want to see that their money is well spent."

According to the latest Yaneklovich Clancy Shulman poll, commissioned by CNN/Time, 70 percent of those interviewed said they would be willing to spend \$200 more in taxes to clean up the environment. The percentage dropped to 44 when the ante was raised to an extra \$500 per person. (Ronald Taylor, Washington Times, A1)

PUERTO RICO STATEHOOD MOVEMENT GAINS
Opponents on Defensive;
Financial Impact Could Cut Both Ways

SAN JUAN -- ...After 92 years under the U.S. flag, Puerto Rico appears closer than ever before to resolving its [statehood] status....

Statehood seems to be the leading choice, according to most polls and many politicians here....

Supporters of continuing the island's commonwealth status say that a state where fewer than one in five people can speak English with ease would be condemned to be an "American Quebec," resisting efforts to blend into a larger, more heterogeneous nation....

Despite the massive lobbying campaign the Puerto Rican government and political parties have launched to sell Congress on the issue...many congressional aides in Washington and political leaders speak skeptically of the prospects of legislation [allowing a referendum in 1991] in the Senate.

(Bill McAllister, Washington Post, A1)

-End of A-Section-

From the desk of
George Bush

save

no reply
required

Bush Library Photocopy
George Bush Handwriting

Bush Presidential Library Photocopy

Document Originally
Attached to
Following Page

Dear President Bush,

Thank you very much for your nice card and your best wishes. Your visit here was certainly one of the highlights of the past year and I still remember it with much fondness. I firmly believe we can continue to work together for good causes. I hope that we can meet again sometime in a not too distant future.

With my warm regards,
Sincerely,

Václav Havel



December 21, 1990

Presidential Phone Calls



DATE: 12-30-90 TIME: 4 PM
~~12-30~~
incoming/outgoing

WITH: Nixon

SUBJECT: 1400 min of 12-25
~ letter 12-27

good talk
I covered points
checked

though who opposes
it will have to worry about
our needs

FOLLOW UP: Mitchell

Tenish groups can do more"

RICHARD NIXON

December 27, 1990

577 CHESTNUT RIDGE ROAD
WOODCLIFF LAKE, NEW JERSEY

Dear George,

Because I know you must be deluged by unsolicited advice on how to handle the crisis in the Gulf, I hesitate to add to your voluminous reading material. Nevertheless, I am enclosing a memorandum I wrote on Christmas Day. I hope you might find it useful. But in any event, whether you follow my advice or not, you can be sure that I will unqualifiably support whatever decision you make.

With warm regards,

Sincerely,

The Honorable
George Bush

*Rich -
I apologize for not
keeping it to two pages -! -*

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

(George Bush Library)

Document No. and Type	Subject/Title of Document	Date	Restriction	Class.
02. Paper	Options in the Gulf [written by former President Nixon] (9 pp.)	12/25/90	(b)(1)	

Collection:

Record Group: Bush Presidential Records

Office: Office of the President

Series: Daily Files

Subseries:

WHORM Cat.:

File Location: Thursday, December 27, 1990

Date Closed: 3/14/2011	OA/ID Number: 90575-008
FOIA/SYS Case #: 2009-0166-S	Appeal Case #:
Re-review Case #:	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)]

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.

PRM. Removed as a personal record misfile.

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

(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]
(b)(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
(b)(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
(b)(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
(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

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 27, 1990

Dear Morris:

I received your thoughtful letter of December 14 and read it with great interest. I agree we must find a way to restore our Nation's consensus on civil rights and to move forward with a positive approach. Your suggestions seem promising, and your ideas will be examined with the greatest care.

Thanks for writing. Best wishes, as always.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Bush".

The Honorable Morris B. Abram
Representative of the United States
of America to the European Office
of the United Nations
Geneva

Happy New Year!

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 27, 1990

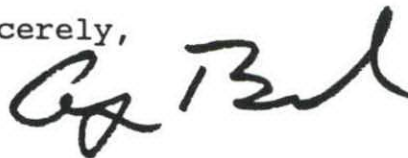
PERSONAL

Dear Mr. Meier:

It was a pleasure to meet you when you visited the White House with Governor Thompson. I'm thrilled to be the recipient of the magnificent Bowie knife that you handcrafted and presented to me. Thank you very much for this special remembrance -- and for the many hours of patience you devoted to creating this unique piece of Americana. It's being proudly displayed in Robert Stewart's handsome crystal case outside the Oval Office, where all who pass by can enjoy your workmanship.

Again, my appreciation for your kindness, and best wishes.

Sincerely,

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

Mr. Daryl Meier
Route 4
Carbondale, Illinois 62901

11:15 A.M. NEWS UPDATE

Daily
PRESIDENT (AP) -- President Bush, a well-known workaholic, was back in his office this morning, interrupting his holiday vacation to return to the White House. The President, bundled in a heavy hooded jacket, arrived by helicopter to spend a day on what aides said was routine paperwork. The President waved away reporters shouting questions about prospects for war in the Gulf, heading straight to the Oval Office.... A White House source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Bush was "bored to tears" at Camp David.

SOVIET/VICE PRESIDENT (Moscow/AP) -- The Congress of People's Deputies confirmed President Gorbachev's nominee for vice president on a second ballot after Gorbachev implored the lawmakers to approve someone he trusted. Earlier the lawmakers rejected the nominee, Gennady Yanayev, by 31 votes, but Gorbachev asked them to hold a second vote. Tass, citing "provisional results," said that Yanayev won the second ballot.

IRAQ (AP) -- A group of Iraqi diplomats began returning to their overseas posts after Saddam Hussein told them he was "ready for a serious and constructive dialogue" to avert war, Iraqi officials said. But Iraq denied it was forming a new peace initiative, and Saddam reiterated that any diplomatic settlement would have to link and Iraqi pullout of Kuwait with an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

BLOCKADE/IRAQ (Baghdad/Reuter) -- Iraq denounced the diversion of an Iraqi-bound "peace ship" by U.S. and British troops and urged the civilians aboard to defy the Gulf blockade. A statement called for intervention by Oman, off whose coast the ship was boarded Wednesday morning. "We appeal to those on board, who resisted the aggression, not to submit to the measures of the aggressors...and insist that the ship complete its voyage," the statement said. It called on all Arabs and Moslems and everyone who cared about human rights to protest "the piracy and crime" of the diversion. "What a cheap level those empty ones (Americans) have reached."

Thousands of women and children marched past the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad to protest the boarding and diversion of the freighter. A smaller protest was held outside the British Embassy. Women and young children carrying pictures of Saddam chanted: "Down, Down, Bush" and "Yes For Peace, No For War."

GULF/IRAQI AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRALIA (Canberra/Reuter) -- Iraq faces a military force stronger than its own in the Gulf but Baghdad is still hoping for a peaceful solution, the Iraqi ambassador to Australia said. "I don't say we will lose but I say we will fight like heroes if forces come to attack our country," Ambassador al-Rawi said.

GULF/JAPAN (Tokyo/AP) -- Prime Minister Kaifu has written personally to Saddam Hussein urging an immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait, the Foreign Ministry said. Kaifu appealed for a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis in accordance with U.N. resolutions, and cited the enormous pain and toil Japan experienced in World War II and in rehabilitating the nation from the ruins of war, officials said.

-more-

GULF/KUWAITI FOREIGN MINISTER (Beijing/AP) -- Kuwait's exiled foreign minister said that he believes it is too late for peace initiatives and that war is thus inevitable. "The whole world has given enough time for a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis," Sheik Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah told a news conference.

U.S. EVACUATION/CNN (Reuter) -- CNN said that the Defense Department was completing standby plans to evacuate more than 30,000 private U.S. citizens from the Middle East before Jan. 15. The network, without quoting a source for its information, said the Americans would be flown from Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the UAE, Bahrain "and other states surrounding the potential battle zone."

U.S. EVACUATION/JORDANIAN PAPER (Amman/Reuter) -- A Jordanian state-owned newspaper blasted the U.S. for ordering most of its employees to leave the country well before Jan. 15. Sawt al-Shaab quoted an official source as saying the move was "punishment on Arab countries that call for peace and press for a solution to the Palestinian problem. It is clear that the objective...is to create an atmosphere of war in the region to lend credibility to American threats against Iraq," the newspaper said in an editorial.

RUSSIAN REPUBLIC/BUDGET/GORBACHEV (Moscow/UPI) -- President Gorbachev said a decision by the Russian republic to slash its contribution to the central government budget could lead to "the destruction not only of the economy but of the entire union." The Russian parliament decided Wednesday to cut its contribution from a 1990 level of more than \$242 billion to \$39.8 billion in 1991.

SOVIET/RYZHKOV (Moscow/AP) -- Prime Minister Ryzhkov, who suffered a heart attack two days ago, was in serious condition but his health was not deteriorating, Mikhail Gorbachev told the Congress of People's Deputies.

DURABLE GOODS (Reuter) -- New orders for long-lasting durable goods plunged 10.5% in November, the Commerce Department said, matching a record drop earlier this year as most major industries saw the business slide. The largest orders decline last month was for transportation goods.

NETWORK NEWS

(Wednesday evening, December 26)

GULF

ABC'S DIANE SAWYER: Three weeks now until Iraq is supposed to be out of Kuwait and there is still no sign that either side is pulling back from confrontation. There was a flurry of speculation earlier today about some sort of diplomatic breakthrough. An Israeli newspaper reported that Secretary Baker would open talks with Saddam on Jan. 9, but the State Department says not so; there is no such agreement. So the focus remains on the military. A major change in tactics may be in the works.

ABC'S BOB ZELNICK: Senior Administration officials have told ABC News that U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf are likely to adopt a far more aggressive posture if the Jan. 15 deadline passes without agreement on an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. The purpose would be to persuade Saddam that he has gravely underestimated the risk of war. While officials declined to say precisely what steps will be taken, they confirmed that the options include: moving U.S. ground forces in Saudi Arabia closer to the border with Iraq and Kuwait; holding exercises that simulate the start of a military offensive; moving aircraft carriers to the northern Persian Gulf within closer striking distance of Iraq and Kuwait; putting an 11,000-man Marine amphibious force into position to launch attacks by air and sea against the Kuwaiti coast; beginning reconnaissance and other air missions over Kuwaiti territory; increasing night air operations to demonstrate to Iraq the inadequacy of their nighttime defenses; and ordering U.S. aircraft on patrol to lock their weapons radar on Iraqi warplanes as though ready to fire.

Senior Administration officials today described these options as logical, and they have the added potential of making it harder for Iraq to know when a real attack is coming.

SAWYER: In Kuwait, no sign that Saddam plans to pull out. In fact, U.S. military intelligence officials in Saudi Arabia think just the opposite.

ABC'S CHRIS BURY: Senior American commanders say Iraq has massively expanded its force in Kuwait. In a briefing today they backed that claim up with new intelligence figures. They estimate Iraqi forces in and around Kuwait at more than half a million troops, 4,000 tanks, 2,500 armored personnel carriers, and 2,700 artillery pieces.

(LT. COL. TOM COURY, USAF Intelligence: "We see absolutely no indication that Saddam Hussein intends to withdraw from Kuwait. Rather, he continues to pour both men and materiel into the country and along his flank to the west. They've also constructed barbed and concertina wire fencing that runs from the Kuwait coast to a point northwest of the tri-border area in southern Iraq. Most areas also contain mortars and anti-aircraft artillery.")

BURY continues: And today U.S. commanders reiterated their concern about chemical weapons, saying Iraq would probably use them against attacking American and allied forces. For now, military intelligence officers expect Saddam to avoid a conflict while working to erode American political support. But they take seriously Saddam's threat to attack Israel if he fears that war is inevitable -- an attack intended to break the Arab coalition that is now lined up against him. (ABC-Lead)

NBC'S JOHN COCHRAN says there were these developments today in the gulf crisis: The Pentagon says Iraq test fired another surface-to-surface missile. It's the fourth such test since the gulf crisis began. And the U.S. State Department denied an Israeli report that Secretary Baker and Saddam have set a date, Jan. 9, for talks.

In the Arabian Sea, a freighter bound for Iraq with a load of sugar was intercepted by American sailors enforcing the trade embargo.

For the American troops stationed in Saudi Arabia, a kind of war has already begun -- a war involving censorship; and for American journalists is means accepting some restrictive ground rules.

NBC'S BRAD WILLIS reports that the U.S. military must balance the incredible appetite of the news media for fact and detail with national security and Saudi sensitivities. News coverage of Christmas observances was severely restricted in this Islamic country. Ever since U.S. forces arrived here, authorities have been concerned about certain pictures that show Americans acting like Americans. Saddam has exploited such images, here rebroadcasting American men and women dancing in Saudi Arabia, telling the Arab world that Americans are defiling the holy land. Things have become so sensitive that even videotaping Bob Hope's Christmas show with the troops here was taboo. Americans wonder if too much attention is being paid to Saudi sensitivities and not enough to their own. (NBC-2)

CBS'S BOB SCHIEFFER: Another ominous sign today of what war in the Persian Gulf could entail if hostilities do break out. For the second time this month the Iraqis held another test firing of a Soviet-made missile with enough range to strike targets deep in Saudi Arabia.

CBS'S DAVID MARTIN reports that Iraq test fired a SCUD missile inside its own borders today, well away from American troops but still enough to send them scrambling on alert. Although Saddam may not want to start a war, U.S. intelligence officers believe a surprise attack is still a real threat, and not just to American troops; perhaps, also, a provocation with Israel in an attempt to decouple the coalition of forces. The feeling that war is inevitable seems to be spreading. Today the State Department ordered all non-essential Americans at the U.S. embassies in Jordan and Sudan to leave before the Jan. 15 deadline. Saddam continues to pour men and materiel in Kuwait, showing no sign he intends to pull out no matter what the cost. So far the embargo does not seem to be having much impact on the Iraqi military. A U.S. intelligence officer said Iraqi troops in Kuwait are being adequately supplied and the Iraqi air force has actually increased its flying hours.

SCHIEFFER: U.S. sailors boarded an Iraqi vessel in the Arabian Sea today to enforce the U.N. trade embargo against Iraq. The sailors ran into some resistance, not just from the crew, but also from dozens of women from an international peace group.

CBS'S JIM STEWART reports that the Pentagon believes the Iraqi-flagged Ibn Khaldoon was a ship looking for a confrontation. Her holds were filled with embargoed cargo, and her passenger list contained 250 women peace activists, among them several Americans, including a congressional staff member. Scuffling broke out when the women formed a human chain near the bridge and pushed and pulled at U.S. servicemen's weapons. U.S. troops fired shots into the air and used concussion grenades to disperse the crowd. The Pentagon says no one was seriously hurt. One of the women on board has been identified as E. Faye Williams, a staff member of the House committee on the District of Columbia, and twice a Democratic nominee for Congress in Louisiana. The ship began its cruise earlier this month carrying a multinational group calling itself "Women for Peace." She made publicity stops in Tunis, Tripoli, the Port of Sudan, Aden, and was bound for the Port of Basra in Iraq with what the group claimed was a load of humanitarian medical supplies. After ignoring repeated warnings, early this morning the Khaldoon was stopped by British, Australian and U.S. warships near Oman and a boarding party sent over by helicopter. A search of the ship revealed cargo in violation of U.N. sanctions: rice, cooking oil, sugar and other prohibited items. Today's was only the latest of more than 700 boardings in the waters around Iraq, and that effect, says the Pentagon, is a stranglehold with a price tag in lost revenue and trade for Baghdad of more than \$100 million a day and growing.

SCHIEFFER: Some American doctors who are just back from Baghdad claim that the U.N. sanctions have doubled the infant mortality rate in Iraq. The doctors belong to an international group of physicians that won the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize.

CBS'S RICHARD WAGNER reports that despite the fact that essential food and medicine are exempt from U.N. sanctions, Iraq continues to claim that children are dying for lack of both. Iraq says that more than 2,000 Iraqi children have died since August because of the economic blockade, a figure disputed by many Western diplomats. But while we were visiting a Baghdad hospital, this month-old infant boy died of blood poisoning, and his doctor said he could have saved him if he had the necessary medicine. The boy's mother blames President Bush. There is an effort to get vital medicine into Iraq. From Jordan, more than 15 tons of free relief have begun heading this way. On the other side of the coin there's a serious charge against Iraq -- that when it invaded Kuwait it took scores of incubators away, leaving more than 300 premature babies to die. CBS News has seen incubators here, but no one would tell us where they came from. What we were told is that children are dying unnecessarily here every day. And we were also told that large quantities of medicines ordered by Iraq are sitting in European airports -- medication Iraq can't pay for. And the suppliers are saying "No money, no medicine." (CBS-Lead)

TRAVEL ADVISORY

SAWYER reports the State Department issued another travel advisory today. It warned American citizens to leave Jordan and Sudan by Jan. 15. It cited unstable conditions and the threat of anti-American demonstrations. (ABC-3)

SOVIET PRESIDENT

COCHRAN: Good evening on what has been a good day for Mikhail Gorbachev. The Soviet Congress of People's Deputies gave him broad powers to deal with both the crumbling economy and breakaway republics. Gorbachev argued that a weaker Soviet Union needs a stronger leader.

NBC'S JIM MACEDA reports that the Soviet congress gave Gorbachev a new union treaty giving the republics more autonomy, but not the full independence some want; a new cabinet reporting to him, replacing a council of ministers responsible only to parliament; a new federation council with the heads of all 15 republics again reporting to him; and a vice president. Gorbachev picked Gennady Yanayev, a former trade union boss and obedient bureaucrat. Radical reformers were the real losers here. Many fear Gorbachev will now abuse his power, which they believe is too great.

COCHRAN talks with ROBERT LEGVOLD, director of the Harriman Institute:

COCHRAN: We've had a lot of experience with the good Gorbachev, the Nobel Peace Prize winner. Are we now about to see the bad Gorbachev, especially in cracking down on the dissident republics?

LEGVOLD: If by that you mean is this going to be a Gorbachev who shows the iron fist, I think the chances are more likely so. But one has to understand the underlying reasons. Above all else, this is a leader who has fewer and fewer answers for the fundamental problems facing the Soviet Union. He is farther away today from basic economic reform, from a basic political opening of the society and solution to the federal question, and instead he's much more preoccupied with the immediate crisis of the economy, and above all else the challenge to the federation. And in this circumstance he's likely to use his power for law and order purposes rather than for purposes of reform....

COCHRAN: So far U.S. officials say the changes in the Soviet Union in no way undermine Moscow's support for President Bush's gulf policy. (NBC-Lead, ABC-4, CBS-2)

RYZHKOV

SAWYER says Premier Nikolai Ryzhkov is said to have suffered a heart attack. The new Soviet government structure strips away much of his power. (ABC-5)

ISRAEL

SAWYER: In Israel today, an event that will do nothing to reduce tensions between Arabs and Israelis: Three Jewish settlers sentenced to life in prison for murdering Palestinians have been released from prison. Israeli authorities said they had expressed remorse, but once free their leader said they had no regrets.

(ABC-2)

CENSUS

SAWYER says the Census Bureau reports today that its counters found 249,639,692 Americans in the 1990 Census. That's a 10.2 percent increase in a decade.

ABC'S WALTER RODGERS reports that the West grew fastest in population, 22.3 percent. That means Californians now have a lock on 12 percent of all the seats in the House and 20 percent of the electoral votes needed to choose the president. Political scientists say the Census has major implications.

(JAMES THURBER, American University: "That's pulling electoral votes away from the heart of the strength of the Democratic Party and pulling towards the Republican area, which is the West and the South for presidential elections.")

The South grew 13.5 percent; the northeast, 3.4 percent; the midwest, only 1.3 percent, suggesting some significant congressional redistricting in the year ahead. (ABC-7, NBC-4)

CBS'S MARK PHILLIPS reports:

(MICHAEL DARBY, Commerce Department: "I believe that we have seen here a full, fair and efficient census.")

Others say it's been unfair. First there were charges that the counters missed a lot of people. Now the lower numbers for the big cities means less representation and less funding.

(NEW YORK MAYOR DINKINS: "At the Commerce Department, statistical grand larceny has become a way of life, and the inevitable undercounting, underfunding and underrepresentation have become as certain as death and taxes.") (CBS-3)

CRUZAN

SAWYER reports that in Mt. Vernon, MO, Nancy Cruzan died this morning. She was the center of an agonizing right-to-die case, left in an irreversible coma after a car crash eight years ago. Twelve days ago her parents finally won the right to disconnect her feeding tubes.

(ABC-8, NBC-3, CBS-4)

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 27, 1990

Dear Cameron:

Thank you for your letter of December 12 and your kind words about the difficult Gulf situation. I am grateful also for a copy of the proposal you made to Bill Seidman.

I have taken the liberty of sharing your letter with Nick Brady and have asked him to review your proposed "self help" program for Connecticut banks. As you know, Treasury is completing a very important study of proposed financial services reforms, so he will be glad to have your letter.

Very best wishes to you and Lucetta.

Sincerely,



901228

Mr. Cameron Clark, Jr.
President
Production Sharing
International, Ltd.
Post Office Box 39
Southport, Connecticut 06490-0039

cc: J.B.

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urgent

(complete writethru _ bush says troops situation in persian gulf is "just right"; meets with soviet envoy; prev. new york)

Bush meets with Soviet envoy

BY HELEN THOMAS

UPI White House Reporter

WASHINGTON (UPI) _ President Bush, playing down reports U.S. troops in the Persian Gulf will not be ready for combat by Jan. 15, said Thursday "the situation is just right."

In an impromptu meeting with White House reporters, Bush also denied other reports that a date had been set for a meeting between Secretary of State James Baker and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in Baghdad.

The president spoke briefly with reporters in the White House press office a few hours after his return from Camp David. Bush arranged to return to the presidential retreat in the afternoon to resume his holiday stay with family members.

Bush said Soviet Ambassador Alexander Bessmertnykh had delivered a message to him from President Mikhail Gorbachev, but he declined to reveal its contents.

Deputy White House press secretary Doug Davidson said the ambassador slipped into the White House through a back door at 9:30 a.m. for an unannounced meeting with the president. The envoy also visited the State Department Thursday.

Bush said that the message from Gorbachev was "confidential," but he described it as a "very, very good" letter.

Bush was asked about reports in recent days that Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney and Chairman Colin Powell of the Joint Chiefs of Staff had told him their inspection tour of U.S. troops in the Persian Gulf showed that they would not be prepared for combat until mid-February.

"Where did they get that stuff," Bush said of the media reports, adding, "I had a very good briefing from Dick and Colin and the situation is just right."

Asked if U.S. troops would be prepared to go to war on Jan. 15, the deadline set by a U.N. resolution for Saddam to withdraw his troops from Kuwait, Bush declined to answer, saying it was "too provocative."

But asked if he would not send troops into battle if they were unprepared, Bush said, "Exactly. It's under control. I've got total confidence in the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the secretary of defense, and the commanders out there with whom I talked over the holidays."

Bush said the message to Saddam remains _ "that we're going to fully implement the United Nations resolutions, that's all. And so are the other countries."

Bush also called a report in an Israeli newspaper that Baker would meet with Saddam on Jan. 9 "fully fallacious," adding, "There's nothing going on on that front."

Bush said, "When there's any news on that, I'll be putting it out myself. I am staying directly in touch."

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✓ Daily

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 27, 1990

Dear Elsie:

Thank you for your message and for sharing your thoughts with me.

No one wants a peaceful solution to this crisis more than I, nor is anyone more determined to end the unlawful take-over and brutal occupation of Kuwait by Saddam Hussein. We cannot and will not stand by and let this terrible injustice continue. I want you to know that I understand your concerns, but I truly believe that our Nation and the world are taking the proper course in this matter.

Barbara and I send our warmest wishes to you for the holiday season.

Sincerely,

Ly B

Ms. Elsie Wear **Stockwell**
40 South Crescent Circuit
Brighton, Massachusetts 02135

*Elsie - Please read the Amnesty
Int'l report on the rape & plunder of
Kuwait. It will help you understand why
the whole world is united vs. Saddam*

FROM
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Mr. Owen Ullmann
Knight-Ridder
Washington Bureau
700 National Press Building
529 14th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20045



THE PRESIDENT

Down from C. David
for this day Dec 27

Dear Owen -
Your ^{good} letter is here. We'll
miss you; but Ellen will
do more than hold her own in
the rough & tumble of the
press room. Good Luck

to you in your new assignment
Remember:

Kinden, Gentler.

To you, Lois, and
the new boy on the block
Happy New Year

Ag TB

bcc: IN & OUT

Sununu
Fitzwater

Jan Burmeister