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Folder ID Number: 13538-011

Folder Title:
VFW National Convention 8/20/90 [OA 5376][2]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	26	16	4	2

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 17, 1990

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON

FROM:

JIM PINKERTON

SUBJECT:

VFW Address Speech Draft

There is a spectrum of justifications for our current military operation in the Middle East that ranges in persuasiveness from the most persuasive reason: that we are upholding world peace and the rule of law by standing up to naked aggression; to the less persuasive (though legitimate) argument that we are protecting America's vital interest in preserving the flow of oil from the Persian Gulf region to the rest of the world. This latter argument will be attacked as a materialist rationale: we are asking American boys to die for oil and cheap gasoline. Finally, there will be another attack on the end of the spectrum of reasons: that we are protecting undemocratic regimes, such as the Emirate of Kuwait and the sheikdom of Saudi Arabia. Therefore, we urge that wherever possible our arguments should be marshalled around the most compelling reason: world peace/rule of law, and our comments below reflect this.

pg.2, para.4, line 8 "...America's commitment to our friends whenever our friends are imperiled."

To say we'll respond whenever our friends are imperiled is a bit too broad a view of our commitment -- we suggest simply omitting the sentence.

3,1,3 "...will preserve our economic independence."

This raises the problem that part of the reason we are facing down Saddam Hussein is that we are too dependent on foreign oil in the first place. Thus "economic independence" has an unintended irony.

3,3,3 "No one walks away from appeasing a bully. He only crawls."

A listener might think that "He" in the second sentence refers to "bully" in the first sentence. The meaning

might be clearer here if it were rephrased, e.g.,: "No nation walks away from appeasing a bully. They only crawl away." Or: "Appease a bully, and you don't walk away, you crawl away."

4,1,3 "With other allies, America can help freedom do more."

We should be careful about using freedom with respect to our allies in this crisis for the simple reason that many of them are not themselves free. Thus, we risk playing into the hands of those who object that the U.S. is protecting illegitimate sheiks and emirs.

4,2,3

Typo: "totalitarianism" instead of "totalitarianism."

4,2,3 "Today even more, Nations have joined to become ambassadors of peace."

Instead of "ambassadors of peace," which implies that this united force is offering peace instead of standing up to aggression in order to maintain peace, we suggest something such as "co-defenders of peace" or "guarantors of peace." Also: "Nations" should have a small "n."

4,3,5 "The cause of human dignity is in all of their debt."

We suggest rephrasing this to read: "The cause of human dignity is indebted to all of them."

4,4,8 "Yet they've overcome their fear -- which is, after all, is the very definition of courage."

This idea that you cannot be brave without first being afraid is a profound point. (Tolerance works in a similar way: you cannot be tolerant of another belief unless you first hold an opposing belief.) Just incidentally, as a general rule it seems to us that we should avoid putting too much emphasis on the youth and vulnerability of America's troops. This is a trend exemplified in the shift from the popular use of phrases like "our Fighting Men" to phrases like "American boys overseas" (note that both phrases are sexist). The phrase "young, alone, and so very far from home" here flirts with this problem but is tolerable because it is used to make the unsentimental point about courage later.

5,1,2 "We will do whatever it takes to help them complete their mission."

A good applause line.

5,3,3 "Fewer in troop strength."

A solecism. "Fewer in number" is the meaning looked for here. "Reduced in expense" may be even more to the point.

6,2,12 "...as Roseanne Barr..."

Our judgement is that this episode is much too stale to be reheated. There is the further point that we risk looking like we are pandering to popular sentiment by going out of our way to pick on Barr. She is too easy a target right now.

7,4 The passages starting here with the reference to D-Day and Eisenhower risk, it seems to us, setting up a weak comparison between this operation and the Normandy Invasion. We risk unintentionally making Operation Desert Shield look small by immodestly juxtaposing it against the largest invasion in world history.

PC
WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 8/16/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: NOON, FRIDAY, AUG. 17

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VFW ADDRESS

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

SUBJECT: MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 1990, 10 AM
(8/16 - 12:15 pm draft)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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REMARKS:

Please provide comments/edits on the attached directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, with a copy to my office no later than NOON, FRIDAY, AUGUST 17.
Thank you.

RESPONSE:

James W. Cicconi
Assistant to the President
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
Ext. 2702

(Smith/Garmey)
12:15 P.M.
August 16, 1990
A: VFW

90 AUG 16 P1:14

SUGGESTED REMARKS: VFW ADDRESS
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND
MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 1990
10 A.M.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is a privilege to join you. And a deep personal pleasure to renew old ties -- and to greet new friends. // My thanks to all of you -- but especially to Walter Hogan, doing a great job as your Commander in Chief. Following a legend like Cooper Holt isn't easy -- but you've picked a superb replacement. To both Walter and Cooper, a heart-felt salute. //

I also want to mention today's honorees. Major General James Fretland, Bud Dudley, and also somebody I've spent some time with over the years. // Any of our kids will tell you she's the five-star general in our family. Believe me, when she gives the orders, an entire division clears out. // My wife, Barbara.

Finally, I want to thank my V.A. Secretary and fellow VFW member Ed Derwinski. // Ed's got so much going on -- but I'm especially happy to see the work he's doing to improve our veterans' hospitals. His Department is intent on serving you -- much as you have served America. //

As a Veteran, I want to salute the VFW on its 91st year. And to note how we meet amid great challenges -- foreign and domestic. ((First, domestic. I have been deluged by a flood of recent inquiries. In response, I want you to know that Millie is fully recovered from a brief brush with lead poisoning. //

((Barbara was pretty concerned -- but as all who work with John Sununu know, it wasn't the first time the words "get the lead out" have been heard around the White House.)) //

((Second, on the foreign scene, it takes something like the Middle East to put things into perspective. When an aide burst into my office in early August and said, "There's a dictator on the rampage," I replied, "I thought the Yankees already solved the Steinbrenner problem.")) //

I am grateful to have the opportunity to discuss a far greater and more serious problem: the crisis in the Persian Gulf. // A crisis that will require American planning, patience, and at times, personal sacrifice. But a crisis that we must meet if we're to stop aggression and protect our own freedom, and the peace and stability of countries around the globe. //

Twelve days ago, these beliefs prompted me to take action in the Middle East to preserve the sovereignty of Kuwait and deter the raw ambition of a renegade regime threatening the vital interests of America. I acted knowing that our cause **might not be easy** -- but that our cause is **right**. // And that while one should not underestimate the fanatical determination of extremists -- an even **greater mistake** would be to underestimate America's commitment to our friends whenever **our friends are imperiled**. //

Today, the outcome is not yet decided. Hard choices remain. But of this we are certain. America **will not** be deterred. // We

will not be bullied. // We will act to promote a common code and rule of law that promotes cooperation instead of conflict. // We will preserve our economic independence. // Above all, when some ask: **Where does America stand?** Our answer is: **We stand against those who would use force to replace the rule of law with the rule of the jungle.** //

Fifty years ago, of course, another oppressor tried to brutalize the family of Nations. In 1939, he could have been stopped. In 1945, he finally was, but at a terrible cost. // We learned -- you know your history -- that we must stand up to evil. It is a lesson which over the past twelve days has reaffirmed truths that speak to America, and to the world. //

The first truth is as vivid as the memories of Verdun, Normandy, Pork Chop, Bataan. Put simply: Aggression, unchecked, leads to more aggression. No one walks away from appeasing a bully. He only crawls. // We know if we don't stand up to our enemies, our enemies will be standing over us. And that if we betray our allies, we won't have any allies to betray. // So we have sent U.S. forces to the Middle East -- reluctantly, but decisively. Knowing, as Teddy Roosevelt said, that "American means many things. [Among them], equality of rights and, therefore, equality and of obligation." //

Fifty years ago, an aggressor sought Austria and Czechoslovakia. Today, it's Kuwait -- tomorrow, who knows, Saudi Arabia and what else? We must stop such tyranny, and will. Acting not alone, but in concert, to protect our own national

security interests and global stability. Which brings me a second truth reaffirmed by the past twelve days. By itself, America can do much. With other allies, America can help freedom do more. //

Think back to World War II, where together allies confronted a horror which embodied hell on earth. Or Korea, where United Nations forces opposed totalitarianism. Today, even more, Nations have joined to become ambassadors of peace -- a cooperative force that will not stand by while one country mugs another. //

Look, for instance, at a bulwark of Operation Desert Shield. I salute Egypt, Morocco, and Great Britain for dispatching fighter planes and the destroyer HMS York to the Persian Gulf. //

Look to nations from Canada to Turkey from Australia to Egypt. The cause of human dignity is in all of their debt. // Think even of the Soviet Union -- where Desert Shield shows how fists once clenched in animosity can become hands joined in partnership.

Next, we come to the third truth reaffirmed by the last twelve days -- as veterans, it won't surprise you: The steadfast character of the American will. // Look to the sands of Saudi Arabia -- where brave Americans are doing their duty. Just as you did at Okinawa, Remagen, and Hamburger Hill. Think of the men and women aboard our planes and battleships -- young, alone, and so very far from home. // Are they frightened? Probably. Yet they've overcome their fear -- which, after all, is the very definition of courage. They make us proud, and humble -- and I

salute the finest heroes any Nation could ever have. // Moreover, I pledge to you: We will do whatever it takes to help them complete their mission. //

This means realizing the fourth truth reaffirmed by the past twelve days. Although the size of America's armed forces in the years ahead will be smaller because the threat to our security is changing, America's defense capacity is, and must continue to be, "a lean, mean fighting machine."// 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. Yet, reduction in numbers must not mean reduction in force. // That is what Operation Desert Shield proves so vividly: Instead of reliving past contingencies, we're preparing 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. // Just look at how Operation Desert Shield has linked manpower with need -- we got our soldiers where and when they were needed -- not in weeks, but in days and hours. //

Last week, the Commander of the Joint Chiefs, General Powell, spoke to this when he praised "the finest peacetime military in the history of America." Fewer in troop strength, but restructured, purposeful, and proud. //

But the past twelve days have also shown us the need for a strong defense budget to support our troops. // As George Washington said in his first inaugural address, "To be prepared

for war is one of the most effectual means of preserving peace." Well, as Desert Shield has shown: If the way to ensure war is for America to be militarily weak, today's defense "resources" can help America ensure the peace that comes from being militarily strong. //

Now, I know we're operating in a time of budget restraint: We have limited resources -- we must utilize 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. But we cannot attack the deficit by attacking the very heart of our armed forces. // Last week, I asked Congress to do what we have done - - produce a budget proposal, including defense, that is both responsive and responsible. When they do, I will listen -- listen, but not break faith with the troops I command. // Make no mistake: To stop aggression -- to keep America militarily prepared -- I will oppose the big Pentagon cutters who are as much in tune with our defense needs as Roseanne Barr is with the National Anthem.//

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 -- a \$24 billion cut from our defense budget for Fiscal Year 1991. // They know that giving peace a chance does not mean taking a chance on peace. So they endorse what ultra-liberals have tried to kill: The M-X, Midgetman, B-2, and Strategic Defense Initiative. // Americans want arms negotiations to succeed --

knowing an historic START treaty isn't feasible without these weapons systems. So recalling the adage, "Dance with the one who brung you," they know that as our 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. //

((Let me tell you a story about why I feel so strongly. I was talking to some of the young soldiers who liberated Panama -- and I asked one of them -- a medic -- about the operation. He spoke of combat and the heroics of others -- but not of his own. So his commanding officer filled in the rest. This medic had been wounded, but repeatedly braved fire to pull out other wounded -- and was awarded the Silver Star for Bravery. Listening, I thought to myself: 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. In my speech of two weeks ago, I demanded the complete and unconditional withdrawal of all Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the restoration of Kuwait's legitimate government. Today, I say: Those objectives are, and will remain, unchanged.

Will it take time? Of course. For we are engaged in a cause larger than ourselves. A cause perhaps best shown by a moment many of you remember -- and that I'd like to close with: D-Day -- June 6, 1944. As Dwight Eisenhower addressed the

sailors, soldiers, and airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force.

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"You are about to embark," he told them, "upon a great crusade -- the eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you." And then Ike spoke 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 -- as I did -- under 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 an aggressor, and missed it. I pledge to you: We will not make that mistake again. //

Together we can combat 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 -
- these United States of America.

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(Scully
X 5-178)

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(Mollin x 3060)
("Coward" implies ability but not obligation)
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OK?
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OK (Rettman x 5044)

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Porter's Office:
The quote
is "effective"

instead of
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Brad
Mitchell

Nancy
Benson

6

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Together we can combat 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 -
- these United States of America.

#

30


**NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT STAFFING DOCUMENT**

TIME STAMP **RECEIVED**

SYSTEM LOG NUMBER:

6589

90 AUG 16 P 2. 30

ACTION OFFICER: 

DUE:

16 Aug by 6 PM

☐ Prepare Memo For Scowcroft/Gates

☐ Appropriate Action

☐ Prepare Memo For Cicconi

☐ Prepare Memo for Sittmann

☒ Prepare Memo **Scowcroft**

to **Chris Winston cc: Cicconi**

CONCURRENCES/COMMENTS*

PHONE* to action officer at ext. **x 4970**

FYI

☐ Barth
☐ Basora
☐ Beers
☐ Blackwill
☐ Broome
☐ Burns
☐ Chamberlin
☐ Charles
☐ Coulson
☐ Davis
☐ Deal
☐ Dorminey
☒ Dyke
☐ Fry
☐ Gaughan
☐ Gordon
☐ Haass
☐ Hayden
☐ Hutchings
☐ Jackson

FYI

☐ Johnson
☐ Kaeuper
☐ Kanter
☐ Kitchen
☐ LaMagna
☐ Lampley
☐ Levin
☐ Lundsager
☐ Mandel
☐ Melby
☐ Menan
☐ Merchant
☐ Miller
☐ Needels
☐ O'Leary
☐ Ordway
☐ Paal
☐ Pacelli
☐ Pilling
☒ Popadiuk

FYI

☐ Pryce
☐ Rademaker
☐ Rice
☒ Rodman
☐ Rostow
☐ Salvetti
☐ Tilley
☐ Tobey
☐ Van Eron
☐ Watson
☐ Welch
☐ Whitley
☐ Wilson
☐ Working
☐ Zelikow
☐ _____
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☐ _____
☐ _____

INFORMATION

☒ Sittmann
☒ Scowcroft (advance)

☒ Deputy Exec. Sec.
☒ Gates (advance)

☒ Exec. Sec. Desk
☒ Secretariat

COMMENTS

CRW#:

Logged By

DAD

Return to Secretariat

6589

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 8/16/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: NOON, FRIDAY, AUG. 17

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VFW ADDRESS
BALTIMORE, MARYLANDSUBJECT: MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 1990, 10 AM
(8/16 - 12:15 pm draft)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ANDERSON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	CARNEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER ROSE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide comments/edits on the attached directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, with a copy to my office no later than NOON, FRIDAY, AUGUST 17.
Thank you.

RESPONSE: The National Security Council staff has reviewed and recommends the attached changes.

William F. Sittmann
Executive Secretary

James W. Cicconi
Assistant to the President
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
Ext. 2702

(Smith/Garmey)
12:15 P.M.
August 16, 1990
A: VFW

30 AUG 16 P 1: 14

SUGGESTED REMARKS: VFW ADDRESS
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND
MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 1990
10 A.M.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is a privilege to join you. And a deep personal pleasure to renew old ties -- and to greet new friends. // My thanks to all of you -- but especially to Walter Hogan, doing a great job as your Commander in Chief. Following a legend like Cooper Holt isn't easy -- but you've picked a superb replacement. To both Walter and Cooper, a heart-felt salute. //

I also want to mention today's honorees. Major General James Fretland, Bud Dudley, and also somebody I've spent some time with over the years. // Any of our kids will tell you she's the five-star general in our family. Believe me, when she gives the orders, an entire division clears out. // My wife, Barbara.

Finally, I want to thank my V.A. Secretary and fellow VFW member Ed Derwinski. // Ed's got so much going on -- but I'm especially happy to see the work he's doing to improve our veterans' hospitals. His Department is intent on serving you -- much as you have served America. //

As a Veteran, I want to salute the VFW on its 91st year. And to note how we meet amid great challenges -- foreign and domestic. ((First, domestic. I have been deluged by a flood of recent inquiries. In response, I want you to know that Millie is fully recovered from a brief brush with lead poisoning. //

((Barbara was pretty concerned -- but as all who work with John Sununu know, it wasn't the first time the words "get the lead out" have been heard around the White House.)) //

((Second, on the foreign scene, it takes something like the Middle East to put things into perspective. When an aide burst into my office in early August and said, "There's a dictator on the rampage," I replied, "I thought the Yankees already solved the Steinbrenner problem.)) //

I am grateful to have the opportunity to discuss a far greater and more serious problem: the crisis in the Persian Gulf. // A crisis that will require ^e [American planning, patience, and at times, personal sacrifice. But a crisis that we must meet if we're to stop aggression and protect our own freedom, and the peace and stability of countries around the globe. //

Twelve days ago, these beliefs prompted me to take action in the Middle East to ^{restore} [preserve] the sovereignty of Kuwait and deter the raw ambition of a renegade regime threatening the vital interests of America. I acted knowing that our cause might not be easy -- but that our cause is right. // And that while one should not underestimate the fanatical determination of extremists -- an even greater mistake would be to underestimate America's commitment to our friends whenever our friends are imperiled. //

Today, the outcome is not yet decided. Hard choices remain. But of this we are certain. America will not be [deterred]. // We ^{intimidated}

will not be bullied. // We will act to promote a common code and rule of law that promotes cooperation instead of conflict. // We will preserve our economic independence. // Above all, when some ask: Where does America stand? Our answer is: We stand against those who would use force to replace the rule of law with the rule of the jungle. // international banditry

Fifty years ago, of course, another oppressor tried to brutalize the family of Nations. In ^{1935 or 1938} ~~1939~~ he could have been stopped. In 1945, he finally was, but at a terrible cost. // We learned -- you know your history -- that we must stand up to evil. It is a lesson which over the past twelve days has reaffirmed truths that speak to America, and to the world. //

The first truth is as vivid as the memories of Verdun, Normandy, Pork Chop, Bataan. Put simply: Aggression, unchecked, leads to more aggression. ~~No one walks away from appeasing a bully. He only crawls. // We know if we don't stand up to our enemies, our enemies will be standing over us. And that if we betray our allies, we won't have any allies to betray. //~~ So we have sent U.S. forces to the Middle East -- reluctantly, but decisively. ~~[Knowing, as Teddy Roosevelt said, that "American means many things. [Among them], equality of rights and, therefore, equality and of obligation." //]~~

Fifty years ago, an aggressor sought Austria and Czechoslovakia. Today, it's Kuwait -- tomorrow, who knows, Saudi Arabia and what else? We must stop such tyranny, and will. Acting not alone, but in concert, ^{helping} to protect our own national

as well as those of the
broader community of nations.

security interests and global stability. Which brings me a
second truth reaffirmed by the past twelve days. By itself,
America can do much. With ^{its} other allies ^{and friends,} America can help freedom
do more. //

Think back to World War II, where together allies confronted
a horror which embodied hell on earth. Or Korea, where United
Nations forces opposed totalitarianism. Today, even more, Nations
have joined to become ^{protectors} [ambassadors] of peace -- a cooperative force
that will not stand by while one country mugs another. //

[Look, for instance, at a bulwark of Operation Desert Shield.]
I salute Egypt, Morocco, ^{for dispatching troops to Saudi Arabia.} and Great Britain for dispatching
fighter planes and the destroyer HMS York to the Persian Gulf. //
Look to nations from Canada to Turkey from Australia to Egypt.
The cause of human dignity is in all of their debt. // Think
even of the Soviet Union -- ^{whose cooperation in the U.N.} where Desert Shield shows how fists
once clenched in animosity can become hands joined in
partnership.

Next, we come to the third truth reaffirmed by the last
twelve days -- as veterans, it won't surprise you: The steadfast
character of the American will. // Look to the sands ^{and waters offshore} of Saudi
Arabia -- where brave Americans are doing their duty. Just as
you did at Okinawa, Remagen, and Hamburger Hill. Think of the
men and women aboard our planes and ^{battleships} -- young, alone,
and so very far from home. // Are they frightened? Probably.
Yet they've overcome their fear -- which, after all, is the very
definition of courage. They make us proud, and humble -- and I

Pakistan, Bangladesh, Syria for sending troops
in response to Saudi Arabia's request.

salute the finest heroes any Nation could ever have. // Moreover, I pledge to you: We will do whatever it takes to help them complete their mission. // Insert possible announcement of selected reserve call-up

This means realizing the fourth truth reaffirmed by the past twelve days. Although the size of America's armed forces in the years ahead will be smaller because the threat to our security is changing, America's defense capacity is, and must continue to be, ^{in the future must be even more} "a lean, mean fighting machine."// 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. Yet, simple reduction in numbers must not mean reduction in force. ^{will not ensure our security, even in a new era.} // That is what Operation Desert Shield proves ^{that} ~~so~~ vividly. ^{must prepare} Instead of reliving past contingencies, we're ~~preparing~~ 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 ^{This is readiness measured in hours and days, not weeks and months.} effectively to crisis. // ~~Just look at how~~ Operation Desert Shield has ^{underscored the need to be able to get} ~~linked manpower with need~~ -- we got our soldiers where ^{they are needed,} and when they ~~were~~ ^{are} needed ~~but not in weeks,~~ but in days and hours. //

Last week, the Commander of the Joint Chiefs, General Powell, spoke to this when he praised "the finest peacetime military in the history of America." ^{we will be} ~~A Fewer in troop strength and~~ ^{but we will remain} restructured, purposeful, ~~and~~ proud. // and effective.

But the past twelve days have also shown us the need for a strong defense budget to support our troops. // As George

Washington said in his first inaugural address, "To be prepared

When I gave the ^{order to deploy,} ~~order to deploy,~~ carrier aircraft were already within a strike distance of Iraq and ground troops and tactical aircraft were enroute within hours. This kind of responsiveness will be critical in the crises of the future

for war is one of the most effectual means of preserving peace." Well, as Desert Shield has shown: If the way to ensure war is for America to be militarily weak, today's defense "resources" can help America ensure the peace that comes from being militarily strong. //

Now, I know we're operating in a time of budget restraint: We have limited resources -- we must ^{use} ~~utilize~~ 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. But we cannot attack the deficit by ^{simply} attacking the very heart of our armed forces ^{personnel that are trained, 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. When they do, I will listen -- listen, but not break faith with the troops I command. // Make no mistake: To stop aggression -- to keep America militarily prepared -- ~~I will oppose the big Pentagon cutters who are as much in tune with our defense needs as Roseanne Barr is with the National Anthem.~~ //

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} ~~a \$24~~ billion cut from our defense budget for Fiscal Year 1991. // They know that giving peace a chance does not mean taking a chance on peace. So they endorse what ^{some} [ultra-liberals] have tried to kill: ^{Peacekeeper} ~~The M-X~~, Midgetman, B-2, and 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
~~knowing an historic START treaty isn't feasible without these~~
~~weapons systems.~~ ~~So recalling the adage, "Dance with the one who~~
~~brung you."~~ ~~they know~~ ^{Let us recall} that as our national defense policies have
^{Let us remember} 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. //

((Let me tell you a story about why I feel so strongly. I was talking to some of the young soldiers who liberated Panama -- and I asked one of them -- a medic -- about the operation. He spoke of combat and the heroics of others -- but not of his own. So his commanding officer filled in the rest. This medic had been wounded, but repeatedly braved fire to pull out other wounded -- and was awarded the Silver Star for Bravery. Listening, I thought to myself: I will never -- ever -- let Americans like this down.)) // ^{I will never send them into battle with less than the very best this nation can provide them.}

August 1990 has witnessed what history will judge one of the most crucial deployments of allied power since World War II. In my speech of two weeks ago, I demanded the complete and unconditional withdrawal of all Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the restoration of Kuwait's legitimate government. Today, I say: Those objectives are, and will remain, unchanged.

Will it take time? Of course. For we are engaged in a cause larger than ourselves. A cause perhaps best shown by a moment many of you remember -- and that I'd like to close with: D-Day -- June 6, 1944. As Dwight Eisenhower addressed the

Added remaining two paragraphs from earlier speech

sailors, soldiers, and airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force.

//

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

Is this true? || Fellow veterans, more than half of all VFW members fought in World War II. Many of you serving -- as I did -- under 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 an aggressor, and missed it. I pledge to you: We will not make that mistake again. //

Together we can combat 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 -
- these United States of America.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

ADDITIONAL DOD COMMENTS

VFW ADDRESS

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 1990

10:00 A.M.

General Note:

- Invasion occurred 8/2/90
- Saudis agreed to receive forces on 8/6/90
- 1st deployment on 8/8/90, but we began doing things on 8/2/90. Could add 6 days to the times (that's why the twelve days ago is circled.)

Page 2

Paragraph 3

Line 3

Change "requiring" to "require"

Line 6

Change "freedom" to "well being"

Paragraph 4

Line 3

Insert so it reads "regime **directly**
threatening a friendly country and the vital"

Paragraph 5

Insert so it reads "America, **working with its**
many friends and allies, will not be
deterred."

Page 3

Paragraph 1

Line 6

Add "And we are proud that so many friends
and allies from all over the world are
standing shoulder to shoulder with us." to
become the last sentence of the paragraph.

Paragraph 3

Line 6

Add after sentence ending "any allies to
betray." -- "His Majesty King Fahd and the
people of Saudi Arabia understand these
truisms and took the common decision to stand
up to the bully to ask us with our friendship
going back over 45 years and others for
help."

Line 10

Delete "and" so it reads "equality of
obligation"

Paragraph 4

Line 3

Delete "that side" and insert "**the security
and independence of the Gulf states.**"

Page 6

Paragraph 3

Line 7

Delete "M-X, Midgetman," and insert "bomber"
so it reads "The B-2 **bomber,**"

Line 8

Insert to read "**Strategic Defense Initiative
and the option for ICBM modernization.**"

Egg Comments
16 - 90
8-

(Smith/Garmey)
12:15 P.M.
August 16, 1990
A: VFW

SUGGESTED REMARKS: VFW ADDRESS
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND
MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 1990
10 A.M.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is a privilege to join you. And a deep personal pleasure to renew old ties -- and to greet new friends. // My thanks to all of you -- but especially to Walter Hogan, doing a great job as your Commander in Chief. Following a legend like Cooper Holt isn't easy -- but you've picked a superb replacement. To both Walter and Cooper, a heart-felt salute. //

see update

I also want to mention today's honorees. Major General James Fretland, Bud Dudley, and also somebody I've spent some time with over the years. // Any of our kids will tell you she's the five-star general in our family. Believe me, when she gives the orders, an entire division clears out. // My wife, Barbara.

see update

Finally, I want to thank my V.A. Secretary and fellow VFW member Ed Derwinski. // Ed's got so much going on -- but I'm especially happy to see the work he's doing to improve our veterans' hospitals. His Department is intent on serving you -- much as you have served America. //

As a Veteran, I want to salute the VFW on its 91st year. And to note how we meet amid great challenges -- foreign and domestic. ((First, domestic. I have been deluged by a flood of recent inquiries. In response, I want you to know that Millie is fully recovered from a brief brush with lead poisoning. //

((Barbara was pretty concerned -- but as all who work with John Sununu know, it wasn't the first time the words "get the lead out" have been heard around the White House.)) //

((Second, on the foreign scene, it takes something like the Middle East to put things into perspective. When an aide burst into my office in early August and said, "There's a dictator on the rampage," I replied, "I thought the Yankees already solved the Steinbrenner problem.")) //

I am grateful to have the opportunity to discuss a far greater and more serious problem: the crisis in the Persian Gulf. // A crisis that will requiring American planning, patience, and at times, personal sacrifice. But a crisis that we must meet if we're to stop aggression and protect our own freedom, and the peace and stability of countries around the globe. //

why don't we go right back to the beginning: 8-1-90: 18 DAYS
 Twelve days ago, these beliefs prompted me to take action in the Middle East to preserve the sovereignty of Kuwait and deter the raw ambition of a renegade regime threatening the vital interests of America. I acted knowing that our cause might not be easy -- but that our cause is right. // And that while one should not underestimate the fanatical determination of extremists -- an even greater mistake would be to underestimate America's commitment to our friends whenever our friends are imperiled. //

Today, the outcome is not yet decided. Hard choices remain. But of this we are certain. America will not be deterred. // We

*search partic -
isn't press name
likely to pick up
on "BUSH
PRINCIPLES"*

will not be bullied. // We will act to promote a common code and rule of law that promotes cooperation instead of conflict. // We will preserve our economic independence. // Above all, when some ask: Where does America stand? Our answer is: We stand against those who would use force to replace the rule of law with the rule of the jungle. //

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no body is safe

Fifty years ago, an aggressor sought Austria and Czechoslovakia. Today, it's Kuwait -- tomorrow, ~~who knows, Saudi Arabia and what else?~~ We must stop such tyranny, and will. Acting not alone, but in concert, to protect our own national

security interests and global stability. Which brings me a second truth reaffirmed by the past twelve days. By itself, America can do much. ^{Together its} With ~~other~~ allies, America can ^{SECURE} help freedom ~~do more~~. // *throughout the world.*

Think back to World War II, where together allies confronted a horror which embodied hell on earth. Or Korea, where United Nations forces opposed totalitarianism. Today, even more, Nations have joined to become ambassadors of peace -- a cooperative force that will not stand by while one country mugs another. //

Look, for instance, at ^{the friends of} Operation Desert Shield. I salute Egypt and Morocco for their troop support, and Great Britain for dispatching fighter planes and the destroyer HMS York to the Persian Gulf. // Look to nations from Canada to Turkey to Australia. The cause of human dignity is in all of their debt. // Think even of the Soviet Union -- where Desert Shield shows how fists once clenched in animosity can become hands joined in partnership.

*Chris,
I've already
spoken to
Curt. It
is imp. to
distinguish
between
"Desert
Shield"
Cris. only,
+
assistance
of other
countries*

Next, we come to the third truth reaffirmed by the last twelve days -- as veterans, it won't surprise you: The steadfast character of the American will. // Look to the sands of Saudi Arabia -- where brave Americans are doing their duty. Just as you did at Okinawa, Remagen, and Hamburger Hill. Think of the men and women aboard our planes and battleships -- young, alone, and so very far from home. // Are they frightened? Probably. Yet they've overcome their fear -- which, after all, is the very

definition of courage. They make us proud, and humble -- and I salute the finest heroes any Nation could ever have. // Moreover, I pledge to you: We will do whatever it takes to help them complete their mission. //

This means realizing the fourth truth reaffirmed by the past twelve days. Although the size of America's armed forces in the years ahead will be smaller because the threat to our security is changing, America's defense capacity is, and must continue to be, "a lean, mean fighting machine."// 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. Yet, reduction in numbers must not mean reduction in force. // That is what Operation Desert Shield proves so vividly: Instead of reliving past contingencies, we're preparing 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. // Just look at how Operation Desert Shield has linked manpower with need -- we got our soldiers where and when they were needed -- [not in weeks, but in days and hours.]
// [many say we are too slow.]

Last week, the Commander of the Joint Chiefs, General Powell, spoke to this when he praised "the finest peacetime military in the history of America." Fewer in troop strength, but restructured, purposeful, and proud. //

But the past twelve days have also shown us the need for a strong defense budget to support our troops. // As George

Washington said in his first inaugural address, "To be prepared for war is one of the most ^{effective} ~~effectual~~ means of preserving peace." Well, as Desert Shield has ^{proven} ~~shown~~: If the way to ensure war is for America to be militarily weak, today's defense "resources" can help America ensure the peace that comes from being militarily strong. //

Now, I know we're operating in a time of budget restraint: We have limited resources -- we must utilize 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. But we cannot attack the deficit by attacking the very heart of our armed forces. // Last week, I asked Congress to do what we have done - - produce a budget proposal, including defense, that is both responsive and responsible. When they do, I will listen -- listen, but not break faith with the troops I command. // Make no mistake: To stop aggression -- to keep America militarily prepared -- I will oppose the big Pentagon cutters who are as much in tune with our defense needs as Roseanne Barr is with the National Anthem. //

} see update

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 -- a \$24 billion cut from our defense budget for Fiscal Year 1991. // They know that giving peace a chance does not mean taking a chance on peace. So they endorse what ultra-liberals have tried to kill: The M-X, Midgetman, B-2, and Strategic Defense

Initiative. // Americans want arms negotiations to succeed -- knowing an historic START treaty isn't feasible without these weapons systems. So recalling the adage, "Dance with the one who brung you," they know that as our 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. //

((Let me tell you a story about why I feel so strongly. I was talking to some of the young soldiers who liberated Panama - and I asked one of them -- a medic -- about the operation. He spoke of combat and the heroics of others -- but not of his own. So his commanding officer filled in the rest. This medic had been wounded, but repeatedly braved fire to ^{rescue} ~~pull out~~ other wounded -- and was awarded the Silver Star for Bravery. Listening, I thought to myself: I will never -- ever -- let Americans like this down.)) //

W. NAM
CORP. RODERICK
RINGSTAFF
Sgt. Infantry Division
Fort Polk, Louisiana

August 1990 has witnessed what history will judge one of the most crucial deployments of allied power since World War II. In my speech of two weeks ago, I demanded the complete and unconditional withdrawal of all Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the restoration of Kuwait's legitimate government. Today, I say: Those objectives are, and will remain, unchanged.

Will it take time? Of course. For we are engaged in a cause larger than ourselves. A cause perhaps best shown by a moment many of you remember -- and that I'd like to close with: D-Day -- June 6, 1944. As Dwight Eisenhower addressed the

sailors, soldiers, and airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force.

//

"You are about to embark," he told them, "upon a great crusade -- the eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you." And then Ike spoke 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 -- as I did -- under 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 an aggressor, and missed it. I pledge to you: We will not make that mistake again. //

Together we can ^{Defeat} ~~combat~~ 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 -
- these United States of America.

#

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUMDATE: 8/16/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: NOON, FRIDAY, AUG. 17

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VFW ADDRESS

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

SUBJECT: MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 1990, 10 AM
(8/16 - 12:15 pm draft)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	CARNEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER ROSE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide comments/edits on the attached directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, with a copy to my office no later than NOON, FRIDAY, AUGUST 17.
Thank you.

RESPONSE:

James W. Cicconi
Assistant to the President
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
Ext. 2702

(Smith/Garmey)
12:15 P.M.
August 16, 1990
A: VFW

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SUGGESTED REMARKS: VFW ADDRESS
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND
MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 1990
10 A.M.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is a privilege to join you. And a deep personal pleasure to renew old ties -- and to greet new friends. // My thanks to all of you -- but especially to Walter Hogan, doing a great job as your Commander in Chief. Following a legend like Cooper Holt isn't easy -- but you've picked a superb replacement. To both Walter and Cooper, a heart-felt salute. //

I also want to mention today's honorees. Major General James Fretland, Bud Dudley, and also somebody I've spent some time with over the years. // Any of our kids will tell you she's the five-star general in our family. Believe me, when she gives the orders, an entire division clears out. // My wife, Barbara.

Finally, I want to thank my V.A. Secretary and fellow VFW member Ed Derwinski. // Ed's got so much going on -- but I'm especially happy to see the work he's doing to improve our veterans' hospitals. His Department is intent on serving you -- much as you have served America. //

As a Veteran, I want to salute the VFW on its 91st year. And to note how we meet amid great challenges -- foreign and domestic. ((First, domestic. I have been deluged by a flood of recent inquiries. In response, I want you to know that Millie is fully recovered from a brief brush with lead poisoning. //

((Barbara was pretty concerned -- but as all who work with John Sununu know, it wasn't the first time the words "get the lead out" have been heard around the White House.)) //

((Second, on the foreign scene, it takes something like the Middle East to put things into perspective. When an aide burst into my office in early August and said, "There's a dictator on the rampage," I replied, "I thought the Yankees already solved the Steinbrenner problem.")) //

I am grateful to have the opportunity to discuss a far greater and more serious problem: the crisis in the Persian Gulf. // A crisis that will require American planning, patience, and at times, personal sacrifice. But a crisis that we must meet if we're to stop aggression and protect our own freedom, and the peace and stability of countries around the globe. //

Twelve days ago, these beliefs prompted me to take action in the Middle East to preserve the sovereignty of Kuwait and deter the raw ambition of a renegade regime threatening the vital interests of America. I acted knowing that our cause might not be easy -- but that our cause is right. // And that while one should not underestimate the fanatical determination of extremists -- an even greater mistake would be to underestimate America's commitment to our friends whenever our friends are imperiled. //

Today, the outcome is not yet decided. Hard choices remain. But of this we are certain. America will not be deterred. // We

will not be bullied. // We will act to promote a common code and rule of law that promotes cooperation instead of conflict. // We will preserve our economic independence. // Above all, when some ask: Where does America stand? Our answer is: We stand against those who would use force to replace the rule of law with the rule of the jungle. //

Fifty years ago, of course, another oppressor tried to brutalize the family of Nations. In 1939, he could have been stopped. In 1945, he finally was, but at a terrible cost. // We learned -- you know your history -- that we must stand up to evil. It is a lesson which over the past twelve days has reaffirmed truths that speak to America, and to the world. //

The first truth is as vivid as the memories of Verdun, Normandy, Pork Chop, Bataan. Put simply: Aggression, unchecked, leads to more aggression. No one walks away from appeasing a bully. He only crawls. // We know if we don't stand up to our enemies, our enemies will be standing over us. And that if we betray our allies, we won't have any allies to betray. // So we have sent U.S. forces to the Middle East -- reluctantly, but decisively. Knowing, as Teddy Roosevelt said, that "American means many things. [Among them], equality of rights and, therefore, equality and of obligation." //

Fifty years ago, an aggressor sought Austria and Czechoslovakia. Today, it's Kuwait -- tomorrow, who knows, Saudi Arabia and what else? We must stop such tyranny, and will. Acting not alone, but in concert, to protect our own national

security interests and global stability. Which brings me a second truth reaffirmed by the past twelve days. By itself, America can do much. With other allies, America can help freedom do more. //

Think back to World War II, where together allies confronted a horror which embodied hell on earth. Or Korea, where United Nations forces opposed totalitarianism. Today, even more, Nations have joined to become ambassadors of peace -- a cooperative force that will not stand by while one country mugs another. //

Look, for instance, at a bulwark of Operation Desert Shield. I salute Egypt, Morocco, and Great Britain for dispatching fighter planes and the destroyer HMS York to the Persian Gulf. // Look to nations from Canada to Turkey from Australia to Egypt. The cause of human dignity is in all of their debt. // Think even of the Soviet Union -- where Desert Shield shows how fists once clenched in animosity can become hands joined in partnership.

Next, we come to the third truth reaffirmed by the last twelve days -- as veterans, it won't surprise you: The steadfast character of the American will. // Look to the sands of Saudi Arabia -- where brave Americans are doing their duty. Just as you did at Okinawa, Remagen, and Hamburger Hill. Think of the men and women aboard our planes and battleships -- young, alone, and so very far from home. // Are they frightened? Probably. Yet they've overcome their fear -- which, after all, is the very definition of courage. They make us proud, and humble -- and I

salute the finest heroes any Nation could ever have. // Moreover, I pledge to you: We will do whatever it takes to help them complete their mission. //

This means realizing the fourth truth reaffirmed by the past twelve days. Although the size of America's armed forces in the years ahead will be smaller because the threat to our security is changing, America's defense capacity is, and must continue to be, "a lean, mean fighting machine."// 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. Yet, reduction in numbers must not mean reduction in force. // That is what Operation Desert Shield proves so vividly: Instead of reliving past contingencies, we're preparing 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. // Just look at how Operation Desert Shield has linked manpower with need -- we got our soldiers where and when they were needed -- not in weeks, but in days and hours. //

Last week, the Commander of the Joint Chiefs, General Powell, spoke to this when he praised "the finest peacetime military in the history of America." Fewer in troop strength, but restructured, purposeful, and proud. //

But the past twelve days have also shown us the need for a strong defense budget to support our troops. // As George Washington said in his first inaugural address, "To be prepared

for war is one of the most effectual means of preserving peace." Well, as Desert Shield has shown: If the way to ensure war is for America to be militarily weak, today's defense "resources" can help America ensure the peace that comes from being militarily strong. //

Now, I know we're operating in a time of budget restraint: We have limited resources -- we must utilize 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. But we cannot attack the deficit by attacking the very heart of our armed forces. // Last week, I asked Congress to do what we have done - - produce a budget proposal, including defense, that is both responsive and responsible. When they do, I will listen -- listen, but not break faith with the troops I command. // Make no mistake: To stop aggression -- to keep America militarily prepared -- I will oppose the big Pentagon cutters who are as much in tune with our defense needs as Roseanne Barr is with the National Anthem.//

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 -- a \$24 billion cut from our defense budget for Fiscal Year 1991. // They know that giving peace a chance does not mean taking a chance on peace. So they endorse what ultra-liberals have tried to kill: The M-X, Midgetman, B-2, and Strategic Defense Initiative. // Americans want arms negotiations to succeed --

knowing an historic START treaty isn't feasible without these weapons systems. So recalling the adage, "Dance with the one who brung you," they know that as our 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. //

((Let me tell you a story about why I feel so strongly. I was talking to some of the young soldiers who liberated Panama -- and I asked one of them -- a medic -- about the operation. He spoke of combat and the heroics of others -- but not of his own. So his commanding officer filled in the rest. This medic had been wounded, but repeatedly braved fire to pull out other wounded -- and was awarded the Silver Star for Bravery. Listening, I thought to myself: I will never -- ever -- let Americans like this down.)) //

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10 A.M.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is a privilege to join you. And a deep personal pleasure to renew old ties -- and to greet new friends. // My thanks to all of you -- but especially to Walter Hogan, doing a great job as your Commander in Chief. Following a legend like Cooper Holt isn't easy -- but you've picked a superb replacement. To both Walter and Cooper, a heart-felt salute. //

I also want to mention today's honorees. Major General James Fretland, Bud Dudley, and also somebody I've spent some time with over the years. // Any of our kids will tell you she's the five-star general in our family. Believe me, when she gives the orders, an entire division clears out. // My wife, Barbara.

Finally, I want to thank my V.A. Secretary and fellow VFW member Ed Derwinski. // Ed's got so much going on -- but I'm especially happy to see the work he's doing to improve our veterans' hospitals. His Department is intent on serving you -- much as you have served America. //

As a Veteran, I want to salute the VFW on its 91st year. And to note how we meet amid great challenges -- foreign and domestic. ((First, domestic. I have been deluged by a flood of recent inquiries. In response, I want you to know that Millie is fully recovered from a brief brush with lead poisoning. //

((Barbara was pretty concerned -- but as all who work with John Sununu know, it wasn't the first time the words "get the lead out" have been heard around the White House.)) //

((Second, on the foreign scene, it takes something like the Middle East to put things into perspective. When an aide burst into my office in early August and said, "There's a dictator on the rampage," I replied, "I thought the Yankees already solved the Steinbrenner problem.")) //

I am ^{grateful} ~~pleased~~ to ^{have the opportunity} ~~be here~~ to discuss a far greater and more serious problem: the crisis in the Persian Gulf. // A crisis ~~that will~~ ^{may} require American planning, patience, and at times, personal sacrifice. But ^{a crisis} that we must meet if we're to ^{stop aggression and} ~~preserve~~ protect ^{peace and stability} ~~our way of life~~, our own freedom, and the freedom of friendly countries around the globe. //

Twelve days ago, this ^{case} belief prompted me to take action in the Middle East to preserve the sovereignty of Kuwait and deter the ^{raw ambition} ~~aggression~~ of a renegade regime threatening the vital interests of America. I acted knowing that our cause might not be easy -- but that our cause ^{was} ~~has always been~~ right. // And that while one should not underestimate the ^{fanatical determination} ~~zeal~~ of thugs -- an even greater mistake would be to underestimate America's commitment to ^{our friends} ~~peace~~ whenever ^{our friends are} ~~peace is imperiled~~. //

Today, the outcome is not yet decided. Hard choices remain. But of this we are certain. We ^④ will preserve our economic independence. We ^② will not be bullied -- America ^① will not be deterred. // We will act to ^③ promote a common code and rule of

law that promotes cooperation instead of conflict. Above all, when some ask: Where does America stand? Our answer is: We stand against those who would use force to to replace the rule of law with the rule of the jungle. //

Fifty years ago, of course, another ~~one~~ ^{oppressor} tried to brutalize the family of Nations. ~~We~~ ^{In 1939, he} could have ^{been} stopped ~~him~~, and ~~did~~ ^{In 1945 he finally was} but ~~so belatedly, and at such~~ a terrible cost. // We learned -- you know your history -- that we must stand up to evil. ~~And for the~~ ^{right of people to live where they want, and work as they choose.} ~~right of people to live where they want, and work as they choose.~~ ^{It is a} Lessons, ~~yes~~ which over the past twelve days have ~~been~~ ^{has} reaffirmed ~~as~~ ^{that speak} truths. ~~Let me briefly suggest what these truths~~ ^{say} to America, and ^{to} the world. //

The first truth is as vivid as the memories of Verdun, Normandy, Pork Chop, Bataan. Put simply: Aggression, unchecked, leads to more aggression. No one walks away from appeasing a bully. He only crawls. // We know if we don't stand up to our enemies, our enemies will be standing over us. And that if we betray our allies, we won't have any allies to betray. // So we have sent ~~U.S. forces~~ ^{U.S. forces} to the Middle East -- reluctantly, but decisively. Knowing, as Teddy Roosevelt said, that "American means many things. [Among them], equality of rights and, therefore, equality and of obligation." //

Fifty years ago, an aggressor sought Austria and Czechoslovakia. Today, it's Kuwait -- tomorrow, who knows, Saudi Arabia and what else? We must stop such tyranny, and will. Acting not alone, but in concert, to protect our own national security

interests and global stability. Which brings me a second truth reaffirmed by the past twelve days. By itself, America can do much. With other allies, America can help freedom do more. //

Think back to World War II, where together allies confronted a horror which embodied hell on earth. Or Korea, where United Nations forces opposed totalitarianism. Today, even more, Nations have joined to become ambassadors of peace -- a cooperative force that will not stand by while one country mugs another. //

~~Gone are the days when America was the only cop on the block responding alone to cries of help from victims of~~

~~attack.~~ Look, for instance, at a bulwark of Operation Desert ^{Egypt and Morocco for their support and} Shield. I salute Great Britain for dispatching fighter planes

and the destroyer HMS York to the Persian Gulf. // Look at ^{to} ~~allies~~ ^{nations} from Canada to Turkey and Australia to Egypt: The cause

of human dignity is in ^{all their} your debt. // ~~To the members of the U.N.~~

~~Security Council: Your support of sanctions has burnished the~~

~~morning star of freedom. // Finally, I salute the Soviet Union -~~

~~- where Desert Shield shows how fists once clenched in animosity~~

~~can become hands joined in partnership. Who would have thought~~

~~it -- even one short year ago? The U.S. and U.S.S.R. knowing~~

~~that while a new era of peace has arrived with the closing of the~~

~~American-Soviet gulf, a threat to our security remains as long as~~

~~self-determination is challenged in the Persian Gulf. //~~

Next, we come to the third truth reaffirmed by the last twelve days -- as veterans, it won't surprise you: The steadfast character of the American will. // Look to the sands of Saudi

Arabia -- where brave Americans are, ~~and will~~, ^{no} do their duty. Just as you did at Okinawa, Rhemagen, and Hamburger Hill. Think of the men and women aboard our planes and battleships -- young, alone, and so very far from home. // Are they frightened? ^{Probably} ~~Yes~~. Yet they've overcome their fear -- which, after all, is the very definition of courage. They make us proud, and humble -- and I salute the finest heroes any Nation could ever have. // Moreover, I pledge to you: We will do whatever it takes to help them complete their mission. //

This means realizing the fourth truth reaffirmed by the past twelve days. Although the size of America's armed forces ^{in the years ahead} will be smaller ^{because the threat to American security is changing,} ~~-- thanks to less immediate threat to Europe and less threat of global war~~ -- America's defense capacity is, and must continue to be, "a lean, mean fighting machine."// By 1995, we estimate that our security needs can be met by an active force 25 per cent smaller than today's -- the lowest level since 1950. Yet, reduction in numbers must not mean reduction in force. // That is what Operation Desert Shield proves so vividly: Instead of reliving past contingencies, we're preparing 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. // (A)

Last week, the Commander of the Joint Chiefs, General Powell, spoke to this when he praised "the finest peacetime military in the history of America." Fewer in troop strength, but restructured, purposeful, and proud. // (Just look at how

Operation Desert Shield has linked manpower with need -- we got our soldiers where and when they're ^{were} needed -- not in weeks, but ⁱⁿ days and hours. // ~~When Americans say: We want to sustain our commitment to a strong national defense. The past twelve days respond: Our restructured military can make this commitment real.~~ ^{But the past twelve days have also shown us} Finally, let me cite the fifth truth reaffirmed by August 1990: The need for a strong defense budget to support our troops. // As George Washington said in his first inaugural address, "To be prepared for war is one of the most effectual means of preserving peace." Well, as Desert Shield has shown: If the ~~best~~ way to ensure war is for America to be militarily weak, today's defense "resources" can help America ensure the peace that comes from being militarily strong. //

Now, I know we're operating in a time of budget restraint: We have limited resources -- we must utilize 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. But we cannot attack the deficit by attacking ^{the very heart of} our armed forces. // Last week, I asked Congress to do what we have done -- ^{produce a budget} ~~make defense~~ ^{including defense} proposals that are both responsive and responsible. When they do, I will listen -- listen, ^{faith with the troops I command.} but not break. // Make no mistake: To stop aggression -- to keep America militarily prepared -- I will oppose the big Pentagon cutters who are as much in tune with our defense needs as Roseanne Barr is with the National Anthem. //

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 -- a \$24

billion cut from our defense budget for Fiscal Year 1991. //

They know that giving peace a chance does not mean taking a chance on peace. So they endorse what ultra-liberals have tried to kill: The M-X, Midgetman, B-2, and Strategic Defense Initiative. // Americans want arms negotiations to succeed -- knowing an historic START treaty isn't feasible without these weapons systems. So recalling the adage, "Dance with the one who brung you," they know that as our 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. //

((Let me tell you a story about why I feel so strongly. I was talking to some of the young soldiers who liberated Panama - and I asked one of them -- a medic -- about the operation. He ^{Space} ~~told~~ ^{and the heroics of others} ~~of combat~~ ^{his own} -- but not of himself. So his commanding officer filled in the rest. This medic had been wounded, but repeatedly braved fire to pull out other wounded -- and was awarded the Silver Star for Bravery. Listening, I thought to myself: I will never -- ever -- let Americans like this down.)) //

~~Ask that medic. He'll tell you previous cuts in the military would betray our heritage as guardians of freedom. Or his buddies. They know that victories on distant battlefields deserve support from the United States Congress. // Above all, they know that to stop dictators will require America's will, manpower, and resources -- stopping tyranny, and helping our friends, in a historic hour of need. //~~

August 1990 has witnessed what history will judge one of the most crucial deployments of allied power since World War II. A ~~period that for America, one might term The Twelve Days of Freedom.~~ // In my speech of two weeks ago, I demanded the complete and unconditional withdrawal of all Iraqi foirces from Kuwait and the restoration of Kuwait's legimitate government. Today, I say: Those objectives are, and will remain, unchanged.

Will it take time? Of course. For we are engaged in a cause larger than ourselves. ~~It is the cause of liberty -- what Americans fought, and died for, at Bunker Hill, Gettysburg, at Anzio, and Inchon.~~ A cause perhaps best shown by a moment many of you remember -- and that I'd like to close with: D-Day -- June 6, 1944. As Dwight Eisenhower addressed the sailors, soldiers, and airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force. //

"You are about to embark," he told them, "upon a great crusade -- the eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you." And then Ike spoke 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 -- as I did -- under 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 an aggressor, and missed it. I pledge to you: We will not make that mistake again. //

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