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**REGIONAL PRESS BRIEFING \ ROOM 450
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1990 \ 2:00 P.M.**

**I HAVE A BRIEF STATEMENT THAT I'D LIKE TO MAKE,
BEFORE TAKING YOUR QUESTIONS.**

**EVER SINCE AUGUST 2ND, THE WORLD COMMUNITY HAS BEEN
VIRTUALLY UNANIMOUS IN ITS CONDEMNATION AND IN ITS
REJECTION OF IRAQI AGGRESSION.**

**IN RECENT WEEKS, WE'VE REDOUBLED OUR EFFORTS TO
SEEK A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THIS CRISIS. WE FEEL A
SENSE OF URGENCY, AND FOR GOOD REASON.**

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**WITH EACH PASSING DAY, SADDAM HUSSEIN'S SOLDIERS
BRUTALIZE KUWAIT, HIS POLICIES THREATEN THE HEALTH OF
FLEDGLING DEMOCRACIES, AND HIS GENERALS AMASS
EVER-GROWING FORCES ARMED WITH WEAPONS OF GREAT
POTENTIAL DESTRUCTION.**

**MEANWHILE, THERE'S A CYNICAL AND DANGEROUS WAITING
GAME BEING PLAYED IN BAGHDAD, AS SADDAM ENGAGES IN AN
APPARENT ATTEMPT TO CIRCUMVENT THE WILL OF THE WORLD.**

BY TRYING TO DIVERT ATTENTION TO ISSUES UNRELATED TO THE INVASION OF KUWAIT, BY CHARACTERIZING THE HOSTAGE RELEASE AS A "HUMANITARIAN GESTURE," AND BY DELAYING THE TALKS I PROPOSED, SADDAM IS ENGAGED IN THE WORST KIND OF MANIPULATION. THESE CYNICAL MOVES SUGGEST A LACK OF SERIOUSNESS ABOUT FINDING A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THIS CRISIS.

THESE MEETINGS ARE POTENTIALLY IMPORTANT -- AN ATTEMPT TO AVERT A COSTLY CONFLICT. SHOULD THEY TAKE PLACE, LET ME EMPHASIZE THERE CAN BE NO PARTIAL SOLUTIONS, NO CONCESSIONS, NO NEGOTIATIONS -- IN SHORT, NO REWARDS FOR UNPROVOKED AGGRESSION. BUT WE ARE WILLING TO EXHAUST EVERY POSSIBLE MEANS OF COMMUNICATING TO SADDAM HUSSEIN THE SERIOUSNESS OF HIS SITUATION -- TO MAKE ABSOLUTELY CLEAR WHAT THE WORLD REQUIRES TO RESOLVE THIS CRISIS PEACEFULLY.

WE HAVE NO DESIRE FOR WAR. WE'RE DOING ALL WE CAN TO PRESERVE THE PEACE. BUT FOR PEACE TO BE PRESERVED, IRAQ MUST COMPLY FULLY AND UNCONDITIONALLY WITH THE 12 UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS.

AND ONE THING SADDAM MUST UNDERSTAND.

[[WE MUST STOP THIS ARMED AND DANGEROUS DICTATOR NOW, OR WE WILL FACE AN EVEN MORE COSTLY CHALLENGE IN THE FUTURE. APPEASEMENT NEVER PAYS -- AND IT NEVER BUYS PEACE OR SECURITY.

IF SADDAM WON'T COME TO HIS SENSES WE HAVE THE MEANS AND THE WILL DO WHAT IS REQUIRED DECISIVE. IF WE GO IN -- WE GO IN DECISIVELY. ONE VIETNAM IS ONE VIETNAM TOO MANY -- AND THERE WILL BE NO SECOND. STANDING FIRM AGAINST SADDAM'S AGGRESSION ARE FORCES FROM 28 COUNTRIES. YESTERDAY, I MET WITH THE AMBASSADORS OF THOSE COUNTRIES, AND I WILL SOON BE MEETING WITH AMBASSADORS OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS CONTRIBUTING VITAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO OUR COMMON EFFORT IN THE GULF.

TOGETHER, THIS REMARKABLE COALITION IS READY, WILLING,
AND ABLE TO UPHOLD THE JANUARY 15TH DEADLINE FOR
WITHDRAWAL FROM KUWAIT CALLED FOR BY THE UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY COUNCIL.]]

THE WORLD COMMUNITY IS SERIOUS ABOUT UPHOLDING
EVERY CLAUSE OF EVERY ONE OF THE 12 UNITED NATIONS
RESOLUTIONS -- FOR THE SAKE OF KUWAIT, OF COURSE, BUT
EVEN MORE IMPORTANTLY, FOR THE SAKE OF US ALL -- FOR A
STABLE INTERNATIONAL ORDER IN THE FUTURE.

IN THIS FIRST TEST OF THE POST-COLD WAR ERA, WE
INTEND TO SEND A CLEAR MESSAGE TO ALL DICTATORS AND
DESPOTS, PRESENT AND FUTURE, THAT THE WORLD COMMUNITY
WILL UPHOLD THE RULE OF LAW.

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WE HAVE NO DESIRE FOR WAR. WE'RE DOING ALL WE CAN TO PRESERVE THE PEACE. BUT FOR PEACE TO BE PRESERVED, IRAQ MUST COMPLY FULLY AND UNCONDITIONALLY WITH THE 12 UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

AND ONE THING SADDAM MUST UNDERSTAND.

[[THIS NATION IS NOT DIVIDED. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE STAND FIRMLY BEHIND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY'S PRINCIPLED RESPONSE TO AGGRESSION.]]

THEY KNOW THAT WE MUST STOP THIS ARMED AND DANGEROUS DICTATOR NOW, OR WE WILL FACE AN EVEN MORE COSTLY CHALLENGE IN THE FUTURE. APPEASEMENT NEVER PAYS -- AND IT NEVER BUYS PEACE OR SECURITY.

IF SADDAM WON'T COME TO HIS SENSES -- IF WAR MUST COME -- WE HAVE THE MEANS AND THE WILL TO MAKE IT DECISIVE AND FINAL. IF WE GO IN -- WE GO IN TO WIN. ONE VIETNAM IS ONE VIETNAM TOO MANY -- AND THERE WILL BE NO SECOND.

do what is required