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The Washington Post, July 26, 1990

Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

"He very, very much wants to avoid a problem with us," one administration official said.

Glaspie's meeting with Saddam Hussein was called on such short notice that she was not able to confer with senior U.S. officials about the tone of her message, but one administration official said Glaspie challenged Saddam Hussein's use of military intimidation against his Arab neighbors in what is essentially an economic and political dispute.

The U.S. envoy apparently got no specific explanation from Saddam Hussein about why he sent troops to the border, but was subjected instead to a "diatribe" about alleged Kuwaiti wrongs. Glaspie requested that Iraq's propaganda attacks against Kuwait cease, and one U.S. official said later that Baghdad radio and television had stopped airing the attacks by midday yesterday.

Saddam Hussein's sudden message to Washington followed a tense military buildup in the gulf. Iraq now has more than 30,000 troops on the Kuwaiti border with ammunition and supplies for 30 days of combat, U.S. officials said yesterday. Kuwait has mobilized its 20,000-man military.

Meanwhile, two U.S. warships are steaming in the waters off Kuwait to establish an American naval "presence" in the northern gulf, U.S. officials said. One was the USS LaSalle, flagship of the Joint Task Force Middle East. Four other U.S. warships were maneuvering in the southern gulf with military aircraft from the UAE in the first joint exercise ever requested and approved by that government.

One sign of the jitters in the region was that UAE officials yesterday denied they were cooperating with the United States.

Administration officials yesterday expressed the hope that Saddam Hussein's message to Bush marked the beginning of the end of a crisis that caught the West by surprise and triggered a debate within the administration on the extent of its commitments in the Persian Gulf.

Some officials asserted yesterday that an Iraqi attack on Kuwait would not draw a U.S. military response, but the United States would join in condemning such a move and would work diplomatically to force Iraq's withdrawal.

The U.S. Central Command, which responds to crises in the Middle East, was said to have U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet of Force at sea. The 1st Air Group buildup. But officials in the State Department, White House and Higher Services of Mead Data Central Pentagon cautioned that the United States should protect the free flow of oil and commerce through the waterway and avoid getting drawn into a

military commitment to defend Kuwait.

One official asserted that since the prevailing administration view was that Saddam Hussein was bullying Kuwait and had no intention of invasion, it would have been unwise to draw a "red line," the crossing of which would provoke a U.S. military response.

By deploying limited U.S. naval forces in the gulf for emergency maneuvers, the official said, the United States demonstrated that it was willing to

July 26, 1990, Thursday, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS

LENGTH: 227 words

HEADLINE: Iraq envoy keeps cool in Mideast hot seat

BYLINE: Johanna Neuman

BODY:

April Catherine Glaspie, U.S. ambassador to Iraq, was on the hot seat Wednesday as Iraq's belligerent President Saddam Hussein called her to his office in Baghdad.

A week after massing troops on Kuwait's border in a dispute over oil production and prices, Hussein - who aspires to be leader of the Arab world - just wanted to assure the United States he means no harm.

Glaspie, a 48-year-old career diplomat who was born in Vancouver, British Columbia, is accustomed to hearing, deciphering and communicating messages in the Mideast's murky politics.

Fluent in Arabic and French, Glaspie was the first woman named U.S. ambassador to any Mideast country. Named by President Reagan in 1987 and continued in office by President Bush, she is also one of only a handful of female ambassadors representing the United States abroad.

'A genuine heroine,' said former secretary of state George Shultz after her contacts with Syrian President Hafez Assad helped free U.S. hostages in the June 1985 hijacking of TWA Flight 847.

A graduate of Mills College, with a masters degree in international relations from Johns Hopkins University, Glaspie joined the foreign service in 1966 and has been posted in Cairo, London, Tunisia and Syria. Before being named ambassador, she headed the State Department's office of Jordan, Lebanon and Syrian Affairs.

TYPE: Newsmakers

SUBJECT: DIPLOMAT; FOREIGN COUNTRY

1990 USA TODAY, July 26, 1990

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1990 USA TODAY, July 26, 1990

Earlier, Hussein - annoyed that the United States has come to Kuwait's aid in the oil spat that led him to deploy troops - called in U.S. Ambassador April Glaspie for talks. The message he wanted to deliver: assurance he won't be aggressive toward Kuwait.

One day after the Pentagon announced an exercise by six Navy ships in the area, Egypt's Mubarak called on the United States not to 'escalate the issue between two brotherly Arab states.'

But Mubarak also appealed to the two nations to compromise, 'so that we don't force any foreign power to play with us.'

Hussein's military threat may be receding, but Judith Kipper of the Brookings Institution predicted trouble ahead.

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Washington that "nothing will happen" militarily for the duration of a mediation effort that begins this weekend, the officials said. Saddam Hussein said that after an initial mediation session in Saudi Arabia, the talks would move to Baghdad, where Kuwait's crown prince will represent the sheikdom's ruling family in direct negotiations with Iraqi officials.

However, neither Egyptian nor Saudi officials, under whose auspices the mediation is taking place, mentioned in their public statements yesterday that the venue for the talks would move to the Iraqi capital.

The Iraqi message was conveyed yesterday morning when Saddam Hussein summoned U.S. Ambassador April Glaspie for a rare audience. During it, Saddam Hussein said he felt "betrayed" that U.S. warships in the Persian Gulf had been deployed for short-notice maneuvers intended, U.S. officials said, to head off Iraqi aggression toward its much smaller neighbor.

Saddam Hussein told Glaspie that there was no need for a U.S. military response and that he did not understand it. "We don't want war. We hate war, we know what war does," Saddam Hussein said, according to sources familiar with Glaspie's report. Saddam Hussein, in what one official described as a "breast-beating" rendition of his grievances against Kuwait and Iraq's economic plight, said his country did not have enough money to house all the children

(c) 1990 The New York Times, July 26, 1990

an Arab League mediation effort.

Baghdad's Rising Status

Iraq also summoned the United States Ambassador in Baghdad, April Glaspie, to a publicly announced meeting with President Hussein. [Bush Administration officials in Washington said that in the meeting, Mr. Hussein asked that President Bush be reassured that the Iraqi leader has peaceful intentions and that he is not looking for a confrontation with the United States.] Much of Iraq's action and polemics, several senior OPEC officials here said today, was meant to scare Kuwait and the U.A.E. into limiting their oil output and thus to nudge oil prices up, a result that seems to have been successfully achieved over the last two days.

Several Arab OPEC officials here also conceded that, among other things, Iraq's status in the Arab world has reached ...

... asking OPEC for a \$25 a barrel price," said Fawzi al-Shakshuki, Libya's Oil Minister.

More important, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates raised no objections to the proposed OPEC accord on a new production ceiling that would limit their

LEVEL 1 - 15 OF 17 STORIES

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USA TODAY

July 26, 1990, Thursday, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS

LEXIS·NEXIS® 

LENGTH: 227 words

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HEADLINE: Iraq envoy keeps cool in Mideast hot seat...

BYLINE: Johanna Neuman

April Catherine Glaspie, U.S. ambassador to Iraq, was on the hot seat Wednesday as Iraq's belligerent President Saddam Hussein called her to his office in Baghdad.

A week after massing troops on Kuwait's border in a dispute over oil production and prices, Hussein - who aspires to be leader of the Arab world - just wanted to assure the United States he means no harm.

Sources in the Middle East credited intensive mediation Tuesday night by President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia for easing the crisis atmosphere. Mubarak kept in contact with the Iraqis and Kuwaitis into early Wednesday, they reported.

The announcement of direct Iraqi-Kuwaiti talks was made Wednesday by Mubarak in Cairo amid an escalating anti-American campaign in Iraq's media. The state-run newspaper said Iraq would not bow to U.S. pressure in the dispute.

In Baghdad, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein summoned U.S. Ambassador April Glaspie for talks. Government radio gave no details of the meeting.

In Kuwait, diplomatic sources said Hussein assured Mubarak that he would not U.S. military forces as long as Kuwait agrees to host tanks on a border despite and pay compensation for \$2.4 billion in oil that Iraq claims Kuwait stole. The oil allegedly stolen was from the Rumaila oil field, which includes land claimed by both Iraq and Kuwait.

Moreover, Iraq wants Kuwait to write off billions of dollars in loans it granted Iraq during the Iran-Iraq war, and it wants the reopening of a border air corridor.

LEVEL 1 - 13 OF 17 STORIES

Copyright 1990 The Times Mirror Company
Los Angeles Times

July 26, 1990, Thursday, Home Edition

SECTION: Part A; Page 1; Column 3; Foreign Desk

LENGTH: 1016 words

HEADLINE: IRAQ, KUWAIT AGREE TO TALKS IN GULF DISPUTE

BYLINE: By NICK B. WILLIAMS Jr., TIMES STAFF WRITER

DATELINE: NICOSIA, Cyprus

Official Iraqi radio said Wednesday that Hussein has summoned U.S. Ambassador April C. Glaspie for talks, but no details were released.

Earlier in the day, Iraq kept up its martial drumbeat, with the government daily Al Jumhuriya charging that Kuwait "is implementing an American-Zionist plot to show that America is playing the role of protector in the gulf."

The Boston Globe, July 26, 1990

After traveling to Baghdad and Kuwait to mediate yesterday following talks in Alexandria Monday with King Hussein of Jordan and Rariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said in Cairo yesterday that the feuding Arab neighbors will address the crisis, probably beginning Saturday or Sunday in Jiddah, Saudi Arabia. Iraq accuses Kuwait of pumping oil far above its quota in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries in a deliberate effort to keep world oil prices down and thwart Iraq's drive to recover from its eight-year war with Iran.

Analysts here said the announcement of the talks ...

There were late reports yesterday that Iraqi troops might begin pulling back from the border today in advance of the talks.

Also yesterday, a senior State Department official said, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein summoned US ambassador April Glaspie to his palace - an unusual event, since Hussein rarely meets with ambassadors and generally leaves contact with Western nations to his foreign ministry - after the United States announced it was conducting joint naval and air exercises with the United Arab Emirates, another high-production oil state that Hussein has denounced recently. The exercises were held to see if US planes could refuel UAE jet fighters.

The Boston Globe, July 26, 1990

The Iraqi government had earlier warned Kuwait's foreign minister that he "and his American masters in the White House must know that Iraq will not succumb and will not let anyone encroach upon its rights."

However, during the meeting with Glaspie, the State Department official said, Hussein "was not confrontational," and did not even repeat his oft-stated public demand that the United States withdraw its naval presence from the Persian Gulf.

The anger yesterday came from the United Arab Emirates. The emirates filed a protest with the US ambassador over the Bush administration's public announcement that they were engaged in joint military exercises with the United States, a disclosure that could be embarrassing in some parts of the Arab world.

A spokesman for the emirates said, through the official WAM news agency, that the exercise "is no more than part of a technical training program agreed upon previously and does not have ...

... Iraqi troops.

Anthony Cordesman, a professor at Georgetown University who has written widely on the gulf, said the US Air Force also could send fighter-bombers into

The Washington Post, July 31, 1990

Iraq, slightly larger than California, has a population of about 17 million, compared to 2 million in Kuwait, which is the size of New Jersey.

The Jeddah talks will be hosted by Saudi King Fahd and are the result of intense mediation by a number of Arab leaders who have streamed into Kuwait and Baghdad seeking to ease the crisis.

Western diplomats and some Kuwaitis express pessimism that the talks, whose agenda and duration are not known, will quickly resolve the bitter dispute, which includes long-running Iraqi claims on parts of Kuwaiti territory.

Their pessimism, these sources say, stems from the harsh language Iraqi officials have been using both publicly and privately against Kuwait and its leaders, as well as Baghdad's apparent intention, backed up by the military deployment, to get its way.

In a meeting in Baghdad last week with U.S. Ambassador April Glaspie, Saddam predicted that "nothing will happen" during the mediation efforts.

"The Iraqis are pressuring too much," said Abdullah Anafisi, a former member of Kuwait's parliament. "They are trying to humiliate Kuwait, and this we cannot swallow."

1990 Los Angeles Times, July 27, 1990

At least the thunder had gone out of the confrontation, which began last week with hard-edged threats by Hussein to punish Kuwait for allegedly conspiring with Washington to bleed Baghdad by driving down oil prices. By this week, the Iraqi attacks had become ugly and personal, accusing the Kuwaiti foreign minister of being a "tool of America."

Press reports, confirmed by the State Department in Washington, said Iraq had moved up a military division, or 3,000 personnel, to its 100-mile border with lightly armed Kuwait. Baghdad did not deny it.

In clear response, the United States announced that its seven-vessel gulf

flotilla had begun "short-notice" maneuvers in the international waters of the gulf, triggering an alarm in the Baghdad press about foreign power in an "Arab sea."

Hussein called in April Glaspie, the U.S. ambassador to Baghdad, on Wednesday and told her that an American response was out of line and that the naval deployment had betrayed him, according to reports from Washington.

However, the climate changed Thursday. In Geneva, Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdul-Rahim Chalabi denied there had been a buildup of troops.

(c) 1990 The Washington Post, August 3, 1990

revelations about Iraqi nuclear research. In April, Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) led a group of senators to see Saddam, and once again the Iraqi professed goodwill to Bush and to America and complained of an Israeli conspiracy to smite him.

Last week, after Saddam had put his invasion plan in motion by moving tens of thousands of troops to the Kuwaiti border, he called in U.S. Ambassador April Glaspie and assured her this was a dispute within the Arab "family" and should not concern the United States, with which he wanted good relations. And he told a would-be mediator, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, that he had "no intention" of invading Kuwait.

Saddam is a man of peasant background who grew up in the heady and violent politics of Arab nationalism. He participated in Iraq's revolt against the last vestiges of monarchy and British colonial power on the Mesopotamian plain. He justified assassinations and fomented violence, and in his office he has perpetuated his rule with a mixture of secret police brutality, mafia-like family control of the government apparatus and financial patronage to favored elements of the ...

The Boston Globe, August 2, 1990

debts and to relinquish some of its territory."

Iraq owes Kuwait about \$ 15 billion it borrowed to help finance its eight-year war with Iran.

The Iraqi walkout is bound to increase tensions in the gulf, where President Saddam Hussein of Iraq has massed an estimated 100,000 troops on the border with Kuwait.

A State Department official, speaking on background, noted yesterday that Hussein had promised both President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and April Glaspie, US ambassador to Iraq, only that he would "not take any military action until after talks" with Kuwait.

The crisis between Iraq and Kuwait stems from Iraqi charges that Kuwait has been stealing oil from fields on the disputed border. President Saddam Hussein has also accused the Kuwaitis of systematically cheating on production quotas set by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, behavior Hussein says was undertaken to thwart his efforts to rebuild his nation and army. Hussein also has pressed territorial claims against Kuwait, a tiny state that Iraq has long claimed is merely an extension of Iraq.

(c) 1990 The Washington Post, August 7, 1990

"He does take risks, he calculates, but he understands little of the outside world and the scope of measures that can be taken against him," one Saddam watcher explained.

U.S. officials now looking back at his buildup and assault on his weaker neighbor do not believe that Saddam moved with lengthy premeditation. Rather, these officials say, the failure of Kuwait to adhere to its oil quota commitments in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries incited Saddam to think of drastic and permanent solutions.

Saddam positioned forces on the Iraqi border that clearly could overwhelm Kuwait. U.S. intelligence analysts believed that this buildup was initially for intimidation. Saddam made it clear in his meeting July 25 with April Glaspie, the U.S. ambassador to Baghdad, that he had major grievances against Kuwait and that, while the mediation of Saudi Arabia was appreciated, he expected the Kuwaiti crown prince to come to Baghdad and negotiate a settlement.

But during the first phase of talks in Jiddah, Saudi Arabia, the Kuwaitis made it clear they would not knuckle under to Iraqi pressure and would not negotiate in a climate of intimidation.

1990 USA TODAY, August 3, 1990

wounded Saddam fled across the desert to Syria and then Egypt.

Saddam rose to power in 1968 as the enforcer behind a bloody coup and took full control of the government in 1979.

Saddam often has been the target of international criticism, which he rarely heeds.

Just last week, he flouted that disregard when he told Egypt's Hosni Mubarak and U.S. Ambassador April Glaspie that he was only massing 100,000 troops on Kuwait's border, not planning to invade.

Saddam "has shown himself to be a ruthless leader willing to take on people who have been his allies," says Joseph Szyliowicz, Mideast expert at the University of Denver.

Often compared to Romania's Nicolae Ceausescu - Friday a British newspaper called him an "Arab Hitler" - Saddam used poison gas to decimate entire lands populated by the Kurds on the Turkish border. The reason: They supported Tehran in his war with Iran.

LEVEL 1 - 2 OF 17 STORIES

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The Washington Post

August 8, 1990, Wednesday, Final Edition

SECTION: FIRST SECTION; PAGE A1; CRISIS IN THE GULF; IRAQ'S INVASION OF KUWAIT

LENGTH: 1234 words

HEADLINE: U.S. Misjudgment of Saddam Seen;
Early Evidence of Bellicosity, Drive for Dominance Noted

SERIES: Occasional

BYLINE: David Hoffman, Washington Post Staff Writer

... said in interviews, the administration appears to have not realized that Saddam's threats to Kuwait would go beyond an oil-pricing and borders dispute, that the military buildup on the Kuwaiti border was more than just bluster and that Saddam no longer felt restrained by arch-rival Iran.

(c) 1990 The Washington Post, August 7, 1990

In taking risks, Saddam appears to have calculated that he could create a new reality in the Persian Gulf by overthrowing Kuwait's ruling family and installing a puppet regime that would give Iraq both the financial and military clout to dominate the region, according to administration officials.

Saddam was able to gauge the U.S. reaction to his military buildup along the border for a week, watching and listening as Washington retreated from standing a commitment to defend Kuwait. U.S. officials now suggest that Saddam reached a judgment that he could move with impunity and present the West with a fait accompli.

"What he does brilliantly is probe for soft spots, then moves swiftly and tactically to a different one," said a U.S. expert on Iraq.

Another administration official with lengthy experience in the region said that Saddam was probably most confident that he could prevent an Arab military response to his move into Kuwait. His calculation of the West's response was less certain, but it did not deter him.

"I think Saddam made a political misjudgment about Western resolve," said the administration official.

The Washington Post, July 26, 1990

confront Iraq if the escalation went too far.

Staff writer David Hoffman contributed to this report.

GRAPHIC: MAP, TENSION IN THE PERSIAN GULF, RICHARD FURNO

TYPE: FOREIGN NEWS

SUBJECT: IRAQ; WARFARE, WAR; KUWAIT; UNITED ARAB EMIRATES; PERSIAN GULF; OPEC;
OIL; UNITED STATES

NAMED-PERSONS: SADDAM HUSSEIN; APRIL GLASPIE

17TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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July 26, 1990, Thursday, Final Edition

SECTION: FIRST SECTION; PAGE A34

LENGTH: 918 words

HEADLINE: Iraq's Hussein Acts to Ease Gulf Crisis as U.S. Debates Commitments

SERIES: Occasional

BYLINE: Patrick E. Tyler, Washington Post Staff Writer

BODY:

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein yesterday sent an urgent message to President Bush through the U.S. ambassador in Baghdad expressing Iraq's desire to end the crisis in the Persian Gulf peacefully and avoid a confrontation with the United States, according to administration officials.

The Iraqi president, who deployed 30,000 troops to his border with Kuwait last weekend in anger over low oil prices and high production, has pledged to Washington that "nothing will happen" militarily for the duration of a mediation effort that begins this weekend, the officials said. Saddam Hussein said that after an initial mediation session in Saudi Arabia, the talks would move to Baghdad, where Kuwait's crown prince will represent the sheikdom's ruling family in negotiations with Iraqi officials.

However, neither Egyptian nor Saudi officials, under whose auspices the mediation is taking place, mentioned in their public statements yesterday that the venue for the talks would move to the Iraqi capital.

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In the meeting, Saddam Hussein professed that his dispute with Kuwait was a "family" matter between Arabs and he sought to allay U.S. concerns that American interests were at stake, according to the sources.

His central theme in the message to Bush, officials said, was his desire to pacify the crisis that erupted when Iraq accused Kuwait of stealing oil from a shared production field and threatened military force if Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) continued to disregard oil production quotas in the