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**Record Group/Collection:** George H.W. Bush Presidential Records  
**Collection/Office of Origin:** Speechwriting, White House Office of  
**Series:** Speech File Draft Files  
**Subseries:** Chron File, 1989-1993

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**OA/ID Number:** 13553  
**Folder ID Number:** 13553-007

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**Folder Title:**

U.S. Reserve Officers Assoc" 1/23/91 [OA 6028]

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Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
<b>G</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>

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Frag claims to have  
POW

4 pilots

1 Italy ↙

2 Brit. ↙

1 Kuwait ↙

3 U.S.

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McGroarty/Simon  
January 23, 1991  
3:30 pm

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: U.S. RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION  
WASHINGTON HILTON  
JANUARY 23, 1990  
7:40 PM

Thank you, Gen. Bob Hope. I'm pleased to see so many members of Congress here tonight, particularly Senator Strom Thurmond, Senator Ted Stevens, and my old friend Sonny Montgomery. My apologies to all for speaking before the broccoli and leaving, but given the circumstances, I'm sure you'll understand. // I am proud to share this evening with the leadership of the Reserve Officers Association -- and I am deeply honored to be named "Minuteman of the Year." But I know tonight our thoughts go out to men and women earning the honor of a grateful nation at this very moment: the citizen-soldiers -- 100,000 strong -- serving now with the coalition forces in the Gulf. I salute them, each and every one. //

Those American Reservists are part of an allied force standing against the forces of aggression -- standing up for what is right. They serve alongside hundreds of thousands of soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen of 27 other nations, all united against the aggression of Saddam Hussein. //

As we meet here tonight, we are exactly one week into OPERATION DESERT STORM. But it is important to date this conflict not from January 16 -- but from its true beginning: the assault of August 2nd -- Iraq's unprovoked aggression against the

tiny nation of Kuwait. // We did not begin a war seven days ago. Rather, we began to end a war -- to right a wrong that the world could not ignore. //

From the day Saddam's forces first crossed into Kuwait, it was clear that this aggression required a swift response from our nation, and the world community. What was -- and is -- at stake is not simply our energy and economic security, and the stability of a vital region -- but the prospects for peace in the post-Cold War era: the promise of a new world order, based upon the rule of law. //

America was not alone in confronting Saddam. No less than 12 resolutions of the UN Security Council condemned the invasion -- demanding Iraq's withdrawal, without condition and without delay. The UN put in place sanctions to prevent Iraq from reaping any reward from its outlaw act. Countries from six continents sent forces to the Gulf, to demonstrate the will of the world community that Saddam's aggression would not stand. //

Appeasement -- peace at any price -- was never an answer. Turning a blind eye to Saddam's aggression would not have avoided war -- it would only have delayed the world's day of reckoning, postponing what would ultimately have been a far more dangerous and costly conflict.

Unfortunately -- in spite of more than 5 months of sustained diplomatic efforts by the Arab League, the European Community, the United States and United Nations -- Saddam Hussein met every

→ overture of peace with open contempt. In the end, despite the world's prayers for peace -- Saddam brought war upon himself. //

Tonight, after one week of allied operations, I am pleased to report that OPERATION DESERT STORM is right on schedule. //

We have dealt a severe setback to Saddam's nuclear ambitions. Our pinpoint attacks have put Saddam out of the nuclear bomb-building business for a long time to come. Allied aircraft enjoy air superiority -- and we are using that superiority to systematically deprive Saddam of his ability to wage war effectively. We are taking out their SAM defenses. The main danger to allied aircraft now comes from some 20,000 anti-aircraft guns in the Baghdad area alone. // And let me say: I am proud of the way our aviators are carrying out their tasks. In head to head combat, our jet fighters have destroyed 19 Iraqi jets. They have hit -- at most -- one American jet in aerial combat. //

Step by step, we are making progress towards the objectives that have guided the world's response since August 2nd: the liberation of Kuwait, and the restoration of stability and security in the Gulf. // And there can be no doubt: OPERATION DESERT STORM is working. There can be no "pause" now that Saddam has forced the world into war. We will stay the course -- and we will succeed. //

As I said on the third day of this campaign, war is never cheap or easy. There will be problems. There will be setbacks

and sacrifices. // But let me say I have every reason to be very pleased with our progress to date. //

Saddam has sickened the world with his use of SCUD missiles -- those inaccurate bombs that indiscriminately strike cities and innocent civilians in both Israel and Saudi Arabia. These weapons are nothing more than tools of terror -- and they do nothing but strengthen our resolve to act, against a dictator unmoved by human decency. ///

Prime Minister John Major said it well yesterday. Saddam, he said, "may yet become a target of his own people. It is perfectly clear... that this man is amoral. He takes hostages, he attacks population centers, he threatens prisoners. He's a man without pity, and whatever his fate may be, I for one will not weep for him."

No one should weep for this tyrant when he is brought to justice. No one -- anywhere in the world. //

I watched <sup>(S)</sup> along with all of you <sup>(J)</sup> the repulsive parade of our POWs on Iraqi television -- one more proof of the savagery of Saddam. // But I knew -- as they read their prepared statements criticizing this country -- that those were false words, forced on them by their captors. One American pilot was asked why he was sure the pilots were coerced -- their statements false. And he said: "I know that... because these guys are Americans." //

He could well have said the same thing about the other pilots being held -- from Britain, Italy, and Kuwait -- all courageous.... // <sup>men</sup> <sup>& valor.</sup>

Tonight, I repeat my pledge to you -- and to all Americans: This will not be another Vietnam. Never again will our Armed Forces be sent out to do a job with one hand tied behind their back. They will continue to have the support they need to get the job done -- get it done quickly, and with as little loss of life as possible. And that support is not just military -- but moral: measured in the support our servicemen and women receive from every one of us here at home. When the brave men and women of DESERT STORM return home -- they will return to the love and respect of a grateful nation. //

And that is where I will close -- with the aim of saving lives, and seeing the heroes of DESERT STORM return home safe and sound. // All life is precious -- whether it's the life of an American pilot or an Iraqi child. And yet if life is precious, so too are the living principles of liberty and peace -- principles that all Americans cherish above all others, principles that you, and your comrades on duty tonight, have pledged to defend. //

Thank you for this warm welcome -- and for your strong support. And may God bless the United States of America.

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# THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

McGroarty/Simon  
January 23, 1991  
3:30 pm

91 JAN 23 PM 3:44

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America was not alone in confronting Saddam. No less than 12 resolutions of the UN Security Council condemned the invasion -- demanding Iraq's withdrawal, without condition and without delay. The UN put in place sanctions to prevent Iraq from reaping any reward from its outlaw act. Countries from 5 continents sent forces to the Gulf, to demonstrate the will of the world community that Saddam's aggression would not stand. //

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Step by step, we are making progress towards the objectives that have guided the world's response since August 2nd: the liberation of Kuwait, and the restoration of stability and security in the Gulf. // And there can be no doubt: OPERATION DESERT STORM is working. There can be no "pause" now that Saddam has forced the world into war. We will stay the course -- and we will succeed. //

As I said on the third day of this campaign, war is never cheap or easy. There will be problems. There will be setbacks and sacrifices. // But let me say I have every reason to be very pleased with our progress to date. //

Saddam has sickened the world with his use of SCUD missiles -- those inaccurate bombs that indiscriminately strike cities and innocent civilians in both Israel and Saudi Arabia. These weapons are nothing more than tools of terror -- and they do

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on them by their captors. ~~One American pilot -- a comrade in arms -- put it: "There's no doubt about that, and I know that's the best of all."~~ *One American pilot -- a comrade in arms -- was asked why he was sure that the pilots were coerced and he said their statements were false.*

~~because these guys are Americans."~~ *and he could well have said the same thing... and he said*  
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*about the other pilots the Brits the Italian*

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*our progress*

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*add back in ?*

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We have ~~dealt~~

Gen Powell's  
3

Nuclear Ambition.

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To arm himself -- use POTUS line.

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(delet 3 — not bad) all

tasks  
to my head  
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Combat  
over jet  
fighters  
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*about the other pilots held*

*And he could well have said the same things*

of DESERT STORM return home -- they will return to the love and respect of a grateful nation. //

And that is where I will close -- with the aim of saving lives, and seeing the heroes of DESERT STORM return home safe and sound. // All life is precious -- whether it's the life of an American pilot or an Iraqi child. And yet if life is precious, so too are the living principles of liberty and peace -- principles that all Americans cherish above all others, principles that you, and your comrades on duty tonight, have pledged to defend. //

Thank you for this warm welcome -- and for your strong support. And may God bless the United States of America.

# # #

McGroarty/Simon  
January 23, 1991  
1:30 pm

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: U.S. RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION  
WASHINGTON HILTON  
JANUARY 23, 1990  
7:40 PM

Thank you, Gen. Bob Hope. [Introductory acknowledgements.]  
My apologies to all for what will be a quick "hit and run"  
tonight, given the circumstances. // I am proud to share this  
evening with the leadership of the Reserve Officers Association -  
- and I am deeply honored to be named "Minuteman of the Year."  
But I know tonight our thoughts go out to men and women earning  
the honor of a grateful nation at this very moment: the citizen-  
soldiers -- 100,000 strong -- serving now with the coalition  
forces in the Gulf. I salute them, each and every one. //

Those Americans Reservists are part of an allied force  
standing against the forces of aggression -- standing up for what  
is right. They serve alongside hundreds of thousands of  
soldiers, sailors and airmen of 27 other nations, all united  
against the aggression of Saddam Hussein. //

As we meet here tonight, we are exactly one week into  
OPERATION DESERT STORM. But it is important to date this  
conflict not from January 16 -- but from its true beginning: the  
assault of August 2nd -- Iraq's unprovoked aggression against the  
tiny nation of Kuwait. // We did not begin a war seven days  
ago. Rather, we began to end a war -- to right a wrong that the  
world could not ignore. //

From the day Saddam's forces first crossed into Kuwait, it was clear that this aggression required a swift response from our nation, and the world community. What was -- and is -- at stake is not simply our energy and economic security, and the stability of a vital region -- but the prospects for peace in the post-Cold War era: the promise of a new world order, based upon the rule of law. //

America was not alone in confronting Saddam. No less than 12 resolutions of the UN Security Council condemned the invasion -- demanding Iraq's withdrawal, without condition and without delay. The UN put in place sanctions to prevent Iraq from reaping any reward from its outlaw act. Countries from 5 continents sent forces to the Gulf, to demonstrate the will of the world community that Saddam's aggression would not stand. //

Appeasement -- peace at any price -- was never an answer. Turning a blind eye to Saddam's aggression would not have avoided war -- it would only have delayed the world's day of reckoning, postponing what would ultimately have been a far more dangerous and costly conflict.

Unfortunately -- in spite of more than 5 months of sustained diplomatic efforts by the Arab League, the European Community, the United States and United Nations -- Saddam Hussein met every overture of peace with open contempt. In the end, despite the world's prayers for peace -- Saddam brought war upon himself. //

Tonight, after one week of allied operations, I am pleased to report that OPERATION DESERT STORM is right on schedule. //

We have dealt a severe setback to Saddam's ambition to arm himself with nuclear weapons. Allied aircraft enjoy air superiority -- and we are using that superiority to systematically deprive Saddam of his ability to wage war effectively. We are taking out their SAM defenses. The main danger to allied aircraft now comes from anti-aircraft fire. // And let me say: I am proud of the way our aviators are carrying out their tasks. Iraq has many planes left, but every time an Iraqi jet has engaged one of our fighters it has been destroyed - - every single time. ///

Step by step, we are making progress towards the objectives that have guided the world's response since August 2nd: the liberation of Kuwait, and the restoration of stability and security in the Gulf. // And there can be no doubt: OPERATION DESERT STORM is working. There will be no "pause for peace" now that Saddam has forced the world into war. We will stay the course -- and we will succeed. //

As I said on the third day of this campaign, war is never cheap or easy. There will be problems. There will be setbacks and sacrifices. //

Saddam has sickened the world with his use of SCUD missiles against cities and innocent civilians. These weapons are nothing more than tools of terror -- and they do nothing but strengthen our resolve to act, against a dictator unmoved by human decency.

Prime Minister John Major said it well yesterday. Saddam, he said, "may yet become a target of his own people. It is

perfectly clear... that this man is amoral. He takes hostages, he attacks population centers, he threatens prisoners. He's a man without pity, and whatever his fate may be , I for one will not weep for him."

No one will weep for this tyrant when he is brought to justice. No one -- anywhere in the world. //

I watched along with all of you the repulsive parade of our POWs on Iraqi television. In their bruised and battered faces I saw one more proof of the savagery of Saddam. But I knew, as they read their prepared statements criticizing this country, that those were false words, forced on them by their captors. As one American pilot -- a comrade in arms -- put it: "There's no doubt about that, and I know that's true because these guys are Americans." //

Tonight, I repeat my pledge to you -- and to all Americans: This will not be another Vietnam. Never again will our Armed Forces be sent out to do a job with one hand tied behind their back. They will have the support they need to get the job done - - get it done quickly, and with as little loss of life as possible. And that support is not just military -- but moral: measured in the support our servicemen and women receive from every one of us here at home. When the brave men and women of DESERT STORM return home -- they will return to the love and respect of a grateful nation. //

I can appreciate that you -- like all Americans -- are anxious to hear every bit of news on the progress of the war. I

understand that desire. At the same time, we must never forget that information made available through the press to the American people **also reaches Baghdad**. If we must choose what we can speak about and what we cannot, I will choose carefully -- but I will choose in a manner designed to safeguard American lives.

And that is where I will close -- with the aim of saving lives. All life is precious -- whether it's the life of an American pilot or an Iraqi child. And yet if life is precious, so too are the living principles of liberty and freedom in peace -- principles that all Americans cherish above all others, principles that you, and your comrades on duty tonight, have pledged to defend. //

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McGroarty/Simon  
January 23, 1991  
3:30 pm

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But I know tonight our thoughts go out to men and women earning  
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soldiers -- 100,000 strong -- serving now with the coalition  
forces in the Gulf. I salute them, each and every one. //

Those American Reservists are part of an allied force  
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2

From the day Saddam's forces first crossed into Kuwait, it was clear that this aggression required a swift response from our nation, and the world community. What was -- and is -- at stake is not simply our energy and economic security, and the stability of a vital region -- but the prospects for peace in the post-Cold War era: the promise of a new world order, based upon the rule of law. //

America was not alone in confronting Saddam. No less than 12 resolutions of the UN Security Council condemned the invasion -- demanding Iraq's withdrawal, without condition and without delay. The UN put in place sanctions to prevent Iraq from reaping any reward from its outlaw act. Countries from 5 continents sent forces to the Gulf, to demonstrate the will of the world community that Saddam's aggression would not stand. //

Appeasement -- peace at any price -- was never an answer. Turning a blind eye to Saddam's aggression would not have avoided war -- it would only have delayed the world's day of reckoning, postponing what would ultimately have been a far more dangerous and costly conflict.

Unfortunately -- in spite of more than 5 months of sustained diplomatic efforts by the Arab League, the European Community, the United States and United Nations -- Saddam Hussein met every overture of peace with open contempt. In the end, despite the world's prayers for peace -- Saddam brought war upon himself. //

Tonight, after one week of allied operations, I am pleased to report that OPERATION DESERT STORM is right on schedule. //

*progressing*

7?

We are knocking out many of their key airfields. We're hitting their early warning radars with great success.

We have dealt a severe setback to Saddam's ambition to arm himself with nuclear weapons. Allied aircraft enjoy air superiority -- and we are using that superiority to systematically deprive Saddam of his ability to wage war effectively. We are <sup>severely degrading their air</sup> taking out their SAM defenses. [The main danger to allied aircraft now comes from some 20,000 anti-aircraft guns in the Baghdad area alone.] // And let me say: I am proud of the way our aviators are carrying out their tasks.

OK

Iraq has many planes left, but every time an Iraqi jet has engaged one of our fighters it has been destroyed -- every single time. // <sup>19 19</sup> [11 for 11] -- not bad at all! // <sup>And at least 22 more have been destroyed on the ground.</sup>

Step by step, we are making progress towards the objectives that have guided the world's response since August 2nd: the liberation of Kuwait, and the restoration of stability and security in the Gulf. // And there can be no doubt: OPERATION DESERT STORM is working. There can be no "pause" now that Saddam has forced the world into war. We will stay the course -- and we will succeed. //

As I <sup>have</sup> ~~said on the third day of~~ <sup>throughout</sup> this campaign, war is never cheap or easy. There will be problems. There will be setbacks and sacrifices. // But let me say I have every reason to be very pleased with our progress to date. //

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X

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4

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# # #

U.S. RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION  
WASHINGTON HILTON  
JANUARY 23, 1991  
7:40 PM

THANK YOU, GEN. BOB HOPE. I'M PLEASED TO SEE SO MANY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS HERE TONIGHT, PARTICULARLY SENATOR STROM THURMOND, SENATOR TED STEVENS, AND MY OLD FRIEND SONNY MONTGOMERY. MY APOLOGIES TO ALL FOR SPEAKING BEFORE THE BROCCOLI AND LEAVING, BUT GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I'M SURE YOU'LL UNDERSTAND. // I AM PROUD TO SHARE THIS EVENING WITH THE LEADERSHIP OF THE RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION -- AND I AM DEEPLY HONORED TO BE NAMED "MINUTEMAN OF THE YEAR." BUT I KNOW TONIGHT OUR THOUGHTS GO OUT TO MEN AND WOMEN EARNING THE HONOR OF A GRATEFUL NATION AT THIS VERY MOMENT: THE CITIZEN-SOLDIERS -- 100,000 STRONG -- SERVING NOW WITH THE COALITION FORCES IN THE GULF. I SALUTE THEM, EACH AND EVERY ONE. //

THOSE AMERICAN RESERVISTS ARE PART OF AN ALLIED FORCE STANDING AGAINST THE FORCES OF AGGRESSION -- STANDING UP FOR WHAT IS RIGHT. THEY SERVE ALONGSIDE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF SOLDIERS, SAILORS, AIRMEN, MARINES AND COAST GUARDSMEN OF 27 OTHER NATIONS, ALL UNITED AGAINST THE AGGRESSION OF SADDAM HUSSEIN. //

AS WE MEET HERE TONIGHT, WE ARE EXACTLY ONE WEEK INTO OPERATION DESERT STORM. BUT IT IS IMPORTANT TO DATE THIS CONFLICT NOT FROM JANUARY 16 -- BUT FROM ITS TRUE BEGINNING: THE ASSAULT OF AUGUST 2ND -- IRAQ'S UNPROVOKED AGGRESSION AGAINST THE TINY NATION OF KUWAIT. // WE DID NOT BEGIN A WAR SEVEN DAYS AGO. RATHER, WE BEGAN TO END A WAR -- TO RIGHT A WRONG THAT THE WORLD COULD NOT IGNORE. //

FROM THE DAY SADDAM'S FORCES FIRST CROSSED INTO KUWAIT, IT WAS CLEAR THAT THIS AGGRESSION REQUIRED A SWIFT RESPONSE FROM OUR NATION, AND THE WORLD COMMUNITY. WHAT WAS -- AND IS -- AT STAKE IS NOT SIMPLY OUR ENERGY AND ECONOMIC SECURITY, AND THE STABILITY OF A VITAL REGION -- BUT THE PROSPECTS FOR PEACE IN THE POST-COLD WAR ERA: THE PROMISE OF A NEW WORLD ORDER, BASED UPON THE RULE OF LAW. //

AMERICA WAS NOT ALONE IN CONFRONTING SADDAM. NO LESS THAN 12 RESOLUTIONS OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL CONDEMNED THE INVASION -- DEMANDING IRAQ'S WITHDRAWAL, WITHOUT CONDITION AND WITHOUT DELAY. THE UN PUT IN PLACE SANCTIONS TO PREVENT IRAQ FROM REAPING ANY REWARD FROM ITS OUTLAW ACT. COUNTRIES FROM SIX CONTINENTS SENT FORCES TO THE GULF, TO DEMONSTRATE THE WILL OF THE WORLD COMMUNITY THAT SADDAM'S AGGRESSION WOULD NOT STAND. //

APPEASEMENT -- PEACE AT ANY PRICE -- WAS NEVER AN ANSWER. TURNING A BLIND EYE TO SADDAM'S AGGRESSION WOULD NOT HAVE AVOIDED WAR -- IT WOULD ONLY HAVE DELAYED THE WORLD'S DAY OF RECKONING, POSTPONING WHAT WOULD ULTIMATELY HAVE BEEN A FAR MORE DANGEROUS AND COSTLY CONFLICT.

UNFORTUNATELY -- IN SPITE OF MORE THAN 5 MONTHS OF SUSTAINED DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS BY THE ARAB LEAGUE, THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, THE UNITED STATES AND UNITED NATIONS -- SADDAM HUSSEIN MET EVERY OVERTURE OF PEACE WITH OPEN CONTEMPT. IN THE END, DESPITE THE WORLD'S PRAYERS FOR PEACE -- SADDAM BROUGHT WAR UPON HIMSELF.

//

TONIGHT, AFTER ONE WEEK OF ALLIED OPERATIONS, I AM PLEASED TO REPORT THAT OPERATION DESERT STORM IS RIGHT ON SCHEDULE. //

WE HAVE DEALT A SEVERE SETBACK TO SADDAM'S NUCLEAR AMBITIONS. OUR PINPOINT ATTACKS HAVE PUT SADDAM OUT OF THE NUCLEAR BOMB-BUILDING BUSINESS FOR A LONG TIME TO COME. ALLIED AIRCRAFT ENJOY AIR SUPERIORITY -- AND WE ARE USING THAT SUPERIORITY TO SYSTEMATICALLY DEPRIVE SADDAM OF HIS ABILITY TO WAGE WAR EFFECTIVELY.

WE ARE KNOCKING OUT MANY OF THEIR KEY AIRFIELDS.  
WE'RE HITTING THEIR EARLY WARNING RADARS WITH GREAT  
SUCCESS. WE ARE SEVERELY DEGRADING THEIR AIR DEFENSES.  
THE MAIN DANGER TO ALLIED AIRCRAFT NOW COMES FROM SOME  
20,000 ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS IN THE BAGDHAD AREA ALONE.  
// AND LET ME SAY: I AM PROUD OF THE WAY OUR AVIATORS  
ARE CARRYING OUT THEIR TASKS. IN HEAD TO HEAD COMBAT,  
OUR JET FIGHTERS HAVE DESTROYED 19 IRAQI JETS. THEY  
HAVE HIT -- AT MOST -- ONE AMERICAN JET IN AERIAL  
COMBAT. //

STEP BY STEP, WE ARE MAKING PROGRESS TOWARDS THE  
OBJECTIVES THAT HAVE GUIDED THE WORLD'S RESPONSE SINCE  
AUGUST 2ND: THE LIBERATION OF KUWAIT, AND THE  
RESTORATION OF STABILITY AND SECURITY IN THE GULF. //  
AND THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT: OPERATION DESERT STORM IS  
WORKING. THERE CAN BE NO "PAUSE" NOW THAT SADDAM HAS  
FORCED THE WORLD INTO WAR. WE WILL STAY THE COURSE --  
AND WE WILL SUCCEED. //

AS I SAID ON THE THIRD DAY OF THIS CAMPAIGN, WAR IS NEVER CHEAP OR EASY. THERE WILL BE PROBLEMS. THERE WILL BE SETBACKS AND SACRIFICES. // BUT LET ME SAY I HAVE EVERY REASON TO BE VERY PLEASED WITH OUR PROGRESS TO DATE. //

SADDAM HAS SICKENED THE WORLD WITH HIS USE OF SCUD MISSILES -- THOSE INACCURATE BOMBS THAT INDISCRIMINATELY STRIKE CITIES AND INNOCENT CIVILIANS IN BOTH ISRAEL AND SAUDI ARABIA. THESE WEAPONS ARE NOTHING MORE THAN TOOLS OF TERROR -- AND THEY DO NOTHING BUT STRENGTHEN OUR RESOLVE TO ACT, AGAINST A DICTATOR UNMOVED BY HUMAN DECENCY. ///

PRIME MINISTER JOHN MAJOR SAID IT WELL YESTERDAY. SADDAM, HE SAID, "MAY YET BECOME A TARGET OF HIS OWN PEOPLE. IT IS PERFECTLY CLEAR... THAT THIS MAN IS AMORAL. HE TAKES HOSTAGES, HE ATTACKS POPULATION CENTERS, HE THREATENS PRISONERS. HE'S A MAN WITHOUT PITY, AND WHATEVER HIS FATE MAY BE, I FOR ONE WILL NOT WEEP FOR HIM."

NO ONE SHOULD WEEP FOR THIS TYRANT WHEN HE IS  
BROUGHT TO JUSTICE. NO ONE -- ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD.  
//

I WATCHED, ALONG WITH ALL OF YOU, THE REPULSIVE  
PARADE OF OUR AMERICAN AIRMEN ON IRAQI TELEVISION --  
ONE MORE PROOF OF THE SAVAGERY OF SADDAM. // BUT I  
KNEW -- AS THEY READ THEIR PREPARED STATEMENTS  
CRITICIZING THIS COUNTRY -- THAT THOSE WERE FALSE  
WORDS, FORCED ON THEM BY THEIR CAPTORS. ONE AMERICAN  
PILOT WAS ASKED WHY HE WAS SURE THE PILOTS WERE COERCED  
-- THEIR STATEMENTS FALSE. AND HE SAID: "I KNOW  
THAT... BECAUSE THESE GUYS ARE AMERICANS." //

HE COULD WELL HAVE SAID THE SAME THING ABOUT THE  
OTHER PILOTS BEING HELD -- FROM BRITAIN, ITALY, AND  
KUWAIT -- ALL MEN OF COURAGE AND VALOR. //

TONIGHT, I REPEAT MY PLEDGE TO YOU -- AND TO ALL AMERICANS: THIS WILL NOT BE ANOTHER VIETNAM. NEVER AGAIN WILL OUR ARMED FORCES BE SENT OUT TO DO A JOB WITH ONE HAND TIED BEHIND THEIR BACK. THEY WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE THE SUPPORT THEY NEED TO GET THE JOB DONE -- GET IT DONE QUICKLY, AND WITH AS LITTLE LOSS OF LIFE AS POSSIBLE. AND THAT SUPPORT IS NOT JUST MILITARY -- BUT MORAL: MEASURED IN THE SUPPORT OUR SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN RECEIVE FROM EVERY ONE OF US HERE AT HOME. WHEN THE BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN OF DESERT STORM RETURN HOME -- THEY WILL RETURN TO THE LOVE AND RESPECT OF A GRATEFUL NATION. //

AND THAT IS WHERE I WILL CLOSE -- WITH THE AIM OF PROTECTING AMERICAN LIVES, AND SEEING THE HEROES OF DESERT STORM RETURN HOME SAFE AND SOUND. // ALL LIFE IS PRECIOUS -- WHETHER IT'S THE LIFE OF AN AMERICAN PILOT OR AN IRAQI CHILD. AND YET IF LIFE IS PRECIOUS, SO TOO ARE THE LIVING PRINCIPLES OF LIBERTY AND PEACE - - PRINCIPLES THAT ALL AMERICANS CHERISH ABOVE ALL OTHERS, PRINCIPLES THAT YOU, AND YOUR COMRADES ON DUTY TONIGHT, HAVE PLEDGED TO DEFEND. //

THANK YOU FOR THIS WARM WELCOME -- AND FOR YOUR  
STRONG SUPPORT. AND MAY GOD BLESS THE UNITED STATES OF  
AMERICA.

# # #