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World sending its military to the Mideast

Saudi Arabia — facing Iraqi troops at its northern border — has a force of 65,700 troops, 550 tanks, 179 combat aircraft and eight combat ships. But the nation isn't standing alone. Forces other nations are sending to the region:

U.S. forces

Army: 82nd Airborne Brigade, Fort Bragg, N.C. — 2,300 paratroopers with anti-tank missiles
 ▶ 24th Infantry (Mechanized) tank brigade, Fort Stewart, Ga. — 2,500 troops, 150 tanks
 ▶ 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Ky. — 2,300 air cavalry troops, attack helicopters
 ▶ 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Fort Bliss, Texas. (Pentagon won't reveal number)

Marines: 7th Amphibious Force, Camp Pendleton, Twentynine Palms and El Toro, Calif. — 15,500 troops
 ▶ 1st Amphibious Brigade, Okinawa — 16,500 troops

Navy: In Gulf of Oman — Aircraft carrier Independence with five ships, 2,500 Marines.

▶ In Red Sea — Aircraft carrier Eisenhower with five ships.

▶ In Persian Gulf — La Salle with seven ships.

▶ In Mediterranean Sea — Aircraft carrier Saratoga, battleship Wisconsin, 12 ships, 2,400 Marines.

▶ In Indian Ocean — Two submarines.

▶ Coming from Norfolk, Va.: Aircraft carrier John F. Kennedy, escort ships.

Air Force: 71st and 27th squadrons, 1st Tactical Fighter Wing, Langley AFB, Va. — 48 F-15C/D fighters.

▶ 336th Tactical Fighter Squadron, 4th Tactical Wing, Seymour-Johnson AFB, N.C. — 24 F-15E attack aircraft.

▶ 363rd Tactical Fighter Wing, Shaw AFB, S.C. — F-16 fighters.

▶ 354th Tactical Fighter Wing, Myrtle Beach AFB, S.C. — A-10 anti-tank planes.

▶ 14 F-111 bombers in eastern Turkey from England.

▶ 68 B-52 bombers on Diego Garcia in Indian Ocean.

▶ Three AWACS radar planes from Tinker AFB, Okla.

Forces from other nations

Australia: Sending guided missile frigates.

Belgium: Sending two minesweepers, support ship.

Britain: Frigates Battleaxe and Jupiter, destroyer York in the Persian Gulf. Three minesweepers en route, along with 12 Tornado F-3 fighters and 12 Jaguar attack aircraft.

Canada: Plans to send two destroyers, supply ship.

Egypt: 3,000 soldiers in Saudi Arabia.

France: Two destroyers, two frigates in the region. Aircraft carrier, missile cruiser, tanker en route. Will send troops, including anti-aircraft missile units and advisers.

Morocco: Has pledged to send troops.

Netherlands: Will send two frigates.

Pakistan: Has pledged to send troops.

Soviet Union: Guided missile destroyer, two supply ships in the Persian Gulf. Two warships en route.

Syria: Has pledged to send troops.

Source: Center for Defense Information, USA TODAY research

Moving

Army loads up K mart specials

Wesley Bennefield has something to say to the Army. Thank you for shopping K mart.

Bennefield, manager of a K mart in Hinesville, Ga., is filling an order from nearby Fort Stewart, sending troops to the Persian Gulf.

▶ 20,000 bottles of suntan lotion — No. 15.

▶ 2,400 cans of bug spray.

▶ 5,550 containers of foot powder.

▶ 5,550 lip-balm tubes.

Fort Stewart's Maj. Don Keeling said a local shopping trip isn't uncommon.

K mart's David Easterbrook said the tab, with discount, was \$80,000.

— Gretchen Cook



THIRSTY: water. Re

Guard faces

By Tom Squitieri
USA TODAY

Thousands of National Guard and reserve "weekend warriors" face possible mobilization orders for duty in the Persian Gulf crisis.

Defense Secretary Dick Cheney is considering urging President Bush to mobilize the reserves to bolster units depleted by transfers of troops to Saudi Arabia, Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams said Tuesday.

The Cable News Network reported that up to 80,000 Guard and reserve troops could be ordered to active duty.

Bush can call up to 200,000 reservists to active duty for 90 days and can extend that for another 90 days without seeking congressional approval.

Since the crisis began, more than 2,000 Guard and reserve members have volunteered for duty — either individually or as units. But retired major general Evan Hultman of the Reserve Officers Association thinks that's a mistake.

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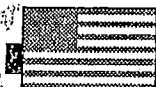
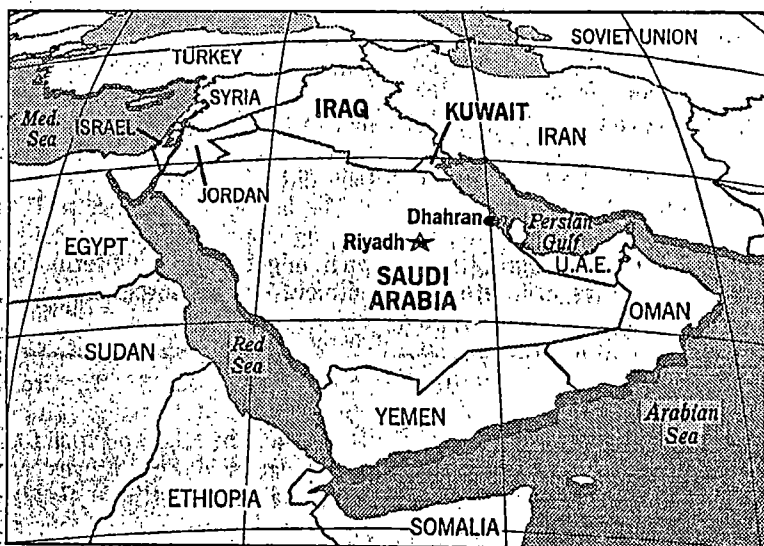
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THE BUILDUP OF FOREIGN FORCES



UNITED STATES

In the Region and En Route

- Elements of the 18th Airborne Corps, including 2,300 troops of the division ready brigade of the 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.; and the 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Ky.
- 16,500 men from the 7th Marine Amphibious Force, 29 Palms, Calif.
- 16,500 men from the 1st Marine Amphibious Brigade, Okinawa.
- Elements of the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized), Fort Stewart, Ga., en route to Savannah, Ga., to load on the fast sealift ship Capella.
- F-16 fighter planes from the 363rd Tactical Fighter Wing, Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.
- Two squadrons of F-15 fighters from the First Tactical Fighter Wing, Langley AFB, Va.
- Five U.S. AWACS radar surveillance planes and tankers.
- Fourteen F-111 fighter-bombers on maneuvers in Turkey.
- C-130 transport planes from the 317th Tactical Airlift Wing, Pope AFB, N.C.
- A-10 attack aircraft activated for deployment.
- USS Eisenhower battle group in the Red Sea.
- USS Saratoga battle group, including the battleship Wisconsin, en route to the eastern Mediterranean.
- USS Independence battle group in the Gulf of Oman.
- Joint Task Force Middle East, led by the USS La Salle, in the Persian Gulf.
- Hospital ships USNS Mercy and USNS Comfort preparing to sail.
- Eight fast sealift ships outfitted to transport weapons and equipment to the Middle East.
- Prepositioned ships loaded with enough supplies and ammunition to support up to 33,000 Marines for 30 days deployed from Diego Garcia and Guam.



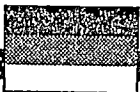
FRANCE

Arrival of four additional vessels, including the aircraft carrier Clemenceau, will raise French military presence to seven ships and 3,200 sailors, airmen and soldiers.



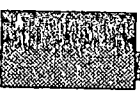
BRITAIN

Destroyer HMS York is in the Persian Gulf. Two squadrons of fighter planes and Jaguar attack aircraft, antiaircraft missiles, a flotilla of coastal patrol vessels and naval minesweepers are en route.



WEST GERMANY

Will send four or five minesweepers and a supply ship to the Mediterranean in case Iraq tries to mine shipping lanes. Also could sail to the Persian Gulf region.



SOVIET UNION

Soviet Union Guided missile destroyer and two supply ships in the northern Arabian Sea.



AUSTRALIA

Announced Thursday it was sending the guided-missile frigates Adelaide and Darwin to the region.

GULF, From A1

Western nations have agreed to provide military assistance in the confrontation with Iraq's Saddam Hussein. Bush pointedly warned Iraq not to try to contravene the United Nations trade embargo by attempting to export its oil.

"Put it this way: I would advise Iraqi ships not to go out with oil," Bush said.

Meanwhile, U.S. intelligence officials reported yesterday that Iraqi forces have established a launch site for Silkworm anti-ship missiles in Kuwait near the coast to strengthen defenses against a possible air-sea assault. The Chinese-built missiles also could represent a formidable threat to gulf shipping.

Additional Iraqi forces continued to move into Kuwait and mobilize across the border in southern Iraq to reinforce defensive positions designed to repel possible attack, intelligence sources said.

The Pentagon's multinational naval force plan was to be presented to Bush by Secretary of State James A. Baker III and national security adviser Brent Scowcroft.

The plan appeared to provide for separate commands for an Arab contingent and the forces of Western nations in the multinational ground force.

Arab leaders have made clear their willingness to participate in an Arab defense of Saudi Arabia, but Saudi King Fahd also is relying on the overarching power of the U.S. Central Command to provide the bulk of the firepower to stop an invasion by Saddam.

It remained unclear, however, whether any other nations will provide combat infantry forces for a multinational effort to defend Saudi Arabia against possible Iraqi attack.

U.S. military officials said yesterday they believe that an initial deployment of up to 5,000 Egyptian ground troops were on the way to Saudi Arabia, along with an unspecified number of Moroccan forces. The British government said its ground force contingent would be limited to an air defense role.

In an interview with The Washington Post yesterday, Saudi Ambassador to Washington Prince Bandar bin Sultan said that King Fahd had "invited brother and friendly" nations to join a multinational force

that would "help our country."

Bandar declined nations are sent said each gover agreed to send agreed to withd their mission is c asked by King Fa

In another de key's President T an interview that join the multina would object to t ritory for stagin tions unless they NATO or the Uni

The initial wav troops and fighter Saudi Arabia earl now be followed l ous deployment c luding the 24th (Mechanized) bas art, Ga., and the Division (Light I Fort Campbell, K attack and traf forces.

The 24th Infar the Army's premi force: Its troops extensive desert the United States and its tanks and painted sand-color

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The Military S yesterday activate of eight fast seali along the East C Mexico to partici and equipment de Middle East, milita

The heavy equi across land by truc East Coast ports v on Navy fast sealift

OPEC Studies Replace

By Thomas W. Lippman
Washington Post Staff Writer

Members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries are negotiating over production increases that would enable them to make up the oil lost to world markets from Iraq and Kuwait but have not yet agreed to do so, the president of Venezuela and other well-informed officials said yesterday.

Denying reports earlier in the week that Venezuela had promised to increase output by 500,000 barrels a day and Saudi Arabia by 2 million, they said no country wants to act unilaterally. They are seeking a formula that would authorize some members to increase output so long as the total did not exceed the 22.5 million-barrel-a-day limit

Crude oil prices York and London on the basis of re Arabia and Venez firm commitments deliver the 2.5 mill oil traders are e could surge again.

The shutdown o waiti production has 4.5 million barrels a supplies.

In a "message c other OPEC membe OPEC's official new zuelan President Perez pledged "the ence of my countr ments reached at conference. . . . M will not take any u consulted decisions

Gulf 1 Says

ing sent to the Gulf: ited State was send- 82nd Airborne Divi- bial. That force, of already deployed in s protecting airfields

brigade of the 24th ry Division and ele- Airborne Division, d with helicopters,

ips carrying equip- ie brigades had been Saudi Arabia from island in the Indian uam in the Pacific. F-15 jets were being bia, officials said, in rces steaming to the

officials said today r a force to deter an idi Arabia had been Pentagon and that it greater force than d.

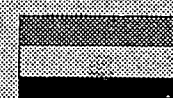
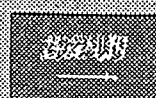
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said the Central ssor to the Rapid created by the Car- to defend the Mid- Soviet attack, was employment of a unit / Rangers to Saudi fields, but it is not a deployment was ntagon leadership. ovements include al forces troops. to be dispatching ornado planes to ding to Western of- id Saudi air space icks. to have deployed. stern portion of its and put the planes. of readiness. The

Conventional Forces in Place . . .

Total strength of each country's armed forces.



	IRAQ*	KUWAIT	SAUDI ARABIA	EGYPT	TURKEY
Troops	1,000,000	20,300	65,700	448,000	650,900
Tanks	5,500	275	550	2,425	3,730
Combat aircraft	510	36	180	520	500
Armed helicopters	160	18	20	90	15

*President Bush said more than 100,000 Iraqi troops were positioned Kuwait. Iraq also owns more than 36 Soviet-made Scud missiles with a range of more than 350 miles. They could be adapted to carry chemical warheads. Iraq can manufacture chemical weapons at a plant near Samarra in north-central Iraq.

. . . And Those Moving Into Position

UNITED STATES

Force may reach 50,000 troops

Army

Sending forces from the 18th Airborne Corps, including about 3,000 troops of the division ready brigade of the 82d Airborne Division (based in Fort Bragg, N.C.); the 24th Mechanized Infantry Division (Fort Stewart, Ga.), and the 101st Airborne Division (Fort Campbell, Ky.)

Navy

The command ship La Salle was already in the Persian Gulf. Three battle groups moved in: the Eisenhower arrived in the Red Sea on Wednesday. The Saratoga was crossing the Atlantic last night. The Independence is in the gulf of Oman.

Air Force

Sending the First Tactical Fighter Wing (Langley Air Force Base, Va.), the 354th Tactical Fighter Wing (Myrtle Beach A.F.B., Va.); F-111 bombers that were on maneuvers in Turkey; F-15's, and other fighters and bombers. B-52 bombers are available from the United States.

Marines

Hundreds of troops were sent to the town of Khafji, Saudi Arabia, which abuts the border of Kuwait.

BRITAIN

Has promised to send unspecified military forces.

Source: International Institute for Strategic Studies

The New York Times

United States also has F-111 fighter-bombers in Turkey, which were sent there recently, ostensibly for a NATO exercise.

Naval Buildup Continues

The naval buildup is also continuing. A Pentagon official said the battleship Wisconsin was now being dispatched from the United States directly to the Persian Gulf. Navy officials have previously said the ship, armed with Tomahawk cruise missiles, was part of a routine deployment to the Mediterranean Sea.

Military officials said that a command element of the Central Command would be established in Saudi Arabia and that it was expected to be headed by Lieut. Gen. Craven C. Rogers Jr. of the Air Force.

The four-star general who heads the Central Command, Gen. H. Norman

Schwarzkopf, accompanied Mr. Cheney during his trip to Saudi Arabia, where the Secretary presented intelligence reports to King Fahd to persuade him to allow American forces on his soil.

Mr. Cheney was also accompanied by Paul Wolfowitz, the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, who is said to be still meeting with Arab leaders in the region.

"It was a culmination of events of the last few weeks," said Mr. Cheney, explaining King Fahd's decision as a combination of Mr. Bush's consultations, the growing Iraqi menace and ties between the two countries that date to a meeting in 1945 between President Franklin D. Roosevelt and the King's father, King Abdul Aziz Ibn Saud.

Mr. Cheney and General Powell said that the aircraft carrier Independence

had taken up a position in the Gulf of Oman and that the carrier Eisenhower was in the Red Sea, close to the end point of an Iraqi oil pipeline. The carrier's aircraft are within range of Iraqi forces.

A senior naval official said the Navy faced several risks in defending the gulf region. In addition to Iraq's Mirage aircraft carrying Exocet air-to-surface missiles, Iraqi patrol boats and other ships seized from the Kuwaiti navy are equipped with missiles.

The Navy official said Saudi and American forces would rely heavily on AWACS surveillance planes to identify hostile ships and planes.

"Our general philosophy is to defend far enough away so we can pick up that he is going to shoot before he releases it," said the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Shipping

the long haul," said official. "It's cer- months, it could go a ar and a half. It's not

who heads the energy s at the Center for rnational Studies, a rch center, said the have to stay "more ly." He said a propa- ed by President Hus- e United States and nplacable foe of the he defiler of Muslim t well leave the Saudi nerable for many r or intimidation by

yadh, the Saudi capi- States marines had Khafji, a coastal oil niles south of the Ku- orts from California ers of marines were np Pendleton on their East, and other units be sent from the big cinawa in East Asia.

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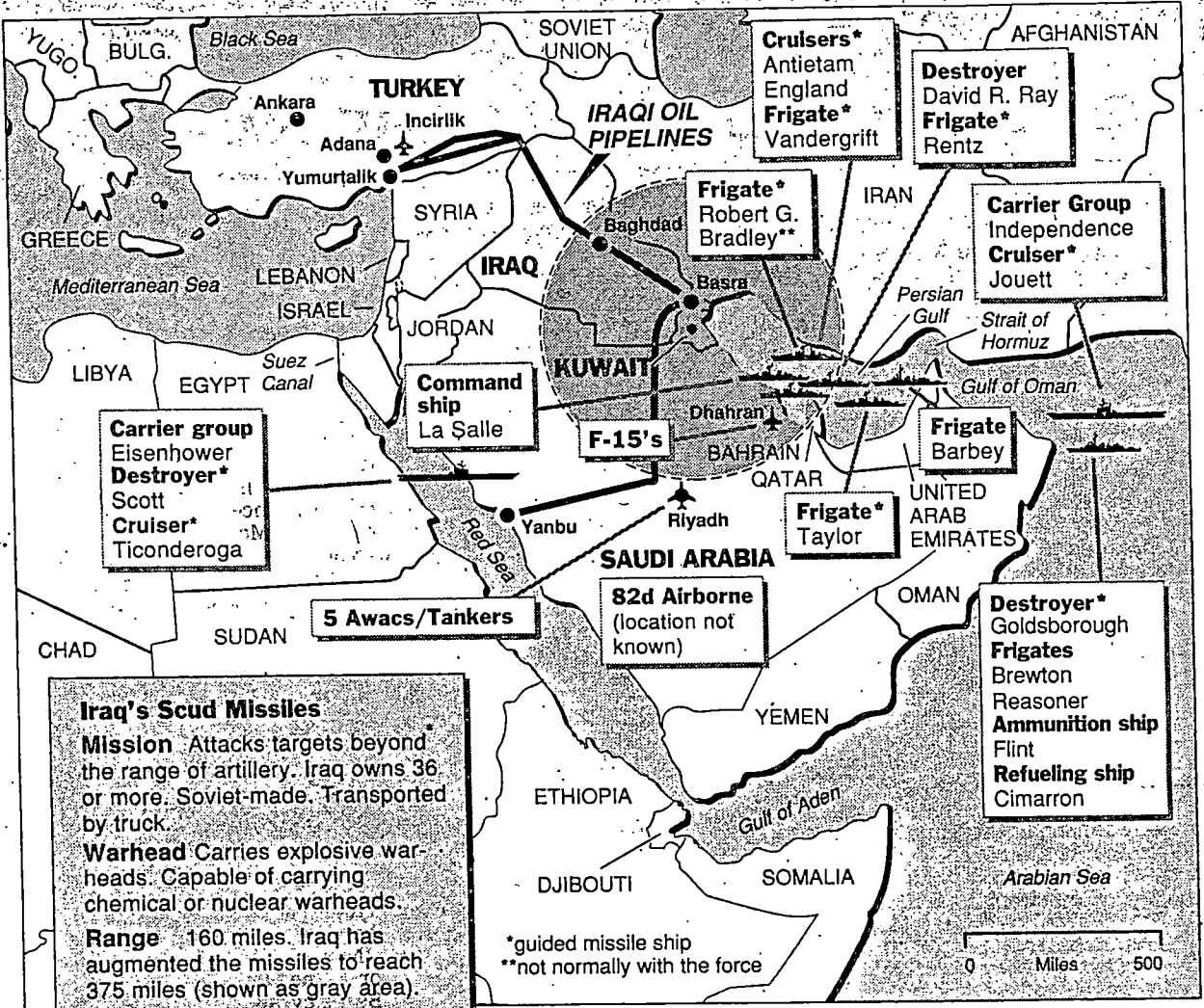
Annexation Void

atic front, the United Council voted 15 to 0 aqi annexation of Ku- on Wednesday, to be 'emen, the sole Arab ith the majority.

ntic Treaty Organiza- isters prepared for a ssels on Friday that rther pledges of sup-

so suggestions among hat Iran and Syria had request of the United ct maneuvers or other air borders with Iraq, a y of both.

, the Pentagon spokes- e 120,000 Iraqi troops to be in Kuwait: "It s that they are working to what they have ac- em to be in a defensive netheless, Iraqi forces le of offensive action, e time, more Iraqi mili-



Iraq's Scud Missiles

Mission Attacks targets beyond the range of artillery. Iraq owns 36 or more. Soviet-made. Transported by truck.

Warhead Carries explosive warheads. Capable of carrying chemical or nuclear warheads.

Range 160 miles. Iraq has augmented the missiles to reach 375 miles (shown as gray area).



Source: Jane's Weapons Systems

tary units appear to be heading south from Kuwait."

Temperatures Reach 120

With Saudi infantry, artillery and tank units moving up to the former Neutral Zone separating Saudi Arabia from Kuwait, across a vast desert where summer temperatures reach 120 degrees, soldiers of the two nations were almost within sight of each other. Western diplomats reported that scores of armored personnel carriers were streaming north along the coastal highway leading north from the capital.

In a rare and emotional speech to his people, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia demanded that the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah, who took refuge in Riyadh last week, be restored to his throne. The King called the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait "the ugliest aggres-

The gulf crisis means the fall elections will center on oil and the economy. Washington Talk, page A15.

sion in modern Arab history."

The prospective blockade, which was first disclosed by a senior Administration official in a background briefing at the White House, would include French and British ships and those of other nations with naval detachments in the region.

In fact, the mere proclamation of a blockade might do the job, because merchant ship captains are reluctant to risk seizure of their ships or cargo.

Iraq's Market Drying Up

The market for Iraq's oil, its only significant export, is already drying up because of United Nations sanctions;

and Iraq has has closed one of two pipelines across Turkey that used to carry about half of Baghdad's 2.7 million barrels a day in oil exports. The other is putting oil in storage tanks, and when they are full, the Turks will shut off that one as well.

A pipeline across Saudi Arabia is still open but may be closed shortly.

Mr. Bush's 25-day vacation at his home in Kennebunkport, Me., which had been planned for months, would cause no apprehension among the American people, Mr. Fitzwater told reporters, because they understood that efficient White House communications made it possible for the President to operate almost anywhere. An augmented staff is expected to accompany him.

Mr. Bush may return to Washington for briefings on the Middle East once or twice, the spokesman added.

U.S. Expects Its Force To Be in Place in a Month

States officials have refused to supply any strength figures.

As the Arab troops arrived at Hafr al Baten, a Saudi air base near Dhahran, a group of 11 Americans, including Penelope Nabokov, a 10-year-old California girl trapped in Kuwait while traveling alone, reached Jordan after a grueling 660-mile bus journey across Iraq. The 10 other members of the party were diplomats and their families.

Five West Germans and 21 Britons also escaped from Iraq or Kuwait, whose borders were sealed for all but diplomats by Baghdad on Thursday.

But there was no success in persuading the Government of President Hussein to permit the departure of 3,500 other Americans still trapped in Iraq and Kuwait, which Iraq annexed this week. Marlin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman, said the United States Embassy in Baghdad "is in contact almost hourly" with Iraqi officials to try to insure the Americans' safety.

Arrival of U.S. Forces

"We're hopeful that we will be able to resolve the situation," Secretary of State James A. Baker 3d said. "So far as we know, no American has been mistreated as yet."

The American buildup in Saudi Ara-

peaceful solution.

bia, also centered on Hafr al Baten, continued with the arrival of more units of the 82d Airborne Division and further C-130 transport planes from Pope Air Force Base, N.C., and F-16 fighters from Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., the Pentagon said.

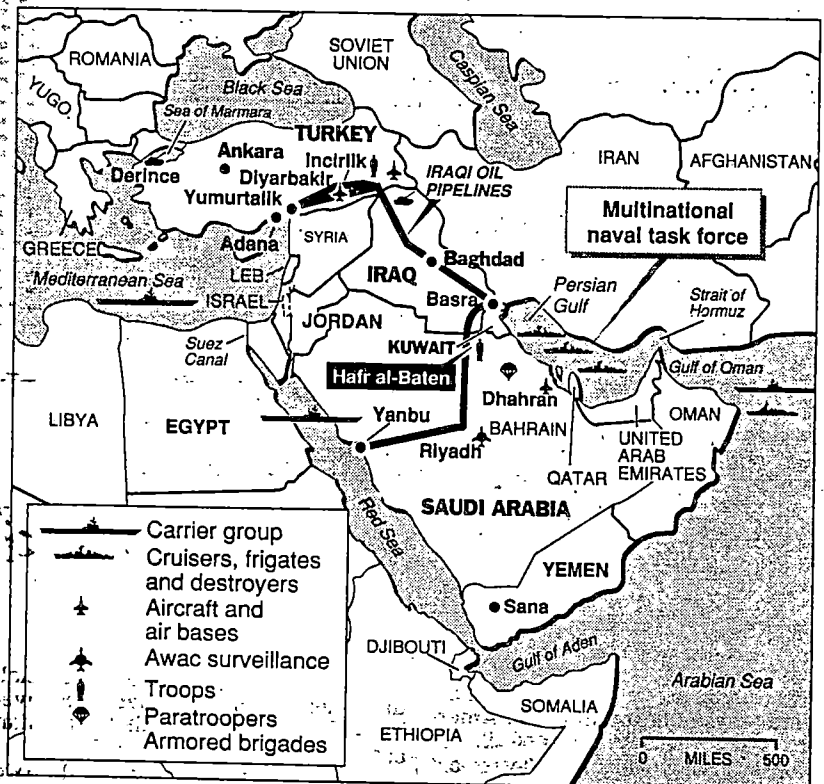
Military officers said the aircraft carrier John F. Kennedy would set sail from Norfolk, Va., for the Middle East next week. Its arrival there would give the United States four carriers in the region, unless one of them is sent back to its home port.

Taking precautions against the possibility that Iraq might try to open a second front by attacking to the north, Turkey moved squadrons of F-4 and F-16 warplanes to several bases near the Iraqi border, newspaper reports in Ankara said. The Italian Defense Minister, Virginio Rognoni, reported Iraqi troop movements near the 200-mile frontier with Turkey.

Iraqi Oil Shipments Stifled

Tension between the two countries is high because Turkey, in adherence to United Nations sanctions, has in effect closed the pipelines running from Iraq across its territory to the Mediterranean port of Yumurtalik.

Mr. Rognoni also said Baghdad was



Egyptian and Moroccan troops were reported arriving at Hafr al-Baten in Saudi Arabia.

Excerpts From the Text Of Bush News Conference

Following are excerpts from President Bush's news conference yesterday in Kennebunkport, Me., as recorded by The New York Times through the facilities of Cable News Network:

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NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8, 1990

U.S. FORCE TO SAUDI ARABIA OM AGREES TO CONFRONT

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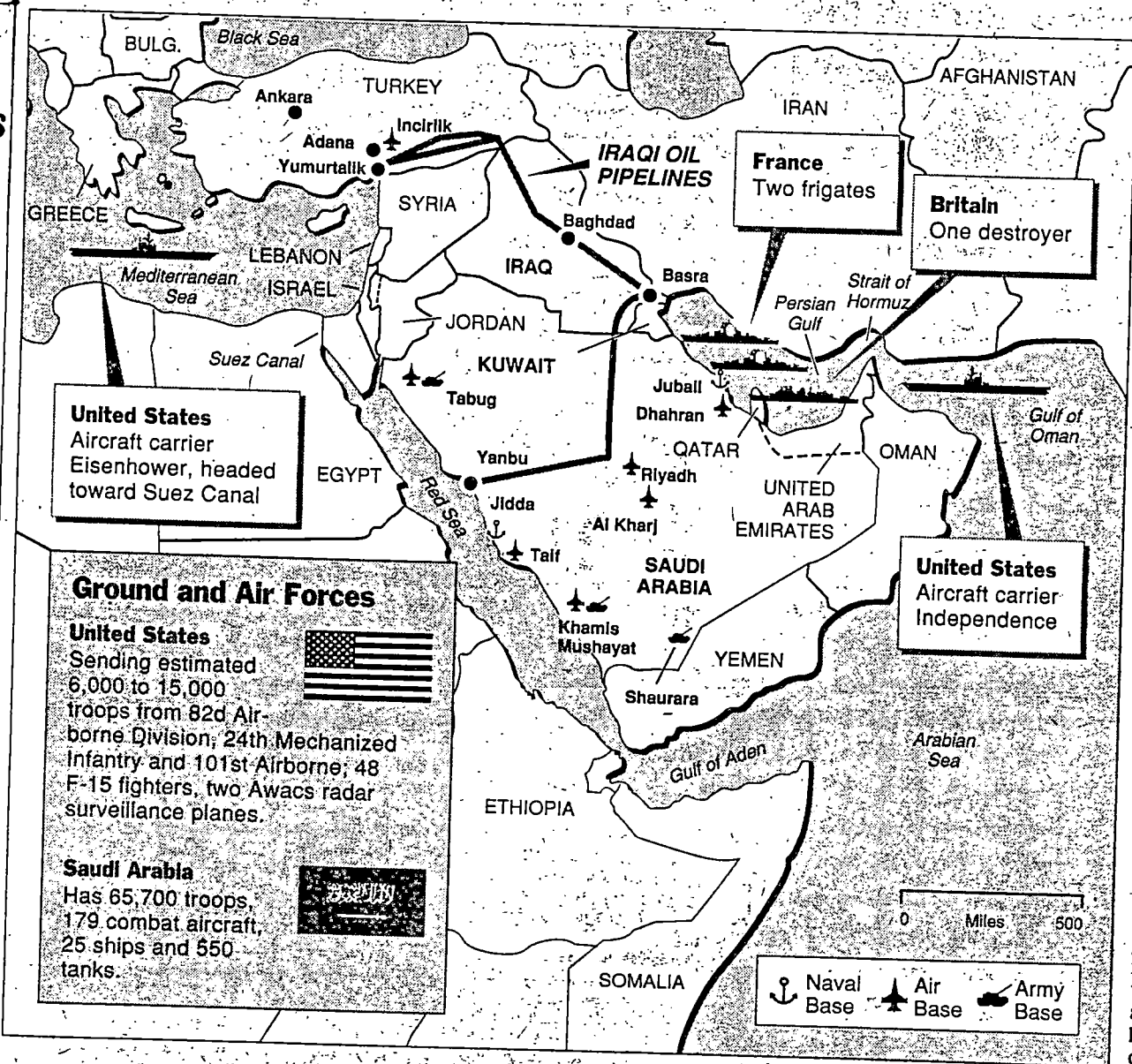
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By ANDRE
Special to T

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Saudis Make a Stand

*Fear of Iraq Ends Their Long Reluctance
To Acknowledge Interests Lie With West*

By YOUSSEF M. IBRAHIM
Special to The New York Times

WHY U.S. IS SENDING TROOPS TO SAUDIS

Action Aims at Showing Iraq

SPEECHWRITERS TO THE SECRETARY AND TO THE
DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Rm 3D853
697-8191

August 10, 1990

MEMO FOR

Ted Garney

Sorry for the delay. Hope
this is helpful.

Jeff Salomon

TO THE PRESIDENT AND THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

This annual report is being published in the midst of historic and promising transformations in the global security environment. The implications are being felt everywhere, but nowhere more than in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

For four decades, the primary concern of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has been to deter a Soviet-led attack on Western Europe. Now, instead of an invasion of troops moving from East to West, the ideas and institutions of freedom are moving from the West to the East.

The events of 1989 have reduced the threat of a sudden Soviet attack in Europe; they clearly call for a review of U.S. defense policy priorities in the 1990s. However, as we respond to these positive developments, we have a responsibility not to get ahead of events. Much remains unsettled, the Soviet Union remains a nuclear superpower, and U.S. interests over the coming decades will face a growing number of potentially serious threats from other sources. In short, the opportunities are great, but so are the uncertainties and risks.

We can respond to the opportunities, deal with the uncertainties, and control the risks if we first remember how we got to this point in history. Since World War II, the United States has been the major leader in the world urging the peaceful evolution of freedom, democracy, and economic well-being. We have been able to play that role because a bipartisan U.S. consensus has supported an alliance strategy of forward defense, based on forward deployment, flexible response, and adequate strategic nuclear and conventional deterrents. We have begun now to plan how to attain the same basic strategic objectives with a somewhat smaller defense budget. However, any reductions must be managed with great care. Even if the Soviet threat recedes permanently — and it has certainly not yet done so — American power will still be required to meet other contingencies and obligations worldwide.

We have recently seen a graphic example. The use of the military in Panama in December 1989 was a demonstration of how effective a well-trained, professionally led, adequately equipped, and appropriately applied military force can be. It took a major investment to develop the capabilities that made Operation Just Cause a success. Such capabilities will become even more critical in the future.

In coming decades, we must be prepared for the possible emergence of new powers, for potential Third World conflicts, and for the expansion of threats from insurgencies, terrorism, and narcotics trafficking. We also face increasing threats from chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons and missile proliferation. All of these changes are possible, some are very likely, and any of them would increase the complexity of defense. We must prepare for these future risks, without losing sight of either the opportunities or threats of the present.

Therefore, 1990 should be a year in which we plan carefully for a full range of realistic contingencies. We should respond positively, where appropriate, but we should not move so rashly that we shut off options that ought to be preserved. This annual report is a statement of where we now stand and a broad overview of the needs we foresee. The fiscal year (FY) 1991 budget will outline the Department's needs in what may be the first year in the next stage of U.S. military history. Meanwhile, we are beginning to work on the new defense program for FY 1992-97, which will carry us well into that new era of opportunity.

It is important, however, not to initiate premature 1992-97 budget cuts in 1991. There is an extraordinary degree of flux in the international environment. Remarkable changes have transformed Eastern Europe, but much remains to be

FROM SECDEF ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS 1990

done before democratic institutions can take firm hold. Furthermore, we may still see the reemergence of some of the region's historic sources of turbulence.

Moreover, although we are optimistic about the negotiations over Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) and the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (START), we must remember that those negotiations are still under way. Even under the timetable President Bush gave General Secretary Gorbachev in December, the treaties will not be ready for ratification until the next fiscal year has begun. The FY 1991 budget therefore must avoid unilateral cuts that would undercut allied bargaining leverage or create undue pressures for other premature reductions.

During the six-year program for FY 1992-97 we will continue our defense adjustments and make real budget reductions if several key assumptions hold true: first, that the positive developments we are now seeing continue; second, that we conclude satisfactory CFE and START agreements; and, third, that nothing happens to require an unforeseen, significant commitment of U.S. force. If these assumptions hold up, we plan to cut defense costs and to restructure the military in ways that will continue, in an uncertain world, to maintain deterrence and keep risks at a low level. If the assumptions do not hold up, we will have to reassess our defense planning guidelines again. However, following through on such a reassessment would be possible if, and only if, Congress does not slash the defense budget prematurely or unwisely in 1991.

The basic structure of this annual report is intended as a preparation for the program-by-program materials to follow in other documents. The report begins with a statement about national security concerns, objectives, and policy priorities. It then moves through a discussion of defense resources to an examination of specific defense components. Rather than summarize the entire report, I shall instead take this opportunity to review a few of the broad themes that will guide the Department's planning in coming months:

- (1) Declarations of new Soviet policy intentions are only beginning to be implemented through changes in Soviet force structure. The reductions we have seen so far, the promise of additional changes, and the political developments in Eastern Europe give us hope that future reductions in our conventional forces will be possible. However, any plans for such reductions must be made in full consultation with our allies, they must be based on real and hard-to-reverse changes in Soviet forces, and they must be sufficiently reversible to allow for the inherent volatility of the political situation now unfolding in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

- (2) We must expect that the Soviets will continue to modernize their forces and maintain aggressive research and development programs. Therefore, as we think about reductions, we must pay attention to those elements of our defense program that would be hardest to restore if Soviet intentions should change — the quality of our officers and enlisted personnel, our research and weapons development programs, our industrial base, and the fundamental structure of our alliances.

- (3) Deterrence of nuclear attack remains the cornerstone of U.S. national security. Regardless of improved U.S.-Soviet relations and potential arms control agreements, the Soviet ability to initiate strategic warfare against the United States will persist, and a crisis or political change in the Soviet Union could occur faster than we could rebuild our strategic forces. In fact, the Soviet Union has been pursuing a major strategic modernization program. We therefore must continue with the modernization of U.S. strategic forces.

(4) We must vigorously pursue the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), both because of Soviet strategic capabilities and because of the spread of ballistic missile technology to other countries. If anything, the new environment makes SDI even more important.

(5) Because the United States has permanent interests in Europe, we must continue to work closely with NATO, even as we seek a more equitable sharing of the defense burden.

(6) We must also recognize the challenges beyond Europe that may place significant demands on our defense capabilities. The changing requirements and new roles and missions assumed by U.S. forces will require strategies that rely more heavily on mobile, highly ready, well-equipped forces and solid power-projection capabilities.

(7) Special operations capabilities also will become increasingly important, and low-intensity conflict will remain, as it has since 1945, the most likely form of violence threatening U.S. interests.

(8) In coming years, our ability to develop, exploit, and protect advanced technologies is likely to be even more crucial than it has been in the past.

(9) We remain committed to improving the Department's relations with the defense industry. Continuing the sometimes adversarial relationships of the present can only harm the technology base and our military readiness in the future.

(10) Fully implementing the recommendations of the July 1989 Defense Management Report will be essential for the Department to perform at peak efficiency. Some of the proposed reforms can be implemented internally; others will require congressional action.

(11) Finally, our highest commitment must be to continue to attract, train, and retain talented and dedicated people to serve in the armed forces.

Undergirding these specific conclusions is a more general principle: the importance of maintaining Western prudence and stability in the face of change elsewhere. For more than 40 years, the United States and its allies have pursued a consistent strategy that has served us well. Our global presence and support for freedom have encouraged the growth of democracy and the flourishing of market economies in all parts of the world, not just in Europe. From the Philippines and South Korea to Panama, Chile, Brazil, El Salvador, and elsewhere, brave people have been struggling to nurture the institutions of democracy.

The strength of the Western alliance has maintained the peace while the flaws of the Soviet system have become visible to all. As a result, the international environment seems to be moving toward a safer future. Therefore, we should — and will — look carefully at our planning priorities. For today, however, uncertainty abounds. Now is not the time to abandon the fundamental approach that has taken us this far.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dick Cheney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent "D" and "C".



DEFENSE ISSUES

Vol. 5 No. 21

Our Choices Today And the World Tomorrow

*Remarks prepared for delivery by
Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney
to the American Newspaper
Publishers Association, Los Angeles,
Calif., April 25, 1990.*

The adversarial relationship between government and the press is a fact of American life, but so is the contest between publishers and writers. Mark Twain once said that writers "sometimes understand their side of the question, although this is rare ... but none of them understands the publisher's side of it."

Usually in stories about publishers and journalists, journalists come off best. I suspect because they hold the pen.

It's like the story of Horace Greeley, who used to insist to his staff—without a great deal of success—that the word "news" was plural. He once cabled a reporter with the question, "Are there any news?"

And the reporter promptly cabled back: "Not a new."

Well, today I'm going to give Horace some overdue respect and talk about the news we've seen in the past year.

We've seen new elections in the Soviet Union, Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, East Germany—new leadership in every Warsaw Pact country except the Soviet Union—and growing optimism about arms control, reduced East-West tension and the growth of democracy.

We've also seen the Soviets own up to some of their past horrors. Although the Kremlin portrays them as "discoveries," it is important to have them finally admit to such things as the Hitler-Stalin pact of 1939 and the 1940 Soviet massacre of Polish soldiers in Katyn Forest.

All of these changes are profoundly encouraging signs. With the easing of tensions, with the growth of democratic hopes and with the threat of sudden attack on the central front of Europe lower than at any time in the last 40 years, we're looking at what could well be the end of the Cold War.

This is truly a critical period in history, one of the important pivot points at which U.S. choices can and will define the direction of global affairs. How appropriately we respond, how farsighted we are about our interests and requirements, will determine our peace and security for generations to come.

And that response does not simply hinge on the size of the defense budget or even defense priorities, although these are critical issues. The main issue is: What would we like the world to be 10 years from now?

What Does It Take?

What kind of change do we need to see in the old communist bloc before we can say that the threat which defined the Cold War period is over? What transformation must occur before we can have confidence that we need no longer fear the enormous military capability of the Soviet Union? What must happen before skeptics such as yours truly will be prepared to trust Soviet statements of peaceful intentions?

I'd like to speak about these issues today.

For over 40 years, the Soviet Union has been the principal

threat to peace and security. A large arsenal of nuclear weapons and massive conventional forces are one reason. Even today, the Soviet Union is the only country in the world with the potential to destroy us.

But the heart of the threat has been Moscow's use of that power as a source of intimidation, aggression, attempted dominance and expansion. And so today, for any real and lasting change in the threat, it is the Soviets' use of power that must change.

This means a fundamental change in the Soviet Union's historic reliance on force as a basis for control, internal or external. In President (Mikhail) Gorbachev's term, it means a "revolutionary transformation" of the state.

This is exactly what we are hoping for. It is what real *perestroika* means. And, as President (George) Bush affirmed, we want that *perestroika* to succeed.

This will not happen easily or overnight. After all, we're talking about a system, the Soviet system, founded on the idea that an elite political "vanguard," as they liked to call themselves, is entitled to rule.

For 70 years, this Communist Party and state elite has ruled without popular consent or political accountability. The legal system, based solely on the interests of the state, ignored the most basic individual rights. A huge internal police apparatus emerged that far exceeded anything the czars ever dreamed of. Dissidents were imprisoned in

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labor camps and psychiatric hospitals.

In daily life, things like housing, jobs, travel, health care, all became privileges controlled and dispensed by the state. Corruption and special treatment became facts of life. Vast central ministries administered a command economy. People couldn't even get the kind of basic information that we take for granted. From city maps to birth-and-death statistics to military budgets, all this kind of information was known to only a few.

President Gorbachev recently called this Soviet system “totalitarian (and) bureaucratic.” Perhaps he understates.

Rule by Force

A system that rules by force at home is likely to want to do the same abroad. And in fact, for decades the Soviet Union engaged in an aggressive effort to expand its control and influence. In the decades after World War II, the Soviet Union embarked on a peacetime military buildup unprecedented in history.

Even in the first three years of Gorbachev's rule, Soviet military spending was estimated, very conservatively, at about 15 percent of Soviet GNP (gross national product). A number of experts think it was actually even higher. I do. But even at 15 percent of GNP, this level of spending was more than double our own defense investment in terms of GNP, and it's triple our current levels.

And just this week a group of Soviet officials said the CIA had overestimated the size of the Soviet economy and under-

estimated the percentage of Soviet GNP devoted to the military. They said military spending consumed some 25 percent of GNP. They said the CIA was overly optimistic about developments inside the Soviet Union. It seems to me I've had the same problem.

And, since the late '40s, the Kremlin has used its military power worldwide:

- ☐ To occupy Eastern Europe in the late 1940s;
- ☐ To blockade Berlin in 1948;
- ☐ To help supply the North Korean invasion of 1950;
- ☐ To crush the Hungarian revolt in 1956;
- ☐ To build missile bases in Cuba in 1962;
- ☐ To crush Czechoslovakia in 1968;
- ☐ To invade and occupy Afghanistan in 1979;
- ☐ To support repressive and irresponsible regimes in Nicaragua, Libya, Cuba, North Korea, Ethiopia and elsewhere; and
- ☐ To provoke conflict and undermine democratic institutions and interests in regions throughout the world.

The message of this long record of Soviet aggression was clear: The allied democracies could place their trust only in an effective and strong defense.

There's Change, But ...

Now, in 1990, many Americans are looking for another ground for trust: Soviet commitments to reform. The Soviet system is changing. Faced with internal

crisis and economic collapse, Gorbachev began reforms that unexpectedly unleashed pressures for democracy and change throughout the Soviet Union. And in Eastern Europe and even within the Soviet Union, some of the old ideas and power structures are giving way.

☐ Twenty years ago, the Soviets justified the invasion of Czechoslovakia with the Brezhnev doctrine: that Soviet satellites had only limited sovereignty. “Once a socialist state, always a socialist state.” Today, President Gorbachev has publicly recognized “complete equal rights and freedom of choice” for the Eastern European members of the Warsaw Pact.

☐ Ten years ago, Soviet forces had just begun the occupation of Afghanistan, an action former Soviet leader (Yuri) Andropov called “a lofty act of loyalty to the principle of proletarian internationalism.” Today, Soviet troops have been withdrawn from Afghanistan. Other Soviet forces have been withdrawn from Eastern Europe, and more drawdowns are promised. The U.S. and Soviet Union are moving as quickly as possible to a new agreement on conventional forces in Europe, based on President Bush's proposals in February.

☐ The Soviets have begun to reduce military spending and military production and have pledged to convert a portion of military production to civilian use.

☐ Within the Soviet Union, there is a new recognition that communism has failed. Current leaders are publicly contemplating significant changes in the economic system.

☐ Elections have brought reformers, non-communists and even former dissidents to office in the Congress of Peoples' Deputies, in regional legislatures and in city governments. Recently, Communist leadership agreed to give up the constitutional guarantee that their party will have the “leading role” in Soviet government.

These are very encouraging signs. But it is clear that the transformation of Soviet society is just beginning. Enormous obstacles remain before the Soviet Union will have transformed itself into a permanently less threatening nation, one that the rest of the world no longer need view with fear and trepidation.

Decades of mistrust and suspicion about the reality of Kremlin commitments have been built up, both among the Soviet people as well as the world community. To meet those concerns, the world community is looking for genuine Soviet reform.

We aren't looking for any tougher principles than apply to us and every other democracy. We're looking for Soviet governments that are accountable to their citizens and to the rule of law. We're looking for Soviet policies that reflect the people's consent.

Our Best Guarantee

As our own founders knew, these principles of government are important constraints on the arbitrary and aggressive use of power. Secretary (of State James) Baker put it well when he said that, "Democracy in the Soviet Union is ... the best guarantee of a constructive Soviet approach to international problems."

So today, we need more than words to make us confident of President Gorbachev's "revolutionary transformation." We will need to see the reality of change.

One place we will look for real change is in the buildup and deployment of Soviet forces. We have welcomed Soviet statements about cuts. Those cuts are under way, but today, there are still more than half a million Soviet troops in East Europe, and high levels of military production continue.

At the same time, the economy has a long way to go. It is difficult for us even to imagine the extent of needed reform when just getting enough soap is a demand of striking coal workers. President Gorbachev himself recently acknowledged the existence of "grave disrup-

"Decades of mistrust and suspicion about the reality of Kremlin commitments have been built up. ... To meet those concerns, the world community is looking for genuine Soviet reform. ... We aren't looking for any tougher principles than apply to us and every other democracy."

tions of supplies, the exacerbation of socio-economic problems as a whole. ... The command system is no longer working."

It is not just a matter of changing economic institutions, but changing ideas as well. As Gorbachev has noted, reform is "hampered by inertia, by dogmatic views which have taken root over decades, by a habit of stagnation, by passiveness, by a life of being instructed from above."

Bad News, Good News

In fact, it appears that reform has yet to take hold where it counts—in the laws, institutions and processes of government. In a recent interview with the chief of the USSR Council of Ministers' State Commission for Economic Reform, a Soviet reporter asked a question that newspaper publishers might be interested in. He asked: "Could I launch my own newspaper tomorrow?"

The minister's answer was to the point: "The first thing you will be told (by the bureaucracy) is that you are not allowed to engage in entrepreneurial activity. Then you will be told that nobody will allow you to produce printed matter. You are hardly likely to obtain credit to purchase suitable equipment, especially in view of the existing prohibition on the sale of copying equipment in private hands."

That's the bad news. The good news is that this kind of dialogue is finally being published throughout the Soviet Union.

But the new openness has not yet transformed hope into the reality of a freer government. And that reality is what we need to see to allay the fears of the rest of the world about the

Soviets' enormous military power.

Until that happens—until we are confident that Moscow will not again use its military capability to conquer and intimidate—Soviet *glasnost* will be only a partial answer to our defense concerns. And Soviet statements of peaceful intentions will not be sufficient to overcome our concerns about threatening Soviet military capabilities.

Basic to American liberty is one simple idea: Freedom is indivisible. It cannot be fully guaranteed to some yet withheld from others. Governments that do not respect their own citizens' human rights cannot be depended on to respect the rights of others.

We need to see full Soviet recognition of the basic rights which democracy requires—a political system based on the consent of the governed, the rule of law and the protection of individual rights. This includes:

☐ Building democratic values and human rights into the institutions and practices of government—from free, fully competitive elections to a responsible, accountable system of government;

☐ ... An end to the tools of state coercion that suppress dissent and political competition;

☐ A decentralized, market-oriented economy that offers hope and opportunity to all Soviet citizens;

☐ Peaceful recognition of the right of self-determination for those republics and nationality groups that were coerced or for-

cibly annexed to the Soviet Union; and

□ An international policy based on respect for other countries and the rejection of direct and indirect threats and aggression.

Overall, the world is looking for open political arrangements among the peoples of the Soviet Union based on democratic values, not coercion.

Positive Trends

This kind of change will not be easy to achieve. But this administration remains optimistic that such change is possible and that current trends are positive.

In that spirit, we are working with the Soviets to ease tensions and reduce strategic and conventional armaments. And we are restructuring U.S. military forces to provide continued global security and stability while bringing defense costs down. As circumstances change, as reductions in the threat move from hope to reality, that restructuring will continue. But we have to remember that there is a point below which we cannot go and still provide the global defense we need in the years ahead.

Security threats were not invented by the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, and threats will remain long after that party has gone out of business. In regions throughout the world, U.S. and allied strength is still needed to ensure the kind of stability, based on democratic values, that enables global political and economic freedom to grow and thrive.

Even given the most optimistic scenario about Soviet change, there will still be a need for U.S. military capabilities.

We will need to maintain nuclear deterrence and defense. Even with a START (Strategic Arms Reduction Talks) agreement, the Soviets aren't giving up their nuclear power. It is growing more advanced. And elsewhere in the world, nuclear proliferation is increasing.

We will need alliances with other democracies. And we will

need forward-deployed U.S. forces. Our presence around the world tells our allies that we share the risks of defense. And it tells our adversaries and potential adversaries that we are prepared to respond to aggression.

We will need the ability to respond to crises and threats quickly, with appropriate forces, to meet the threat. The ability to project our power, and project the right power, is essential to regional and global stability. That also means naval superiority. Our global role requires us to control the seas and sea lanes that are the lifeline of our alliances and foreign trade.

We will need the intellectual and industrial base required to produce the advanced weapons, ships, aircraft and other systems that our defense requires. With smaller forces, we will rely more than ever on our technological capability and the industrial base that supports it. And we will need the quality forces that are the backbone of our military strength and the reason for its excellence.

Americans' commitment to meeting these requirements tells our allies we are serious about our global responsibilities. Those responsibilities are especially important today.

Reforms Must Continue

In Eastern Europe and in the Soviet Union, economic problems and regional tensions are challenging issues. It is critical that reforms continue. In this regard, few issues are more important than the Kremlin's response to Lithuanian independence. Moscow's response will be a lead indicator of what the world can expect in terms of future Soviet developments.

If the solution that ultimately develops is based on peaceful action, not coercion, reflects democratic values and principles, and is founded on the idea of self-determination, then confidence in Soviet reform will grow. But we will draw very different conclusions if this issue is resolved by military force and

intimidation—the tactics of empire and not of reform.

The need for further progress within the Soviet bloc, the uncertainty of change and the consequences of instability throughout the globe all make it imperative that the United States maintain a steady defense.

The United States is the world's most powerful free nation. It rests with us to use our power as a positive force in the world, to help cement current trends and encourage even greater progress toward democratic values and institutions. We do this not only as a moral matter, not only as an expression of our fundamental political beliefs, but because our own free society ultimately requires a world in which human liberty and rights are respected in peace.

In late February, less than four months after being imprisoned as a dissident by the former government, Czechoslovakia's new president, Vaclav Havel, spoke before a joint session of the U.S. Congress.

Speaking as a foreigner who had something to teach us about the men who founded our republic, Havel quoted Thomas Jefferson's words in the Declaration of Independence: "Governments are instituted among Men deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed."

The declaration, said Havel, "was a simple and important act of the human spirit." But, he concluded, "What gave meaning to that act ... was the fact that the author backed it up with his life. It was not just his words, it was his deeds as well."

For 40 years and more, America has backed up its freedom with its deeds—the quiet strength of democracy's most powerful nation. Today, we are still called on to back up our words with deeds. I'm confident we will succeed.

Thank you very much.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: AUGUST 23, 1990

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MS. RUTH MORRIS

SUBJECT: EXPRESSES CONCERN REGARDING THE PRESIDENT'S
OMISSION IN HIS SPEECH TO THE VFW ON AUG 20

ROUTE TO:		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
SPEECHWRITERS		ORG	90/08/23		
REFERRAL NOTE: ATTN: CHRIS WINSTON					
REFERRAL NOTE:					
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REFERRAL NOTE:					

COMMENTS: INCOMING REC'D FROM SHIRLEY GREEN FOR
TRACKING

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:T INDIVIDUAL CODES: 4900 4800

MI MAIL USER CODES: (A) (B) (C)

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*                      *                      *CORRESPONDENCE:   *
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*C-COMMENT/RECOM       *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL *          OF SIGNER *
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE      *C-COMPLETED        *          CODE = A  *
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET  *S-SUSPENDED        *COMPLETED = DATE OF *
*I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC*                      *          OUTGOING *
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *                      *                      *
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE        *                      *                      *
*X-INTERIM REPLY        *                      *                      *
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PRESIDENT BUSH

WASHINGTON DC

MR PRESIDENT

YOU REALLY GOOFED. FOR YOUR INFORMATION THE LADIES AUXILIARY TO THE
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS SPEND MANY HOURS WORKING FOR THE VETERANS

AND DEFINITELY SHOULD HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED

SINCERELY

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RUTH MORRIS, LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN
DISTRICT 13 TEXAS
112 CENTER
HEREFORD TX 79045

1046 EST

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THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: AUGUST 23, 1990

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MS. NANCY PRESLEY-HOLLEY

SUBJECT: EXPRESSES OUTRAGE AT THE PRESIDENT'S
OMISSION OF VIETNAM VETERANS IN HIS
AUG 20 90 SPEECH TO THE VFW

ROUTE TO:		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
SPEECHWRITERS		ORG	90/08/23		
REFERRAL NOTE: ATTN: CHRIS WINSTON					
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PMS PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH

WHITE HOUSE DC 20500

WE'RE OUTRAGED AT OMISSION OF VIETNAM VETERANS IN YOUR SPEECH TO VFW
ON 8-20-90. DEVASTATING LACK OF RECOGNITION TO THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR
LIVES IN VIETNAM. HOW DARE YOU?

NANCI PRESLEY-HOLLEY AND BARBARA NICHOLSON

13540 NORTHEAST 83RD ST

REDMOND WA 98052

1211 EST

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Baltimore, Maryland)

For Immediate Release

August 20, 1990

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS 91ST NATIONAL CONVENTION

Baltimore Arena
Baltimore, Maryland

10:39 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you so much. Please be seated. And it's a privilege to join you and a deep personal pleasure to renew old ties -- greet new friends. My thanks to all of you -- but especially to Walter, to you -- Walter Hogan, doing a great job as commander-in-chief. Following the likes of Larry Rivers isn't easy, we all know that -- but Walter's done the VFW proud. I also know we're looking forward to the same kind of strong leadership from James Kimery. And let me offer my thanks again to another old friend, Cooper Holt, a real legend who gave so many years of service to the VFW. Cooper, we welcome you. (Applause.)

Next, I want to thank my outstanding Veterans Secretary, fellow VFW member, Ed Derwinski. (Applause.) Ed's got so much going on -- but I'm especially happy to see the work he's doing to improve these veterans' hospitals. His department is intent on serving you -- much as you have served America. (Applause.)

I'm glad to see the Secretary of the Army with us today -- an old friend of mine, a friend of yours, Mike Stone. And let us remember those who could not be with us. Our administration will not forget our POWs and MIAs, as well as those brave men and women -- (applause) -- as well as those brave men and women who gave what Lincoln termed, "the last full measure of devotion."

Again, my acknowledgement to Mike Stone, and also Baltimore's Mayor, who courteously came to greet me -- Kurt Schmoke. Glad to see you here, sir. And, finally, today's -- also let me single out today's honorees, Budd Dudley and my own United Nations -- our own United Nations Ambassador Tom Pickering, who is doing an outstanding job up there in the United Nations for the United States of America. (Applause.) Both Bud and Tom being honored appropriately by you tonight.

Apologies for keeping you waiting. There are some events going on around the world. And I was on the telephone to a good friend of the United States, President Ozal of Turkey; and also to another great friend of the United States, Prime Minister Thatcher of the United Kingdom. And I must say I'm proud of the support that we are all getting around the world. (Applause.)

You know, as a veteran, I want to salute this organization on its 91st year. By supporting our nation's veterans, the VFW has enriched America. And I'd like to take a moment to ask your support for a man who, I'm convinced, will also enrich America. I want to work in a strong plug -- and I'm talking about our Supreme Court nominee, Judge David Souter. (Applause.) I see the New Hampshire delegation is here. (Laughter.) Well, they know something we all know, and that is that he is an exceptional jurist and a brilliant legal mind. He will be a voice of excellence on the nation's highest court, and I call on the Senate to confirm him without delay. (Applause.)

But this morning, I'm also grateful to have this special

MORE

opportunity to discuss an issue of great concern to all Americans: the crisis in the Persian Gulf. A crisis that will require American planning, patience, and, yes, personal sacrifice. But a crisis that we must -- and will -- meet if we are to stop aggression, help our friends, and protect our own interests and the peace and stability of countries around the globe. (Applause.)

Eighteen days ago, these beliefs prompted me to take action in the Middle East to restore the sovereignty of Kuwait and deter those who threaten friendly countries and the vital interests of America. I acted knowing that our cause would not be easy -- but that our cause is right. And that while one should not underestimate those who endanger peace, an even greater mistake would be to underestimate America's commitment to our friends when our friends are imperiled. (Applause.) Or our commitment to international order when that, too, is imperiled.

Today, the outcome is not yet decided. Hard choices remain. But of this we are certain: America will not be intimidated. When some ask, where does America stand, our answer is, America stands where it always has -- against aggression -- against those who would use force to replace the rule of law. (Applause.)

And who better than this group know? Throughout history, we have learned that we must stand up to evil. It's a truth which the past 18 days have reaffirmed. Its lessons speak to America and to the world.

The first lesson is as vivid as the memories of Normandy, Khe Sanh, Pork Chop Hill. We have been reminded again that aggression must and will be checked. So at the request of our friends, we have sent U.S. forces to the Middle East -- reluctantly, but decisively. Knowing as Teddy Roosevelt said, that America "means many things. Among them, equality of rights and, therefore, equality of duty and obligation."

Yet we are not acting alone, but in concert -- helping to protect our own national security interests as well as those of the broader community of nations. Which brings me to the second lesson reaffirmed by the past 18 days. By itself, America can do much. Together, with its friends and allies, America can do much more -- for peace and for justice.

Think back with me to World War II, when together allies confronted a horror which embodied hell on Earth. Or Korea, where United Nations forces opposed totalitarianism. Today, once again, many nations -- many of them Moslem -- have joined to counter aggression and, thus, to restore the peace.

Our Saudi friends, under the wise leadership of King Fahd, asked for our help in deterring further aggression by Iraq. I salute the many countries who have courageously responded to Saudi Arabia's request. I also salute those governments who were responding to the Emir of Kuwait's call for the full enforcement of United Nations sanctions.

We must not delude ourselves -- Iraq's invasion was more than a military attack on tiny Kuwait; it was a ruthless assault on the very essence of international order and civilized ideals. And now, in a further offense against all norms of international behavior, Iraq has imposed restrictions on innocent civilians from many countries. This is unacceptable. (Applause.) And that's why the United Nations Security Council voted unanimously Saturday night to condemn Iraq's action, just as it earlier voted to condemn the invasion itself. They know, as we do, that leaders who use citizens as pawns deserve -- and will receive -- the scorn and condemnation of the entire world. (Applause.)

And so to the leaders of Iraq I will now make two points clear: In moving foreign citizens against their will, you are violating the norms of your own religion. You are going against the age-old Arab tradition of showing kindness and hospitality to

MORE

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And I want there to be no misunderstanding. I will hold the government of Iraq responsible for the safety and well-being of American citizens held against their will. (Applause.)

Let me also take a moment to thank President Gorbachev for his recent words condemning the Iraqi invasion. He has shown -- if anyone doubted it -- that nations which joined to fight aggression in World War II can work together to stop the aggressors of today. (Applause.)

A third lesson has also been reaffirmed by the last 18 days -- as veterans, it won't surprise you -- the steadfast character of the American will. Look to the sands of Saudi Arabia and the waters offshore -- where brave Americans are doing their duty. Just as you did at Anzio and Inchon and Hamburger Hill. And think of the men and women aboard our planes and ships -- young, alone, and so very far from home. They make us humble. They make us proud. And I salute the finest soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines that any nation could possibly have. (Applause.) And moreover, I pledge to you: We will do whatever it takes to help them complete their mission. (Applause.)

This means realizing the fourth lesson reaffirmed by the past 18 days. Although the size of America's Armed Forces in the years ahead will be smaller because the threat to our security is changing, future American defense capacity must be even more "a-lean, mean fighting machine." And by 1995, we estimate that our security needs can be met by an active force 25 percent smaller than today's -- the lowest level since 1950. And yet, we must ensure that a reduction of numbers does not mean a reduction in American strength.

Operation Desert Shield proves vividly that instead of relieving past contingencies, we must prepare for the challenges of the 1990s and beyond. By ensuring that our troops are ready and trained, we can exert our presence in key areas and respond effectively to crisis. And this is readiness measured in days and hours, not weeks and months. And Operation Desert Shield has underscored the need to be able to get our soldiers where they are needed, and when they are needed. This kind of responsiveness will be critical in the crises of the future.

Recently, our outstanding Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, General Colin Powell, spoke to this when he praised "the finest peacetime military in the history of America." We will be smaller in troop strength and restructured, but we will remain purposeful, proud and effective. Just look at the last 18 days. Desert Shield has been a classic case of America's military at its best.

I think, for instance, of Airman First Class Wade West, home on leave to be married. On August 7th, he was called up. And within an hour he had the ceremony performed and left for the Middle East. And he's now stationed over in Saudi Arabia. You talk about a guy that gets things done. (Laughter.) But I would like to empathize with his bride wherever she may be. (Laughter.) And another example: Seven years ago, Diana Kroptavich worried at home while her husband, Walter, steamed off the Lebanon coast on the USS New Jersey defending the Marines. Today, their roles are reversed. Retired, Walter is at home with their 6-year-old son, and Diana serves aboard the Destroyer USS Yellowstone. (Laughter and applause.) Here's an Army couple. Today, Paratrooper Joseph Hudert of the 82nd Airborne Division is serving in Saudi Arabia -- and his wife, Nurse Dominique Allen of the 44th Medical Brigade, will be

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deployed there within the next two weeks. Finally, recall the 8-year-old who, watching her dad leave for the Mediterranean, spoke truth from the mouths of babes. "I just think," she said, "that they shouldn't let daddies go away this long. But they still have to, to keep the world safe."

These profiles show the true caliber of America -- and the vital essence of our mission. What's more, they remind us of the fifth and final lesson reaffirmed by the past 18 days: The need for a continued strong defense budget to support American troops. (Applause.) Or as George Washington said in his first inaugural address, "To be prepared for war is one of the most effectual means of preserving the peace." History has shown the wisdom of his words -- especially in our century. What Desert Shield has shown is that America can ensure the peace by remaining militarily strong.

Now, I know that we're operating in a time of budget restraint: We have limited resources -- we must use them wisely. The budget deficit is a threat to our vital interests at home, and won't be made easier by today's threat abroad. Everyone realizes that the deficit is too large -- that it's got to be brought down -- and that Congress must act, courageously and immediately, when it returns from recess. (Applause.)

But here's the point -- we cannot attack the deficit by attacking the very heart of our armed forces -- committed men and women who are motivated and ready. Last week, I asked Congress to do what we have done -- produce a budget proposal, including defense, that is both responsive and responsible and most of all, fair. When they do, I will listen -- listen, but not break faith with the troops who are defending our nation. (Applause.) Make no mistake: To prevent aggression -- to keep America militarily prepared -- I will oppose the defense budget-slashers who are out of tune with what America needs to keep freedom secure and safe. (Applause.)

You know, most Americans know that when it comes to national defense, finishing second means finishing last. So they reject what the House Armed Services Committee recently suggested: unacceptable cuts from our defense budget for Fiscal Year 1991. Most Americans know, too, that giving peace a chance does not mean taking a chance on peace. So they endorse giving the military the tools to do its job: The Peacekeeper, the Midgetman, B-2 bomber, and the Strategic Defense Initiative. Americans want arms negotiations to succeed -- but they know that even a START treaty will not help our security if we disarm unilaterally. Let us never forget that our strong national defense policies have helped us gain the peace. We need a strong defense today to maintain that peace. I will fight for that defense -- and I need your help. So help me convince the Congress, given recent events, to take another look and to adequately fund our defense budget. (Applause.)

Let me tell you a little story about why I feel so strongly. I was talking to some of the young soldiers who liberated Panama -- we invited them to come with General Thurman and others to the Cabinet Room for a briefing from me. I asked one of them -- a medic -- about the operation. Corporal Roderick Ringstaff spoke of combat and he spoke of the heroics of others -- but not of his own. Next to him was his commanding officer, and so his commanding officer filled in the rest. This medic had been wounded, but repeatedly braved fire to rescue others wounded -- pulling soldier after soldier to safety. For that, he was awarded the Silver Star for Bravery. Listening, I thought to myself: I will never send young men and women into battle with less than the very best that this nation can provide them. (Applause.) I will never -- I will never, ever -- let Americans like this down.

August 1990 has witnessed what history will judge one of the most crucial deployments of allied power since World War II. Two weeks ago, I called for the complete, immediate, and unconditional withdrawal of all Iraqi forces from Kuwait; second, the restoration of Kuwait's legitimate government; third, the security and the stability of Saudi Arabia, and the Persian Gulf; and fourth, the

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safety and protection of American citizens abroad.

Today, I say, those objectives are, and will remain, unchanged. (Applause.) Will it take time? Of course. For we're engaged in a cause larger than ourselves. A cause perhaps best shown by words many of you remember -- words spoken by one of the greatest Americans of our time to allied soldiers and sailors, and airmen.

"The eyes of the world are upon you," he told them. "The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you." And then he concluded with this moving prayer: "Let us all beseech the blessing of almighty God, upon this great and noble undertaking."

Fellow veterans, more than half of all VFW members fought in World War II -- many of you serving under the man who spoke those words, Dwight David Eisenhower. You know how America remains the hope of "liberty-loving people everywhere." Half a century ago, the world had the chance to stop a ruthless aggressor, and missed it. I pledge to you: We will not make that mistake again. (Applause.)

For, you see, together, we can successfully oppose tyranny -- and help those nations who look to us for leadership and vision. Thank you for your support and your prayers. And may God bless the land we so deeply love -- the United States of America.

Thank you all and God bless you. (Applause.)

END

11:04 A.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Baltimore, Maryland)

For Immediate Release

August 20, 1990

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS 91ST NATIONAL CONVENTION

Baltimore Arena
Baltimore, Maryland

10:39 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you so much. Please be seated. And it's a privilege to join you and a deep personal pleasure to renew old ties -- greet new friends. My thanks to all of you -- but especially to Walter, to you -- Walter Hogan, doing a great job as commander-in-chief. Following the likes of Larry Rivers isn't easy, we all know that -- but Walter's done the VFW proud. I also know we're looking forward to the same kind of strong leadership from James Kimery. And let me offer my thanks again to another old friend, Cooper Holt, a real legend who gave so many years of service to the VFW. Cooper, we welcome you. (Applause.)

Next, I want to thank my outstanding Veterans Secretary, fellow VFW member, Ed Derwinski. (Applause.) Ed's got so much going on -- but I'm especially happy to see the work he's doing to improve these veterans' hospitals. His department is intent on serving you -- much as you have served America. (Applause.)

I'm glad to see the Secretary of the Army with us today -- an old friend of mine, a friend of yours, Mike Stone. And let us remember those who could not be with us. Our administration will not forget our POWs and MIAs, as well as those brave men and women -- (applause) -- as well as those brave men and women who gave what Lincoln termed, "the last full measure of devotion."

Again, my acknowledgement to Mike Stone, and also Baltimore's Mayor, who courteously came to greet me -- Kurt Schmoke. Glad to see you here, sir. And, finally, today's -- also let me single out today's honorees, Budd Dudley and my own United Nations -- our own United Nations Ambassador Tom Pickering, who is doing an outstanding job up there in the United Nations for the United States of America. (Applause.) Both Bud and Tom being honored appropriately by you tonight.

Apologies for keeping you waiting. There are some events going on around the world. And I was on the telephone to a good friend of the United States, President Ozal of Turkey; and also to another great friend of the United States, Prime Minister Thatcher of the United Kingdom. And I must say I'm proud of the support that we are all getting around the world. (Applause.)

You know, as a veteran, I want to salute this organization on its 91st year. By supporting our nation's veterans, the VFW has enriched America. And I'd like to take a moment to ask your support for a man who, I'm convinced, will also enrich America. I want to work in a strong plug -- and I'm talking about our Supreme Court nominee, Judge David Souter. (Applause.) I see the New Hampshire delegation is here. (Laughter.) Well, they know something we all know, and that is that he is an exceptional jurist and a brilliant legal mind. He will be a voice of excellence on the nation's highest court, and I call on the Senate to confirm him without delay. (Applause.)

But this morning, I'm also grateful to have this special

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opportunity to discuss an issue of great concern to all Americans: the crisis in the Persian Gulf. A crisis that will require American planning, patience, and, yes, personal sacrifice. But a crisis that we must -- and will -- meet if we are to stop aggression, help our friends, and protect our own interests and the peace and stability of countries around the globe. (Applause.)

Eighteen days ago, these beliefs prompted me to take action in the Middle East to restore the sovereignty of Kuwait and deter those who threaten friendly countries and the vital interests of America. I acted knowing that our cause would not be easy -- but that our cause is right. And that while one should not underestimate those who endanger peace, an even greater mistake would be to underestimate America's commitment to our friends when our friends are imperiled. (Applause.) Or our commitment to international order when that, too, is imperiled.

Today, the outcome is not yet decided. Hard choices remain. But of this we are certain: America will not be intimidated. When some ask, where does America stand, our answer is, America stands where it always has -- against aggression -- against those who would use force to replace the rule of law. (Applause.)

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For, you see, together, we can successfully oppose tyranny -- and help those nations who look to us for leadership and vision. Thank you for your support and your prayers. And may God bless the land we so deeply love -- the United States of America.

Thank you all and God bless you. (Applause.)

END

11:04 A.M. EDT

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES



August 2, 1990

Mr. Ted Garmey
Room 111, OEOB
White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Garmey:

Enclosed is a kit containing materials on the VFW. If you need additional information, please give me a call.

Listed below are suggested "talking points":

- Does the Bush Administration intend to grant full diplomatic recognition - including the exchange of ambassadors - to Communist Vietnam? (B)
- Please outline the steps the Bush Administration has taken to resolve the POW/MIA issue in regard to both Vietnam and Korea. (A), (B)
- What role will U.S. ground troops in Europe play now that the "Iron Curtain" has been raised and NATO is being restructured?
- Does the Bush Administration plan to continue to speak out in favor of a constitutional amendment to protect the Flag from desecration? (C)
- What is the Bush Administration position on the 1977 Panama Canal Treaties?
- Will there be a new direction to U.S. policy concerning Castro's Cuba? (D)
- Where does the Administration stand with regard to preserving the integrity of the VA health care system?

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Richard K. Kolb

Richard K. Kolb, Director
Public Relations

RKK/pta

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feeling Exxon was going to pull back on an agreement or fail to fulfill an agreement they'd made with us, with the Government or with the State of Alaska, I would be very much exercised about that and try my best to do something about it.

Thank you all very much.

Note: The President's 19th news conference began at 1:15 p.m. in the Briefing Room at the White House.

Remarks at the Annual Meeting of the National League of POW/MIA Families and on Signing the National POW/MIA Recognition Day Proclamation

July 28, 1989

Well, thank you, George and Ann. And wasn't that music magnificent—add to the occasion? And let me say to all of you that it's an honor to be back with the National League of Families. Earlier I was reflecting on the magnitude of what you've endured through so many years of uncertainty. And despite your burdens, you brought about a change in our nation that will never be reversed. Your organization provides us all with a stirring example of how citizens working together can help craft sound policy.

And as you know, Barbara and I returned from Central and Eastern Europe just 2 weeks ago. And in the faces of the brave workers of Gdansk and the hopeful students of Budapest, I saw a truth that cannot be denied: The democratic ideal is winning the hearts of people all around the world. And it is this ideal that we honor when we fly the flag. And it is for this ideal that so many Americans were ready when their country called.

Today, we see the symbol of this commitment, the League's POW-MIA flag, on permanent display in the rotunda of our nation's Capitol. It stands in a position of tremendous honor and it will not come down until we have the fullest possible accounting of your missing loved ones. Your flag can be seen across this land, over statehouses and fire stations and schools and

military installations and stadiums, even on ships at sea, a stirring reminder that America's sons are still missing.

The ideals for which your loved ones fought may finally be coming to pass, the failure of totalitarian and repressive Communist regimes. The evidence is clear through recent events in China, the Soviet Union, and Cambodia where Vietnam appears to finally be withdrawing its troops. Some of our finest young men and women were lost during the many long years of the Vietnam War. And the divisions that resulted from our involvement there shook our country to its very core. But as tragic as the loss of a loved one is, even more difficult to endure is the uncertainty which, for you, has extended over so many years. And now we are coming to a time when the divisions of the Vietnam War are healing. We've let go of some of the bitterness of the past. But with this reconciliation comes a temptation to forget those who served. And yet we will not forget and we will never break ranks.

My friend and predecessor, Ronald Reagan, had a personal commitment to determine the fates of your missing loved ones. And because of his commitment and your perseverance, the policies of this organization are now the policies of the United States Government. When I sought this office—when I sought the Presidency, I renewed President Reagan's pledge that we would write no last chapters, we would close no books, we would put away no final memories until your questions about missing and possible prisoners of war have been answered.

And it is as your President that I repeat this pledge today. Let me simply state the policy of this new administration. The fullest possible accounting remains a matter of highest national priority. We will do everything that a government can to recover the missing and, if we discover proof of captivity, we will take action to bring our men home. And so long as you must live without knowing the fate of your loved ones, the United States will insist, in the name of humanity, that the governments of Indochina give the fullest possible accounting.

Frustration on this sensitive issue is totally understandable. And I hear those who say more must be done. And if more can be

done, then it will be. And understand this, I don't counsel a timid patience, I counsel a bold persistence. And our persistence is showing some results—I should say your persistence. Since the government embraced the goals of this organization, many more of you have found answers. Each answer has been another sad truth to learn. But every POW-MIA relative that I meet tells me that truth is preferable to the greater agony, that of not knowing. The task of learning more is daunting, but we can count on some powerful allies.

First are the national veterans organizations, those who have stood side by side with us through these long years. And it was these veteran groups, supporting you, which protested government indifference to the POW-MIA issue in earlier years, and their contribution has been indispensable. Other partners in our quest are the men and women in government who are dedicating their careers to learning the truth about our POW's and MIA's. These public servants are not uninspired bureaucrats just going through the motions. They have a deep and they have an abiding commitment to their task. This is a commitment shared by people in the military services, in the Defense Intelligence Agency, in embassies throughout the world and among those American pilots who bring our fallen soldiers out of Hanoi to at long last come home. You also have many friends in both parties in Congress. I especially want to commend Bob Dole and John McCain and Steve Solarz and Bob Lagomarsino and Ben Gilman, for showing the governments of Indochina the strength of bipartisan congressional commitment to find answers. To keep this issue at the forefront, they have again passed resolutions establishing National POW-MIA Recognition Day this year on September 15th.

I just must mention how invaluable the guidance of Ann Mills Griffiths has been through the years. Her knowledge and determination are an inspiration and her participation in the interagency group provides critical insights. And so we will, Ann, continue to look to you for advice and leadership and thank you for all you've done.

And let me just say finally, I pledge to do all I can. In just a few minutes, I will sign this proclamation calling upon all Ameri-

cans to honor their missing countrymen and those who served as POW's by participating in ceremonies across our nation. But this is just a beginning.

In Southeast Asia, there are Americans who are unaccounted for. And as I said in my Inaugural Address, in part, "Assistance can be shown here and will be long remembered. Good will begets good will." And we appreciate Vietnam's increased responsiveness to that appeal. An unprecedented level of joint operations has already brought significant progress. But despite our increased activities, many questions remain. And once again, I call on Hanoi to swiftly dispel the shadow of doubt, to shed light on the fate of your loved ones. I call on Hanoi to remove the last vestige of armed conflict between us. We look forward to normalizing our relations with Vietnam, once a comprehensive settlement has been achieved in Cambodia. And that settlement must include genuine power sharing with the noncommunist Cambodians, led by Prince Sihanouk, and an internationally-verified troop withdrawal. But Hanoi must clearly understand that as a practical matter the pace and scope of this process will be directly affected by the seriousness of their cooperation on the POW-MIA and other humanitarian issues.

In Laos, so many questions remain and so few answers have been received. In light of the difficulties involved, their agreement earlier this year to a year-round program of cooperation is, indeed, encouraging. And you can be certain that we are seeking to expand this agreement in every possible way. And we also welcome the Lao Government's agreement to work bilaterally with us on combating the international scourge of narcotics. Implementing this agreement will be critically important to our improved bilateral relationship, which has, indeed, expanded steadily since 1982. We look to the future in our relations with Laos, recognizing the importance of steps they are taking toward opening their society and developing their economy for the good of the Lao people.

To the families of those missing in Cambodia, I must tell you that our efforts to gain Phnom Penh's humanitarian cooperation on resolving the fates of your missing

loved ones have thus far been unsuccessful. And despite their public claims to be holding remains of some Americans, officials there have been deaf to our appeals. And I have just asked our Secretary of State, Jim Baker, to raise this issue during the international conference in Cambodia beginning this weekend. I call on Phnom Penh to act responsibly, humanely, and to return these remains. And failure to do so will surely hinder their efforts to gain international respect and support.

The policies pursued during the past 8 years have shown some success. Incomplete? Yes. But progress is being made because our government is giving it high priority. And as we proceed, we will continue to search for ways to improve the process. We will continue to assemble the best resources, technology and, most of all, qualified people to interview refugees and evaluate the intelligence information and negotiate with foreign governments.

It is with that last mission in mind that I reappointed a man of the highest integrity and qualifications, General Jack Vessey, as my special POW-MIA emissary to Hanoi. I know that he was here with you this morning, and senior officials from the Departments of State and Defense and the National Security Council will follow me here. And I have charged them all, all of them, to do their utmost. They know and share my deep commitment to your missing loved ones and to you.

The principal responsibility for the POW-MIA issue rests with the Department of Defense. And for that reason, we are fortunate to have a very talented public servant as our Secretary of Defense, Dick Cheney. His years in Congress and his knowledge of intelligence matters give him a rare understanding of, and a deep appreciation for, your concern.

In closing, I want you to know that in my frequent travels to cities and towns across America, I see many heartfelt demonstrations of support for our cause. Americans know that across our land, every Thanksgiving, there are families that still set an empty chair at the table. We know that faded photographs and school mementos are still being lovingly kept in scrapbooks. And questions remain and will remain until answered. And now the mothers, fathers,

wives, children and friends of another great power share the same kind of grief, share with you lingering doubts about missing loved ones. That this power, the Soviet Union, backed the North Vietnamese; and the United States backed the Afghan freedom fighters—there's an irony there. But there is no room in the American heart for a mean-spirited and petty indifference. Far from it. I am pleased to note that Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev recently made a humanitarian appeal for our help in obtaining the fullest possible accounting for Soviet citizens still prisoner and missing in Afghanistan. And let me answer him today—we will do everything we can, everything that we possibly can. And in return, we confidently expect that the Soviets will do all they can do to encourage more serious and timely cooperation from their allies. Working together, we can resolve the anguish of many families in two lands. And we can do something more, we can build a new spirit of peace.

In Ecclesiastes, it is written that there is a time for war, a time for peace, and a time to heal. We will never forget those who served our country. And when we receive final answers about their fate, then this will truly be a time for healing. Thank you, God bless you, and God bless the United States of America. Thank you very much. And now, I'm honored to sign this proclamation.

Note: The President spoke at 3:25 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom at the J.W. Marriott Hotel. In his opening remarks, he referred to George Brooks and Ann Griffiths, of the National League of POW/MIA Families.

**Proclamation 6002—National
POW/MIA Recognition Day, 1989**
July 28, 1989

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Freedom is precious because it has been won for America at a very high price. Much of its cost has been borne by the brave and selfless members of our Armed Forces. Few

Americans could more fully appreciate the value of liberty and self-government than those servicemen who were captured and imprisoned while defending those ideals. Many of these Americans were subjected to brutal treatment and torture by their captors in violation of fundamental standards of morality and international codes for the treatment of war prisoners. Many never survived.

The courage, faith, and devotion to duty demonstrated by these servicemen who risked their freedom—indeed, their lives—for our sake has moved the hearts of all Americans. Our Nation will not forget these heroes and the tremendous sacrifices they made for our country, nor will we forget our obligation to their families. All Americans recognize the profound suffering of those who continue to await word of their loved ones' fate.

The U.S. commitment to securing the release of any U.S. servicemen who may still be held against their will, to obtaining the fullest possible accounting for the missing, and to repatriation of all recoverable American remains, is unshakable. Because this Nation recognizes the dignity and worth of every individual and the inestimable value of every human life, we will not allow our POWs and MIAs to become lost to us. We shall continue to seek the truth about their fate and to ensure the peace of certainty for their families. The fullest possible accounting for the missing will continue to be a matter of highest priority.

In March, a POW/MIA Flag was raised in the Capitol Rotunda as a symbol of our Nation's concern for those servicemen who remain missing and unaccounted for, and as an expression of our determination to obtain a full and satisfactory accounting for them. That flag shall remain on display there until the POW/MIA issue is thus resolved.

To reaffirm our promise to keep faith with America's missing servicemen and their families, the POW/MIA Flag will be flown over the White House, the Departments of State, Defense, and Veterans Affairs, the Selective Service System headquarters, and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on September 15, 1989. It will also fly over the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

In recognition of the special debt of gratitude all Americans owe to those who sacrificed their freedom in the service of our country, and as an expression of our support for their families, the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 129, has designated September 15, 1989, as "National POW/MIA Recognition Day" and authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this occasion.

Now, Therefore, I, George Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Friday, September 15, 1989, as National POW/MIA Recognition Day. I call upon all Americans to recognize that day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-eighth day of July, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fourteenth.

George Bush

(Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:23 a.m., July 31, 1989)

Executive Order 12685—Noncompetitive Conversion of Personal Assistants to Employees With Disabilities

July 28, 1989

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, including sections 3301 and 3302 of title 5, United States Code, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Upon recommendation by the employing agency, and subject to qualifications and other requirements prescribed by the Office of Personnel Management, an employee in a position in the excepted service under 5 C.F.R. 213.3102(11) as a reader, interpreter, or personal assistant for a handicapped employee, whose employment in such position is no longer necessary

(B)

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

Embargoed until delivered -- 10:20 AM EST, July 13, 1990

TEXT OF REMARKS BY THE VICE PRESIDENT

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF POW/MIA
FAMILIES' 21ST ANNUAL MEETING

Main Ballroom, J. W. Marriott Hotel
Washington, D.C.

Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Griffiths, Members of the Board of Directors, honored guests, Ladies and Gentlemen: I am pleased and very honored to be here with you today. But I also feel very humble -- humbled by all you have endured and by all you have accomplished.

For many years you have worked to obtain answers about your missing loved ones, and you have taught us some very important lessons:

- You have shown us that ordinary citizens, working together, can make a difference.
- You have taught us that adversity and tragedy, suffering and loss, can be borne with dignity, courage and determination.
- Above all, you have demonstrated that loyalty and commitment, dedication and perseverance, faith and love, can rouse a government from its apathy, and affect the course of international affairs.

Let me assure you that we deeply appreciate the League's continued guidance, responsible criticism and support. Your courage, never faltering, is a beacon which continues to light our path.

As I hope you know, during my years in the House and Senate, I worked to help combat indifference about our POW's and MIA's. I'm especially proud that the Quayle Amendment helped restore well-deserved educational benefits to certain beneficiaries of veterans who were killed or are missing in action in Vietnam. And I closely followed the efforts of our government to obtain the fullest possible accounting of our servicemen and civilians still missing in Southeast Asia.

Like you, I recognize the complexities of gaining real cooperation from the Indochinese governments. I'm also well aware of the difficulties you had to overcome in the early years, when your appeals to our own government seemed to be met, all too often, with indifference and impatience. But your efforts over the years have brought success in one important respect: the high priority our government now assigns to resolving this issue.

I am proud to be part of an Administration which has carried forward the serious commitment established by former President Reagan. His leadership in earlier years, and the leadership of then Vice President Bush, set our

entire government in motion. And make no mistake about it: You are not alone! Our entire government -- our entire nation -- stands behind you.

America's determination to learn the fate of her missing sons is not a partisan issue or a passing fad. It is a national obligation -- a debt of honor that we as a people owe those who fought on our behalf for the freedoms and values we hold dear.

When he spoke to you last year, in this very room, President Bush repeated President Reagan's promise, "that we would write no last chapters, we would close no books, we would put away no final memories, until your questions about missing and possible prisoners of war have been answered."

Today, I renew this solemn pledge. The fullest possible accounting will continue to be a matter of highest national priority until we achieve success. We will do everything a government can do to recover your loved ones. And, if we discover proof of captivity, action will be taken to bring our men home.

Of greatest concern to all of us is the haunting possibility that some of our men may still be held captive. Your government is exhausting all avenues to resolve this issue, and ensure that no one is left behind.

I pledge to you today, on behalf of the President and the entire government, that until we have achieved our goals, we will not cut back our commitment.

As we know, the overwhelming majority of the 2,302 Americans still missing were either lost in Vietnam or in areas of Laos and Cambodia under Vietnamese control. President Bush has reappointed General Jack Vessey as his Special POW/MIA Emissary to Hanoi. General Vessey has met with Vietnamese authorities on several occasions, both in New York and Hanoi.

We believe that Vietnam could do more to resolve the cases of missing Americans. The increased POW/MIA activities in Vietnam can be fully productive only if Vietnam makes the political decision truly to cooperate with us. Vietnam can provide the information, historical records and cooperation necessary to resolve the contradictions and unanswered questions which still exist.

Why they don't recognize that doing so is in their own best interest remains a mystery. To me, the advantages Vietnam would gain by resolving this issue rapidly are obvious. Vietnam professes to want normalization, yet it fails to cooperate seriously on an issue of humanitarian importance to every American.

I again appeal to the government of Vietnam to make the fundamental decisions necessary to resolve this issue.

The Vietnamese government must realize that cooperation now, to clear up this issue of tremendous national concern, can remove the last vestige of the war and lay the groundwork for improved relations in the context of a comprehensive settlement in Cambodia.

This is not a new message, but it's an important message, a message Hanoi should understand, and accept, so that we can move forward together toward a day when relations can be normal.

Americans are not a vindictive people. As a nation, we look to the future, not the past. Sadly, Vietnam remains a source of instability in the region, as its actions in Cambodia indicate. Vietnam holds the key to peace in Cambodia, and we continue to hope that they will turn it one day soon.

As for Laos, there is some reason for optimism. Agreements reached in early 1989 were strengthened and expanded early this year to include efforts to resolve the fate of individuals last known to be in the hands of Pathet Lao forces. I want to publicly recognize and thank the Lao government for their genuine commitment to this cooperative process.

Drugs are another issue of vital national concern that has received priority in our dealings with the Lao government. We desire greater bilateral cooperation with

the Lao to combat the international narcotics problem. Continued progress in these respects will inevitably lead to a better relationship and should serve as an example to Hanoi that past bitterness can be overcome through genuine cooperation.

As for Cambodia, cautious optimism is the best description of our efforts to account for Americans missing there. As you know, during a trip to Phnom Penh early this year, Senator Chuck Robb again raised our offer to repatriate any remains which could be those of Americans. We hope that authorities in Phnom Penh will honor their agreement to cooperate on humanitarian issues.

I am encouraged by their acceptance of our proposal to send a small forensics team to review all available remains for repatriation and burial at home, should they prove to be Americans.

Ladies and Gentlemen, if it were possible for the government of the United States to provide each of you with the answers you seek, you would have had them long ago. But the answers are not yet in our hands. I say "not yet," because our efforts will continue. And I promise you that the Bush Administration will continue to do everything in its power to give you the answers.

Let me conclude these remarks on a personal note: As you know, during the Vietnam era, I served in the Indiana

National Guard. Some members of the Indiana National Guard were called to duty in Vietnam, and four of them made the ultimate sacrifice. I did not serve in Vietnam. And while I have not apologized, and never will, for my National Guard service, I recognize that the members of my generation who served in Vietnam made a sacrifice for their country that was far, far greater than mine.

The men and women who served in Vietnam were heroes -- not just because of their deeds of valor -- but because they served at a time when words like duty, honor and country had lost their meaning for many. For the rest of my life, I will live in admiration of their courage.

I believe all Americans have come to realize that our servicemen in Vietnam truly were heroes. And with the passage of time, and the wisdom that time bequeathes, all Americans will recognize that theirs was a noble effort and a just cause.

The Vietnam Memorial is the most often visited memorial in Washington. President Bush most recently visited the memorial early on the morning of Flag day. As the President honored those who gave their lives in Vietnam, so shall we continue our efforts to seek a full accounting of America's prisoners and missing in action. We shall not forget them.

Thank you and God bless you.

NATO and agreed on the continuing vital role of the alliance and of U.S. forces stationed in Europe as guarantors of stability and security.

The President reviewed the results of the U.S.-Soviet summit and discussed Prime Minister de Maizière's recent meetings with President Gorbachev at the Warsaw Pact meeting in Moscow. The President outlined his proposals for a transformed Atlantic alliance, further negotiations on conventional and nuclear forces, and a stronger role for the CSCE [Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe] process. He and Prime Minister de Maizière agreed that these steps were important to demonstrate to the Soviet Union that a united Germany in NATO is no threat to Soviet security.

Proclamation 6144—State-Supported Homes for Veterans Week, 1990

June 11, 1990

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

When they served as active members of the United States Armed Forces, our Nation's veterans often endured great risks and hardships to defend the lives and liberty of others. As a measure of the lasting respect and gratitude we owe to each of them, our Nation has developed a system of benefits for its veterans and established a Cabinet-level Department to administer those benefits.

The fifty States have likewise established government agencies to assist veterans. One of the most important functions of these State agencies has been to operate homes dedicated to providing needed care for ill, elderly, or disabled veterans. Shortly after the Civil War, a number of States established homes for disabled soldiers and sailors. The first State veterans home was founded in 1864 by the State of Connecticut. Today there are 60 State-supported homes for veterans in 37 States across the

country. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, State homes for veterans provided 4.8 million days of care for veterans last year alone.

State homes for veterans were originally built or acquired with State funds and operated entirely at State expense. In 1888, however, the Federal Government began to cover part of the cost of the care borne by the States. Later, the Congress authorized Federal matching grants to assist States in constructing nursing homes and domiciliary facilities. These grants also assist the States in expanding or otherwise remodeling existing buildings for the provision of domiciliary care, nursing services, and other medical services to veterans. By providing needed care to our veterans, the States help the Federal Government to carry out an important responsibility. We take pride in this long-standing example of a constructive Federal-State partnership.

Those dedicated to promoting the interests of our Nation's veterans have long appreciated the importance of State veterans homes. With the aging of the veteran population, State homes are becoming an increasingly valuable resource. Indeed, in the years ahead, State homes will play a critical role in helping to meet rising demands for nursing services and domiciliary care among veterans.

To enhance public awareness of the importance of State homes for veterans, the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 231, has designated the week of June 10 through June 16, 1990, as "State-Supported Homes for Veterans Week" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this week.

Now, Therefore, I, George Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week of June 10 through June 16, 1990, as State-Supported Homes for Veterans Week. I call upon the American people to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eleventh day of June, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety, and of the Independence of the

United States of America the two hundred and fourteenth.

George Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 3:26 p.m., June 11, 1990]

Letter to the Chairmen of the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee on the Canada-United States Free Trade Agreement

June 12, 1990

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Pursuant to section 103 of the United States-Canada Free-Trade Agreement Implementation Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-449), I am pleased to submit the attached report and related documents pertaining to a proposed action to accelerate elimination of duties on designated products under the United States-Canada Free-Trade Agreement.

Sincerely,

George Bush

Note: Identical letters were sent to Lloyd Bentsen, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and Dan Rostenkowski, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee. Proclamation 6142, which implemented the accelerated schedule of duty elimination under the agreement, was published in the "Federal Register" of May 30.

Exchange With Reporters

June 12, 1990

The President's Birthday

The President. It's a vast improvement. [Laughter] Helen [Helen Thomas, United Press International], where's yours?

Q. I don't know what they're running for. [Laughter]

The President. No answers—only those wearing hats get their question answered. [Laughter]

Q. Touché.

The President. One birthday question.

Q. Have you gotten a birthday card from the President of the Soviet Union?

The President. No, I have not—that I'm aware of. But I've got to be careful; he may well have sent something.

German Membership in NATO

Q. Mr. President, have you seen his latest remarks where he's proposed associate membership for Germany in NATO and the Warsaw Pact?

The President. That matter was discussed here. So, I haven't seen any recent remarks, except I saw a proposal of some consideration, and of course, that has been discussed with the leaders in Eastern Europe. It's been discussed here, and our position is well-known to him, which is that a unified Germany should be in NATO with no conditions. But the more talking we do, the more convinced I am that they will see that what we're proposing is most stabilizing and is best for the Soviet Union as well as Western Europe and Eastern Europe. So, we'll keep on trying. But these ideas—let them float them out there. And we'll listen, and we'll discuss them without rancor.

Thank you all very much.

Note: The exchange began at 10:05 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House, prior to a meeting with Republican congressional leaders. The reporters covering the meeting entered the room wearing birthday hats.

Remarks Upon Receiving a Replica of the Iwo Jima Memorial and an Exchange With Reporters

June 12, 1990

The President. Well, first, my profound thanks to Mr. Felix de Weldon. A great pleasure, sir, having you here in the Rose Garden, and of course my old friend Senator Mark Hatfield. Mr. de Weldon has just presented me with this beautiful replica of the memorial, which he designed. It's of a battle in which Senator Hatfield served, the battle of Iwo Jima.

You all know the story: Early in 1945, 8 square miles of black sand and volcanic rubble, and gallant marines fought hand to hand, yard by yard; and finally, Mount Suribachi. And when the marines reached the

top, six men raised a piece of pipe upright, and from one end floated a flag. And in the most famous image of World War II, a photograph was taken; and from it came, ultimately, the Iwo Jima Memorial. This memorial embodies self-expression and opportunity and democracy for all.

And, well, so does another symbol that I'd like to talk about here today: concern for the American flag and what it represents. That concern is not new. For instance, 75 years ago, President Woodrow Wilson said: "A patriotic American is never so proud of his flag as when it comes to mean to others, as to himself, a symbol of liberty." He knew that the flag was more than mere fabric; rather, a mosaic of values and of liberty.

What that flag encapsules is too sacred to be abused. You all know yesterday's Supreme Court decision. It wasn't surprising. One year ago this month, many of us deeply concerned about protecting the American flag from willful desecration predicted that any congressional legislation would be declared unconstitutional. I take no joy that this prediction has been upheld.

Accordingly, I want to take the chance today to renew my commitment to the surest, safest way to guarantee that, while speech remains free, flag desecration is unacceptable and must carry a price, and, yes, a constitutional amendment to protect the truly unique symbol of all that we are and that we believe. Our constitutional amendment will preserve the widest conceivable range of options for free expression. It applies only to the flag. Its language is simple but eloquent: The Congress and the States shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

Our forefathers, with remarkable foresight, provided a mechanism for amending the Constitution. And they wished it to be used sparingly and wisely, and it has been, and it must today. Just as the Constitution is a unique symbol of America, so is our flag.

And as Justice Stevens said so eloquently last year when he spoke of the ideas of liberty: "If those ideas are worth fighting for, and our history demonstrates that they are, it cannot be true that the flag that uniquely symbolizes their power is not itself worthy of protection from unnecessary desecration." Amending the Constitution to protect the flag is not a matter of partisan

politics. It's not a Democrat nor a Republican issue. I don't see it as either liberal or conservative. It's an American issue. And so, I call on the Congress to act by July 4th, this nation's birthday. I know that honest and patriotic Americans may differ on this question, but I am absolutely convinced that this is the proper course for our country. I feel it deep in my heart because the flag and what it means is carried in the hearts of all Americans.

Henry Ward Beecher once said: "A thoughtful mind, when it sees a nation's flag, sees not the flag, not the flag only, but the nation itself." Through a constitutional amendment, let us honor the greatest symbol of this great country.

And now, Mr. de Weldon and Senator, thank you very much for coming to the Rose Garden, and thank you for this magnificent presentation. It is most appropriate, and I'm proud to have it at my side as I express my heartfelt support for this important constitutional step. Thank you very much, sir. Thank you.

Flag Desecration

Q. Senator Hatfield, are you in favor of this amendment?

Q. Mr. President, what do you say to those who say every country has a flag, but only we have the Bill of Rights. It's never been amended; why should we amend it today?

The President. I say that the forefathers provided for amendment of the Constitution, including the Bill of Rights, and that the flag is a unique symbol. I can't speak for the other countries, but I can speak for how strongly I feel about this being the unique symbol of the United States. And it should be protected. The Congress tried to protect it by legislation; that legislation did not stand up. And it wasn't Republicans alone or Democrats alone; it was Republicans and Democrats that voted for that legislation. When it was knocked down by the Court, I feel there's no other way to go but this constitutional amendment, which was provided for. So, that's what I say. I keep emphasizing the word "unique" symbol of the United States of America.

Q. But isn't burning it free speech, sir?

Q. Mr. President, if it's not a partisan matter—

The President. No, there's some—let me get this question right here—because the Court has determined that there are excesses to free speech. And I would like to see one of these excesses be the burning of the American flag. So, yes, I am all for free speech, but I am for protecting the flag against desecration. The law books are full of restrictions on free speech, and we ought to have this be one of them. Shouting "fire" in a crowded theater is a good one for you.

Q. Mr. President, but that endangers people. Does burning the flag endanger people?

The President. Yes. It endangers the fabric of our country, and I think it ought to be outlawed.

Q. If it's not a matter of partisan politics, Mr. President, why are members of your party already gearing up to put together 30-second campaign commercials dealing with their opponents' votes?

The President. I know nothing about those campaign commercials, and I expect both sides will be talking about their position on this issue. I disagree with what I heard the chairman of the Democratic Party [Ronald H. Brown] say when he made a political comment about this. And I'm putting it in what I think is best for the United States. I feel strongly about it. That's my answer.

Any others? Yes, Brit [Brit Hume, ABC News]? I get credit for a press conference now. I've been asked more than three questions. So, I want to put this down as number 56.

Q. Senator Hatfield, could we hear your position on this issue, sir?

Senator Hatfield. It's the President's press conference, not mine.

Q. Will you be commenting on this during the election?

The President. You're darn right. I want this done now. I hope it will be out of the way by the time of the election.

Q. Will you talk about individual Members of Congress position on this?

The President. I will talk about the fact that I think the flag should be protected by a constitutional amendment.

Palestine Liberation Organization

Q. Can I ask a question on another topic? Have you made up your mind on continuing or not continuing the PLO dialog?

The President. No, no decision on that yet.

Q. How close are you?

The President. John [John Cochran, NBC News], I can't help you on how close. There's quite a bit going on behind the scenes, but I just can't tell you. Incidentally, I had a talk with President Mubarak [of Egypt], and that subject came up today. But I'm not prepared to make my decision known on that yet.

Q. Are you giving Arafat [Yasser Arafat, chairman of the PLO] some more time?

The President. I want to see that terrorist act condemned and those who did it condemned.

Nelson Mandela

Q. We've heard reports, Mr. President, that the CIA was involved in Nelson Mandela's arrest in 1962. Would you offer him an apology when he arrives here?

The President. I don't know what I'll do about that. But I'm very pleased that he's coming here; I'm very pleased that he is free. I saw a story about that, but I cannot attest to it. I haven't looked into it yet.

Q. Was that an appropriate role for the CIA then or now?

The President. What role?

Q. To be involved in the—essentially turning over someone—

The President. I can't comment on that matter.

Any other questions?

The President's Birthday

Q. How does it feel to be 66?

The President. Slightly worse than being 65, but not bad, not bad. In fact, this has been a happy birthday. I started off kind of regretting it, but along comes Mr. de Weldon. I'm not saying he says this is a birthday present, because this has been in the mill, but it's been a very good one. I feel like a spring colt. I'm ready to take two more questions, and that's it. It's been a good birthday. I hadn't thought so, but good cake, good cards, and not bad.

(D)

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 18, 1990

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON *AA for CW*

FROM: EDWARD E. McNALLY *EW*

SUBJECT: REMARKS FOR CUBAN INDEPENDENCE DAY RALLY

I. SUMMARY

Attached is draft remarks for Tuesday's South Lawn rally marking Cuban Independence Day.

II. DISCUSSION

On Tuesday afternoon, May 22, you will address approximately 2,000 Cuban Americans on the South Lawn to celebrate Cuban Independence Day.

One year ago, at this same event, you called on Castro to hold a plebescite in Cuba. Your remarks (10 minutes, on teleprompter) are designed to echo this challenge with a call for free elections in Cuba, with international monitoring, as was done in Nicaragua.

Balanced by the broad view and temperate tone of the remarks you will deliver at the Council of the Americas earlier that same morning, this "rally" speech is intended to further isolate Fidel Castro in the eyes of world opinion as the last hold-out of communism and dictatorship in the Western Hemisphere. Especially given the large Cuban-American audience for this speech, the rhetoric in this draft includes a "campaign rally" style with plenty of applause lines.

McNally/Simon
May 18, 1990
Draft Four (B:CUBA)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: CUBAN INDEPENDENCE DAY
THE SOUTH LAWN
TUESDAY, MAY 22, 1990, 2:00 P.M.

[ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS] Thank you. Thank you -- each of you -- for joining us at the White House for this important anniversary.

But we gather here today -- not only to commemorate an anniversary -- but to celebrate a democratic movement -- and to re-dedicate our efforts to the unfinished work of that movement.

In his final year as President, Dwight Eisenhower promised that America would do its best in the struggle to ensure that "communism [makes] no inroads into the free world."

Today, 30 years later, the talk is no longer of communist in-roads -- but communist hold-outs. \\\

The hold-out is Cuba. An island nation today surrounded on all sides not only by water -- but also by freedom. \\\

What a difference a year makes. When I met with you last May, television screens around the world burned with the image of a brave man and a bloody shirt -- the victim of Panama's lead-pipe politics. Today, Billy Ford holds office as the elected vice president of one of the continent's newest democracies.

But not the newest democracy. That honor belongs to Nicaragua -- and the courageous people who never gave up hope.

Panama. Nicaragua. Paraguay. Chile. The new breeze they call the Revolution of '89 swept across the world almost with a life of its own. But part of that life sprang from four decades of American resolve -- four decades of purpose and perseverance

from people like the freedom-loving Cuban-Americans we welcome to the White House today.

That American resolve had a name. It was called "containment." And it worked. Because today, the only thing anyone's trying to contain is the genie that's out of the bottle -- the spirit we call democracy.

Unlike communism, it cannot be denied.

When I took office, I promised you that "The day of the dictator is over." And earlier this spring, the last remaining dictator in South America turned over his presidential sash to a freely elected civilian president.

The last remaining dictator in South America -- but not the last remaining dictator in the Americas.

One remains. The Last Dictator. Fidel Castro. \\\

No man is an island. But there's an island that is one man. He's not a leader -- he's a warden. \\\ The Cuban people are not his constituents -- they're his prisoners. \\\

I think of those who fill Castro's isolation cells, jailed and mistreated for the sole "crime" of openly expressing their views. People like Mario Chanes [CHON-es], who fought alongside Castro, and then dared to challenge his dictatorship. Today he sits in isolation in a bare concrete cell. Held nearly 30 years, now in failing health, he is believed to be the world's longest serving political prisoner.

It's ironic that Castro confines Cuba's champions of freedom to isolation cells. Because the Cuba he's constructed stands

today cut off from the forces of democracy and freedom that surround it. And it's getting more isolated, and more alone, all the time.

Castro talks of "revolution." But he cannot ignore the Revolution of '89. Castro claims to represent the oppressed masses. But it was an electrician from Gdansk -- a playwright from Prague -- a housewife from Manila -- that stood up for the workers of the world. \\\

Across Eastern Europe, the comrades of Castro have given way to the common ground of democracy. Thanks to a switch in position by Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland, this spring the U.N. showed its resolve to continue to monitor human rights abuses in Cuba. It marked the first instance of Cuba's former communist allies turning against Castro on an internal political issue in an international organization.

The change -- and the contrast -- could not be more stark. Today, 99 percent of the people of this hemisphere live either in a democracy or a country that is on the democratic road. And one percent live under one dictator.

But one percent -- like one dictator -- is one too many. \\\

Mr. Castro, time is running out on the 20th Century. \\\

Time is running out on communism. \\\

And time is running out on dictators like you. \\\

For over thirty years, Castro has turned his back on the future by driving thousands of patriotic Cubans from his shores. These brave exiles arrived in the United States and other

countries and built a new life. But they never forgot an old dream. A dream of new opportunities and new horizons. Not the American dream -- but the dream of the Americas -- soon to be the world's first democratic hemisphere. \\\

And it's a dream that spans 500 years. Cuba, among the first lands sighted by Columbus and the seafaring pioneers of the Old World, has become the last to see the vision of the New.

And just as the story of modern America began in Cuba, it is in Cuba that the grim chapter called "communism" should end. That means an end to suppression at home. And an end to subversion abroad. Mr. Castro -- time is running out on the dictators. The tide of freedom is rushing in. And Mr. Castro -- time and tide wait for no man. \\\

One year ago today, I stood with you and challenged Fidel Castro to "take concrete and specific steps leading to free and fair elections and full democracy." I challenged him to "let the will of the people prevail."

He's responded with the same hollow claim he's repeated for 32 years -- that he has the popular support of the Cuban people. Well, he must be using the same pollster that showed Daniel Ortega winning by 30 points! \\\

Mr. Castro, do what Daniel Ortega did. Put it to a test. Hold free elections. Hold fair elections. And play by the rules: Secret ballots. Secure balloting. International monitoring during the election -- and sufficient time for the opposition to organize a campaign. No interference with

independent candidates and rallies. And permit independent newspapers and broadcasting.

You do this -- do it fairly -- and Cuba will regain its place in the community of nations. And that means victory for freedom. Victory for justice. Victory for Cuba and her people.

Unchain those ballot boxes. Let the people decide. \\\

If you deny them that right, history will not "absolve you" -- as you have so often claimed. To cite your old comrade Nikita Khrushchev -- the only thing history will do is bury you. \\\

The Revolution of '89 promises a new era for the New World. Not a world without borders -- but a world without barriers -- a world where our horizons are as limitless as the imagination.

In this, I ask you and every American for a renewed commitment to the cause of freedom and democracy. And I thank you for coming to the White House today -- and for honoring the ideal of a free and independent Cuba with your commitment every day.

Thank you -- God bless you -- and: Viva Cuba Libre! \\\

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Backgrounder

Contact: Steve VanBuskirk

Comprehensive Fact Sheet on the VFW

BACKGROUND

Year Founded	American Veterans of Foreign Service (Columbus, Ohio) and National Society of the Army of the Philippines (Denver) organized in 1899 and merged in 1914 to form the VFW.
Reason Founded	To secure rights and benefits for veterans of the Spanish-American War (1898) and the Philippine Insurrection (1899-1902).
Congressional Charter	1936
Current Size	2.1 million members.
Current Eligibility	Men and women who meet the following criteria — United States citizenship, foreign wartime or expeditionary service entitling the applicant to a campaign medal and an honorable discharge.
Membership	WWII - 52%, Korean War - 21%, Vietnam War - 24%, occupation duty and expeditionary service in 20 small campaigns - 3%.
National Headquarters	Kansas City, Missouri with a major office in Washington, D.C.

ORGANIZATION

Body	Over 10,500 Posts — located in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and a dozen foreign countries and territories — form the basic units of the VFW. All Posts are located within Departments, the term used for state and overseas organizations.
Elected Leadership	Walter G. Hogan of Greenfield, Wis. - Commander-in-Chief James L. Kimery of Albuquerque, N.M. - Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Bob Wallace of Milton, N.J. - Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief
Top National Officers	Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr. - Adjutant General Herbert W. Irwin - Quartermaster General

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AFFILIATES

Ladies Auxiliary	Founded in 1914. This national, volunteer group is open to women who are close relatives of VFW-eligible veterans. Current membership is over 760,000.
National Home	Located in Eaton Rapids, Michigan, the National Home has cared for families of deceased or disabled veterans since 1925.
VFW-PAC	The leading veterans Political Action Committee, the VFW-PAC has supported worthy candidates for federal office since 1980.
MOC	Founded in 1920, the Military Order of the Cootie provides VFW members the opportunity for closer social relationships as well as another outlet for contributing to the welfare of fellow veterans.

SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

National Veterans Service	Provides assistance to veterans and their families seeking a variety of veterans benefits.
National Legislative Service	Represents veterans in Washington, D.C. by lobbying for legislation beneficial to the nation's veterans.
National Employment and Civil Service	Monitors laws regarding the government's preference for veterans in federal employment and represents veterans who are not properly treated in the federal workplace or not fairly considered for federal employment.
National Security and Foreign Policy	Promotes the VFW's commitment to a strong national defense and foreign policy.
Americanism	Designed to stimulate interest in American history, institutions of government and civic responsibility through numerous celebrations and activities.
Voice of Democracy	National broadcast scriptwriting competition allowing high school students to examine various aspects of democracy.
Youth Activities	Sons of the VFW, Boy Scouts, youth sports, Junior Rifle Clubs, Jr./Sr. ROTC, Special Olympics, Child Identification, youth drill teams, Boy's Clubs, Civil Air Patrol and Jr. Olympics.
Safety Programs	Home protection, Drive to Survive, Bicycle Safety, drug abuse seminars, hunter safety and recognition of public servants.
Community Activities	"Keep America Beautiful" campaign, March of Dimes, various youth programs, observing patriotic holidays and volunteer work.

Fact Sheet/add two

Memorials	Promotion of memorials for veterans of Vietnam, Korea, WWII, as well as specific groups of veterans such as women.
Buddy Poppy Sales	A source of revenue since 1922; sales help fund various VFW service programs as well as the National Home.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Pre-World War II	Establishment of the Veterans Administration, WWI Bonus, pension bills for veterans and their families, and compensation/training for disabled veterans.
Post-World War II	GI bills, maintaining the VA hospital system, developing a national cemetery system, creation of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee and the cabinet-level Department of Veterans Affairs, liberalized criteria for herbicide exposure, and avoiding severe cuts in VA budget.

CURRENT GOALS

Legislative Goals	Protecting the Flag, adequate funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs and the VA health care system, cost-of-living increases for all VA beneficiaries and military retirees, liberalizing criteria for herbicide-related claims, at least one open national cemetery in each state, and veterans preference in public and private labor markets.
Security Goals	Strong national defense, maintaining adequate conventional forces, accounting of POWs/MIAs, arms reductions that don't compromise U.S. security, support for friendly democratic governments around the world, strategic defense research, and measures to guard against terrorism.

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Backgrounder

Contact: Steve VanBuskirk

THE VFW *Helping Veterans and Their Communities*

Kansas City, Missouri — The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) has been in the forefront of every effort to expand rights and benefits for America's veterans, their families and dependents.

Background and Purpose

The VFW's parent organizations formed in 1899 to secure rights and benefits for the men who served in the Spanish-American War. These associations unified in 1914 into a single nationwide organization. Today, the VFW counts over two million veterans who served overseas in four major wars, during post-WWII occupation duty and in 20 expeditionary campaigns.

VFW's primary objectives have been expanded greatly since 1914 and can be best described in the organization's 1936 congressional charter:

"The objects of this association are fraternal, patriotic, historical and educational; to preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members; to assist worthy comrades; to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead, and to assist their widows and orphans; to maintain true allegiance to the Government of the United States of America, and fidelity to its Constitution and laws; to foster true patriotism; to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom, and to preserve and defend the United States from all her enemies, whomsoever."

Accomplishments

Early achievements included compensation benefits and vocational training for disabled veterans and pension bills for veterans, widows and orphans of World War I under the War Risk Insurance Act of 1917. VFW was also instrumental in passage of the World War Veterans Act of 1924 (providing for regional Veterans Bureau offices) and creation of the Veterans Administration (1930).

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History/add one

Since World War II, the VFW has either initiated or actively supported every major piece of veterans legislation, including the GI bills for World War II, Korea and Vietnam veterans; the bills establishing November 11 as Veterans Day and May 1 as Loyalty Day; liberalized pensions and increased compensation for disabled veterans; a national cemetery system; the creation of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee and the cabinet-level Department of Veterans Affairs.

Most recently, the VA granted compensation for Vietnam veterans with two rare cancers — non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and soft-tissue sarcoma cancers — linked to Agent Orange. In addition, a new U.S. Court of Veterans Appeals (COVA) gives veterans a means to appeal denied claims. Both developments result from extensive VFW efforts.

Current Issues

As the organization enters the '90s, the VFW continues to work to protect the American Flag from desecration, enhance the VA budget, maintain adequate funding for the VA health-care system, liberalize criteria for herbicide exposure, and open at least one national cemetery in each state.

In addition, the VFW works diligently to ensure the uncompromised security of the United States and its allies through a commitment to a strong national defense and supporting friendly democratic Central American governments and allies in the Pacific. Accounting for prisoners of war and missing in action in Southeast Asia and Korea is another top priority. Other concerns include a full range of measures to guard against terrorists and supporting legislation nullifying the 1977 Panama Canal Treaties.

Rounding out the legislative and security efforts, the VFW-Political Action Committee has supported worthy candidates for federal office since 1980.

Services

VFW's National Veterans Service (NVS) provides assistance to veterans and their families seeking veterans benefits. Each year, millions of dollars in claims are approved for veterans by the VA because VFW experts represented them before various agencies. The most sought after benefits are disability compensation, pension and dependents benefits. The NVS lobbies for laws that guarantee veterans rights and advance hard-earned entitlements. In addition, a special assistant for employment assists veterans seeking job placement.

History/add two

Programs

VFW boasts many programs, each designed to benefit its members and the communities in which they live. These programs include:

- **Americanism** — a program designed to stimulate interest, among all citizens, in America, American history, the American institutions of government and our national heritage.
- **Voice of Democracy** — a national broadcast scriptwriting competition which allows high school students to examine the responsibilities and challenges of citizenship, freedom and democracy.
- **Community and Youth Activities** — Boy scouting, child identification, Special Olympics, Jr./Sr. ROTC and youth sports.
- **Safety** — Bicycle, home, drivers and hunters safety along with drug and alcohol prevention.
- **Buddy Poppy** — Annual sales of Buddy Poppies have been a tremendous source of revenue for the VFW since sales began in 1922. One of the many programs supported through Buddy Poppy sales is the *National Home*, a VFW affiliate that cares for children and single parent families with ties to the VFW or its Ladies Auxiliary.

Organization

More than 10,500 Posts — found in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and a dozen foreign countries and territories — are the basic units of the VFW. All Posts are located in Departments, the term used for the state and overseas organizations. Posts are formed into Districts and County Councils. The National Headquarters for the VFW is in Kansas City, Missouri with a major office in Washington D.C.

Fifty-two percent of the VFW's two million members served in World War II, 21 percent served in the Korean War, 24 percent served in the Vietnam War, and three percent served in various expeditionary campaigns or on post-WWII occupation duty.

Like the VFW, its Ladies Auxiliary has a wide range of programs that, along with the VFW, promote humanitarian concerns. Founded in 1914, by women relatives of Spanish-American War veterans, the Auxiliary boasts over 750,000 members.

Because VFW members don't believe that shedding their uniforms ends one's service to their country, the organization — through its past accomplishments, continued legislative efforts and programs — has made almost every community in the United States a better and safer place to live.

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Week Ending Friday, November 17, 1989

**Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater
on President Mikhail Gorbachev's
Message to President Bush**
November 11, 1989

President Gorbachev sent an informal message to President Bush on Friday, November 10, to express his support for the decisions being taken by the new East German leadership. He underscored the importance of the changes taking place there and expressed the hope that the situation will remain calm and peaceful. The informal message was sent by cable and delivered to President Bush Friday afternoon in Dallas.

**Remarks at the Dedication Ceremony
for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in
Dallas, Texas**
November 11, 1989

Thank you, Governor. Thank all of you on this beautiful day. Governor Clements, thank you, sir. Mayor Strauss, Mayor Bolen, Brad Wright, Mr. Russell, Judge Burkett, and Art Ruff and Chaplain Adickes, members of the foundation, but especially my fellow veterans and Texans and fellow Americans, I am just delighted to be back here, and so is Barbara. It's a privilege to be with you and to officially dedicate a monument that is proud and patriotic and thus quintessentially Texan: the Texas Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Four times in this century, the sons of America have crossed the oceans to fight for the freedom of others. Their blood has consecrated ground in places well-known and obscure, from Argonne to Bougainville, from Omaha Beach to Inchon, from Con Thien to the Mekong Delta. And because they gave the last full measure of devotion, our nation is at peace. And because of them, the peaceful ideals of America are now the ideals of the world.

Look to the very heart of Europe, to Berlin, and you will see a great truth shining brighter with each passing day: The quest for freedom is stronger than steel, more permanent than concrete. Victor Hugo said: "Nothing can stop an idea whose time has come." Well, my fellow veterans, the idea is democracy. And around the world, the 1990's will be the decade of democracy.

Memorials like these are the very embodiment of our nation, expressing our deepest values and our character as a people. For we Americans navigate by such symbols. The St. Louis Arch, pointing toward the West; the Statue of Liberty, its silhouette a morning star of freedom; the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials, whose majesty proclaims the principles of self-government—each reflects what we are as a nation and as a people.

And so it is here today for the Lone Star heroes of America's longest war. For this memorial moves us and inspires us. And its lessons live as oral history, passed from one generation to another. This memorial is not merely stone and masonry, as striking as they are; it's a tangible testament to America's love for the living, and for the dead.

Last year nearly half of the visitors to America's Vietnam Memorials were boys and girls age 12 years and younger. And these children don't necessarily remember the Southeast Asia conflict. And when they wonder: What is this memorial all about, we owe them an answer, an answer whose honesty will be worthy of our veterans.

And they will ask, first: Who were these men and women, these Lone Star heroes of Vietnam? And we must tell them they were black and white, red and brown—almost a quarter of the names on this memorial are Hispanic—native-born, foreign-born, the privileged and the poor. But most of all, they were Americans—Americans from the barrios of San Antonio or the city streets of Houston, the vast expanse of west Texas;

Americans who were young and probably often frightened, so very far from home.

And next, the kids will wonder: Well, what did they value, these brave young soldiers? And we must tell them they valued freedom. They valued human dignity. And they loved the U.S. And so, they overcame their fear, which after all is the very definition of courage. In a struggle which, like every war, showed man's inhumanity to man, they strove to prove man's fidelity to honor.

And then the kids will say: Why were these boys in Vietnam? And we will say, Because to defend democracy and liberty is always a valiant cause, in the fields of Flanders to the rugged cliffs of Normandy, whether scaling Korea's hillsides or trudging through those rice paddies of the Mekong.

And we will tell them further the story of the Boat People, gallant men and women who fled the very brutality that we were fighting. And of that memorable day when those Vietnamese refugees—alone and vulnerable in an overloaded, sinking boat—were spotted by the aircraft carrier *Midway*. And as the carrier approached, many were crying and all were waving, calling out, "Hello American sailor. Hello freedom man." So, when our children ask why were we in Vietnam, we must point to those Boat People, regrettably some of them still fleeing, and say: For them. For the liberty that can ensure for individuals, choice; for society, pluralism; and for nations, self-determination.

And finally, our children will ask: Well, how do we salute the men who fought for freedom? We salute them by never forgetting that true peace means the triumph of freedom—not merely the absence of war, but the triumph of freedom. And we salute them through memorials like this and by thanking the volunteers who made it possible—Vietnam vets, cities and towns, communities, foundations, organizations, and other contributors. And we honor them by giving all our vets the hope and opportunity that they have earned and by teaching our children what this memorial teaches us: about selflessness and sacrifice, qualities which know no generation.

Unlike other veterans, the brave boys who went to Vietnam had to endure two

Wars. The first was that one waged in the swamps and the jungles abroad. And the second was fought for respect and recognition at home. And with the passage of time, they have won the battle for the hearts of their countrymen. And in my view, it's about time. The children who come here today and will come tomorrow evidence that victory. They must know about the courageous people whose names illuminate these tablets. The men who died would want our kids to have a future they never knew: a future without war, without fear. Their sacrifice helped make that possible.

Abraham Lincoln termed that sacrifice "the last full measure of devotion." And we must never forget it. For if the Texans we honor today could speak, they might say, "Praise us as you will, but above all, we want to be remembered." And today we do remember the Lone Star heroes of America's longest war, and through them, heroes throughout our history: America's uniformed sons and daughters who took up arms and bore our burden for a cause larger than themselves.

And today we remember the more than 3 million Americans who served in Vietnam, among them, so many proud Texans. Men like Plano's Sam Johnson, a prisoner for 7 years in what they called the Hanoi Hilton—tortured, but never defeated—now a State legislator representing the people of his district here in our great State.

And also this morning, we remember America's wounded from the Vietnam conflict and the many brave Texans who paid a heavy price. They were proud of the United States. They make us proud today.

And then there's another. There are our missing or unaccounted for, and we remember them, too. For while they may be missing—missing in action and from our lives—they are not missing from our thoughts or our hearts. And so, that POW/MIA flag now flies at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington on Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and POW/MIA Recognition Day. And we will continue to see that every one of them is accounted for.

Finally, we remember the 58,175 Americans who gave their lives in Vietnam and the 3,427 brave men—the third largest number of any State—who came from over

600 Texas cities and small towns. Men like Ruben Jose Carbajal of El Paso, 21 when he was killed by a fragmentation device. Robert Larry Oaks from Lamesa, 20, killed by rifle fire. Both died exactly 20 years ago today. And, yes, think of these men and honor them. Recall how they served in Dak To and Khe Sanh.

Last month, I got a letter that I'd like to share with you. It was from Connie McWright of Dallas. And in it she talked of her family—four sons, a daughter—and how she lost two of those boys on the battlefields of Vietnam. "Ed and Dale," she wrote, "died with the Marines. They were both extremely proud to represent Texas. Ed asked that I send him a Texas flag." She said his buddies called him "Big Tex."

And several moments ago, I met with her—Mrs. McWright; her daughter, Connie; son, Wayne. And in her letter, she told me that each of her children had a dream: Wayne, to have an antique car; Ed, to be a ballplayer; Dale, to own a stable. Connie's dream, her mother said, had been to one day shake hands with the President of the United States. Well, Mrs. McWright and Connie, it is I who am honored to shake your hands. For it is you and millions of other mothers, fathers, daughters, and sons who embody the decency, service, and courage that makes this memorial a monument to everything that America is and can become.

And so, this is your memorial, Ed and Dale's memorial, the memorial which honors the spirit of the Alamo and San Jacinto and earlier heroes named Travis and Houston and Bowie. And now it is my great privilege to officially open this tribute to the greatest sons and daughters any nation could ever have: the Texas Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Fellow vets, I salute you. God bless you, and God bless the United States of America. Thank you all very much.

Note: The President spoke at 10:51 a.m. at the memorial. In his remarks, he referred to Mayors Annette Strauss of Dallas and Bob Bolen of Fort Worth; Brad Wright, master of ceremonies for the dedication; Paul T. Russell, Jr., and B.G. Burkett and Art Ruff,

president and co-chairman of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial; and Rev. Donald Soderstrom, who dedicated the memorial dedication, the President went to Camp David, MD.

Statement on Alfredo M. Nuevo's Hunger Strike and Treatment of Other Cuban Prisoners

November 11, 1989

I view with grave concern the long-term Cuban political prisoner Mustelier Nuevo has been in strike since completing 20 years on October 27. For he has been refusing liquidation of his current health situation.

The revised Cuban Penal Code provides for all offenses committed after 20 years, except when the sentence may be imposed. In addition, two other political prisoners, imprisoned in Cuban prisons, Ernesto Diaz Rodriguez and de Armas. All three men have been in these long prison sentences which lacked any semblance of rehabilitation. These three men, who have endured years of harsh prison conditions, pose no threat to the Cuban Government.

I call upon the Cuban Government to release these men immediately to free all remaining political prisoners and to call upon the international community to raise its collective voice against the Cuban Government to let them go and to conform to accepted standards regarding human rights. The present human rights situation in Cuba, where some 50 human rights activists have been arrested since 1980, underscores the need for international monitoring of Cuban human rights.