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Regional Press Briefing 9/17/90 [OA 5376]

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

Grant/Grossman
Draft three
A: regional

90 SEP 17 All: 06

OPENING STATEMENT: REGIONAL PRESS BRIEFING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1990
2:00 P.M.

I understand you've just heard from Dick Cheney and Roger Porter with the latest on the international situation and the domestic budget scene, and if I may, I'd like to add a few comments of my own. Then I'll be happy to take questions.

As I told the American people Tuesday night in my address to the Joint Session of Congress, the level of world cooperation in condemning Iraq is unprecedented. More than twenty nations have joined us, and now armed forces from countries spanning four continents have taken up defensive positions at the request of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia. Over the last several days, we've seen Japan and Germany ^{have also said} announce that they will contribute billions to the cost of the multinational effort and to the related effort of easing the economic hardship of the nations supporting sanctions. ^{announce it} Great Britain will send a full armored brigade, ^{just} and the famous Desert Rats, ^{and France had announced it is also sending a significant ground force.} And just this weekend, the United Nations Security Council has -- once again -- strongly condemned Saddam Hussein for his outrageous break-ins at diplomatic premises in Kuwait.

Saddam Hussein's brutal bullying must not -- and will not -- be tolerated by the world community.

For America to maintain its responsibilities abroad, America must remain strong and vital. Again, as I said last week, our

reverse; nations sending ground troops should be mentioned 1st

Handwritten annotations in blue ink: "have also said" above "announce"; "announce it" above "Great Britain"; "just" above "and the famous Desert Rats"; "and France had announced it is also sending a significant ground force." in a box to the right of "And just this weekend"; a large blue circle around the paragraph from "Over the last several days" to "United Nations Security Council"; and a blue arrow pointing from the left margin to "Over the last several days".

world leadership and domestic strength are mutual and reinforcing. That is why I am calling on the budget negotiators from the Congress and the Administration to redouble their efforts to get a budget agreement.

I want to see a budget agreement ^{oriented toward} which contains growth-
^{one which contains} ~~oriented tax incentives~~ ^{and job} ~~and of course,~~ ^{-- incentives like} the capital gains tax cut ^{which would create jobs}
 The Congress must ^{also} enact real spending cuts, not blue-smoke-and-
 mirrors tricks that don't get the job done. Congress must ensure
 that budget process reform takes place, and its five-year plan
 absolutely must be enforceable. And finally: Congress must enact
 a multi-year defense budget that meets our needs -- not only in
 terms of the improvement of East-West relations, but also our
 broader responsibilities in other parts of the world. ^{-- responsibilities}
^{The crisis with Iraq has brought us back once again brought home to us}
 Earlier, I asked for an up-or-down vote on my budget ^{a complete \$500 B deficit reduction}
^{package --} proposal -- with or without a budget ^{summit} agreement -- by September 28
 at the latest. ~~Should a budget agreement not be reached,~~ The
 nation stands only 13 days away from the drastic consequences of
 a mandated sequester. ^{-- required if Congress is unable to get me a budget by then.}
~~We must do everything in our power to~~
~~avoid this. \\~~

We in the Administration stand ready to do our part, and I am confident that the Congress will do its part. While I have been happy to see that we've made some headway recently in the budget talks, it's time to get an agreement -- now. We owe it to the American people.

Now I will take your questions.

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**REGIONAL PRESS BRIEFING \ ROOM 450
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1990 \ 2:00 P.M.**

**I UNDERSTAND YOU'VE JUST HEARD FROM DICK CHENEY AND
ROGER PORTER WITH THE LATEST ON THE INTERNATIONAL
SITUATION AND THE DOMESTIC BUDGET SCENE, AND IF I MAY,
I'D LIKE TO ADD A FEW COMMENTS OF MY OWN. THEN I'LL BE
HAPPY TO TAKE QUESTIONS.**

**AS I TOLD THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TUESDAY NIGHT IN MY
ADDRESS TO THE JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS, THE LEVEL OF
WORLD COOPERATION IN OPPOSING IRAQI AGRESSION IS
UNPRECEDENTED.**

- 2 -

MORE THAN TWENTY NATIONS HAVE JOINED US, AND NOW ARMED FORCES FROM COUNTRIES SPANNING FOUR CONTINENTS HAVE TAKEN UP DEFENSIVE POSITIONS AT THE REQUEST OF KING FAHD OF SAUDI ARABIA. OVER THE LAST SEVERAL DAYS, WE'VE SEEN GREAT BRITAIN ANNOUNCE IT WILL SEND A FULL ARMORED BRIGADE, THE FAMOUSE DESERT RATS, AND FRANCE HAS JUST ANNOUNCED IT IS ALSO SENDING A SIGNIFICANT GROUND FORCE.

- 3 -

**JAPAN AND GERMANY HAVE ALSO SAID THAT THEY WILL
CONTRIBUTE BILLIONS TO THE COST OF THE MULTINATIONAL
EFFORT AND TO THE RELATED EFFORT OF EASING THE ECONOMIC
HARDSHIP OF THE NATIONS SUPPORTING SANCTIONS. AND JUST
THIS WEEKEND, THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL HAS
-- ONCE AGAIN -- STRONGLY CONDEMNED SADDAM HUSSEIN FOR
HIS OUTRAGEOUS BREAK-INS AT DIPLOMATIC PREMISES IN
KUWAIT.**

- 4 -

**SADDAM HUSSEIN'S BRUTAL BULLYING MUST NOT -- AND
WILL NOT
-- BE TOLERATED BY THE WORLD COMMUNITY.**

**FOR AMERICA TO MAINTAIN ITS RESPONSIBILITIES
ABROAD, AMERICA MUST REMAIN STRONG AND VITAL. AGAIN,
AS I SAID LAST WEEK, OUR WORLD LEADERSHIP AND DOMESTIC
STRENGTH ARE MUTUAL AND REINFORCING. THAT IS WHY I AM
CALLING ON THE BUDGET NEGOTIATORS FROM THE CONGRESS AND
THE ADMINISTRATION TO REDOUBLE THEIR EFFORTS TO GET A
BUDGET AGREEMENT.**

- 5 -

I WANT TO SEE A BUDGET AGREEMENT ORIENTED TOWARD GROWTH -- ONE WHICH CONTAINS INCENTIVES LIKE THE CAPITAL GAINS TAX CUT TO CREATE JOBS. THE CONGRESS MUST ALSO ENACT REAL SPENDING CUTS, NOT SMOKE-AND-MIRRORS TRICKS THAT DON'T GET THE JOB DONE. CONGRESS MUST ENSURE THAT BUDGET PROCESS REFORM TAKES PLACE, AND ITS FIVE-YEAR PLAN ABSOLUTELY MUST BE ENFORCEABLE.

- 6 -

AND FINALLY: CONGRESS MUST ENACT A MULTI-YEAR DEFENSE BUDGET THAT MEETS OUR NEEDS -- NOT ONLY IN TERMS OF THE IMPROVEMENT OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS, BUT ALSO OUR BROADER RESPONSIBILITIES IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD -- RESPONSIBILITIES THE CRISIS WITH IRAQ HAS ONCE AGAIN BROUGHT HOME TO US.

EARLIER, I ASKED FOR AN UP-OR-DOWN VOTE ON A COMPLETE \$500 BILLION DEFICIT REDUCTION PACKAGE -- WITH OR WITHOUT A BUDGET SUMMIT AGREEMENT -- BY SEPTEMBER 28 AT THE LATEST.

- 7 -

THE NATION STANDS ONLY 13 DAYS AWAY FROM THE DRASTIC CONSEQUENCES OF A MANDATED SEQUESTER -- REQUIRED IF CONGRESS IS UNABLE TO GET ME A BUDGET BY THEN.

WE IN THE ADMINISTRATION STAND READY TO DO OUR PART, AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE CONGRESS WILL DO ITS PART. WHILE I HAVE BEEN HAPPY TO SEE THAT WE'VE MADE SOME HEADWAY RECENTLY IN THE BUDGET TALKS, IT'S TIME TO GET AN AGREEMENT -- NOW. WE OWE IT TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

NOW I WILL TAKE YOUR QUESTIONS.

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- 8 -