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Record Group/Collection: George H.W. Bush Presidential Records
Collection/Office of Origin: Speechwriting, White House Office of
Series: Grant, Mary Kate, Files
Subseries: Subject File, 1988-1991

OA/ID Number: 13877
Folder ID Number: 13877-009

Folder Title:
Arab-American Briefing, 9/14/90

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 24, 1985

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN SIGNING CEREMONY FOR HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

The South Lawn

3:43 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you all and welcome to the White House Lawn on this spectacular fall day. It is wonderful to have Secretary Lauro Cavazos standing here next to me -- a man who is bringing purpose and dedication to one of the toughest and most vital jobs in our administration and in our country -- Secretary of Education. (Applause.) And welcome also to another you know well -- the Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan, who's doing a great job heading a department which is crucial to both the economic growth and the beauty of this nation. Thank you, Manuel, for what you're doing. (Applause.) And I'd like to honor all of the Hispanic American appointees of my administration who are here with us today. Congratulations and my thanks to all of you for what you're doing. We appreciate it very, very much. (Applause.)

And I want to salute the members of Congress who are with us today and ask them to stand if they would. Honor the delegation right over here, thank you guys for being with us. (Applause.) Appreciate it very much. Chairman, thank you.

I was going to salute our own son and his with Columba, but I don't see them here. So -- oops, they're missing in action somewhere. (Applause.)

And, well, all of our special guest, and especially so many Hispanic leaders who have given me their guidance and valued input on so many critical issues -- thank you for your generosity and that true, true friendship of your greeting here today. There's one other I've got to single out and that is my old friend Governor Don Luis Ferre, over here, from Puerto Rico. (Applause.) Stand up. (Applause.) What a guy -- what a man. (Applause.)

The one in our family who gets that kind of reception, Luis, is our author, Millie, the dog. (Laughter.) But I told them out there in California that she's impossible to live with now that she's sold so many books. I gave her Alpo last night and she asked to see the wine list up there. (Laughter.)

My friends, I'm delighted you're here. This is special, the chance to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. You know, America is often called a melting pot, but that doesn't mean that everyone and everything merge into some bland sameness. Rather, our country is a living tapestry. And to this rich identity, Hispanic Americans contribute the bright culture and vital traditions, making this nation a stronger nation and a better nation.

When Barbara and I were spending all of our time in Texas, we saw the wonderful Hispanic communities which gave that state, the vibrant state so much of its character. And you know, Jeb's wife, Columba, many of you know, is a Hispanic American. Just became a citizen of our country last year. And we cherish the wonderful richness that she and those grandchildren bring to our family. And I remember how very proud Barbara and I were when little Noelle and her mariachi group sang at the First Lady's Luncheon

MORE

during our Inauguration. We thought we could never get them off stage; they went on and on and on. But it was our grandkid, and we were proud of her. (Applause.)

The Hispanic dedication to the dignity of life and to faith and to family and to freedom is an inspiration. These are the very principles on which this country was founded. And they're the ideals which have been interwoven into the strong, bright fabric of your traditions for generations. And they're ideals which enrich Hispanic lives today.

Over the past few months I've named many Hispanic individuals and groups as what I call the "Daily Points of Light" -- stars of strength and hope shining brightly in the American sky. And with us today are three of these recipients: Jesse Berain, of Boise, Idaho -- and where is he? Right here. Jes, good to see you. (Applause.) Representative from San Antonio's Project Amigos. Where are you all? Right over here. Thank you very much. (Applause.) And the Hispanic Employees Association of the Pacific Gas and Electric in Fresno, California, right here. Thank you for coming all that way, sir. (Applause.)

But I single these out at the risk of embarrassment because they are doing so much to help in their communities. And that, of course, is an example to all of us.

One of the most important jobs any of us can do in our communities is reflected in the theme of this year's Hispanic Heritage Month. "Education Excellence -- Key to our Future." "Education Excellence -- Key to Our Future." And you couldn't have made a better nor a more timely choice. It was Simon Boliva who said, "Nations move toward the pinnacle of their greatness in proportion to their education progress." We must see that education is the key to our future, to our identity as a nation, and to our very soul as a people.

Tragically, too many Hispanic Americans are not getting the kind of first-rate education they need and they deserve. And that must change. And we must work together. And we must start now. (Applause.)

Within five years, Hispanics will make up more than half the high school population in some major cities, such as Los Angeles. Within 10 years, 12 percent of all school-age children will be Hispanic. The group's median age is now 26. And in the next century, Hispanics will become the largest ethnic minority of our population.

And this means that youth is the key to the flourishing Hispanic community. Today, though, less than two-thirds of Hispanic young adults earn a high school diploma. We must find new strategies to boost graduation and literacy rates, strategies that really do get the job done -- strategies that really work. We must figure out how to help these young people; how to equip them with the tools to enter a nation and a world where technology advances so rapidly that literacy and analytical and technical skills are not luxuries, but essentials.

We must help education to help Hispanic children enter the 21st century prepared to take their rightful place at the American table of opportunity. After all, yours is a history strong in education. In 1551, your Hispanic ancestors founded the first universities in the new world -- 85 years before Harvard.

To ensure that Hispanic educational needs are met, last December, I directed Secretary Cavazos to create this Hispanic Education Task Force. As a result of this task force's hearings, assessment and reflections, I am pleased to announce that I will sign today the Executive Order on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans. (Applause.) It is my fervent hope that this will ensure that Hispanic education is the priority it must be and will be.

MORE

This executive order will create the President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans. This group, made up of representatives of business, educational and community organizations, will advise on how to improve efforts for quality education for Hispanic Americans. The order directs the Cabinet agencies to be actively involved in helping to advance educational opportunities for Hispanic Americans working with those serving the Hispanic community.

Secretary Cavazos will also join with the governors from key states to develop criteria for a high school diploma for migrant workers, and federal education programs will work for strengthen the involvement of parents and community groups in education.

But to be effective, we must make sure that "at risk" Hispanic American children start school ready to learn. So our Head Start program will intensify efforts to increase language development for preschool children.

I am excited about these and the other efforts we at the federal level will be undertaking to give Hispanic Americans the kind of first-rate education they deserve. It's about time. There is much to do and we must do it together. We can't afford to wait. We can't afford to waste a whole generation. And together let's answer the call: "Let tomorrow begin today."

And so it is with great pride, and I want to say, a sense of optimism, that I proclaim this Hispanic Heritage Month and lift my pen to sign this executive order.

God bless you all. And thank you very much for being part of this significant day. (Applause.) Thank you.

END

3:54 P.M. EDT

**DROP-BY ARAB-AMERICAN BRIEFING \ ROOM 450 E.O.B.
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1990 \ 3:10 P.M.**

**WELCOME TO THE WHITE HOUSE. IT'S A PLEASURE TO SEE
SO MANY DISTINGUISHED LEADERS OF THE ARAB-AMERICAN
COMMUNITY HERE TODAY. AND I'M GLAD TO SEE CONGRESSMAN
NICK RAHALL HERE, TOO.**

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**((I'M GOING TO KEEP MY REMARKS BRIEF, BECAUSE IN
THE WORDS OF THE FAMOUS ARAB-AMERICAN POET, KAHLIL
GIBRAN [HAH-LEEL JEB-RAHN], "WE SHALL NEVER UNDERSTAND
ONE ANOTHER UNTIL WE REDUCE THE LANGUAGE TO SEVEN
WORDS." I'VE GOT A FEW MORE THAN SEVEN WORDS TODAY,
BUT PLEASE INDULGE ME.))**

**I AM HONORED THAT YOU COULD BE WITH US TO DISCUSS
THE VITAL ISSUE OF OUR COLLECTIVE SECURITY, BOTH ABROAD
AND AT HOME.**

I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU HAVE JUST BEEN BRIEFED ON THE CURRENT SITUATION IN THE PERSIAN GULF, AN ISSUE OF CRITICAL CONCERN TO EVERYONE IN THIS ROOM.

YOU MORE THAN MOST UNDERSTAND WHAT IS AT STAKE. OUR ACTION IN THE GULF IS NOT ABOUT RELIGION, NOR IS IT ABOUT GREED, CULTURE, OR IMPERIALIST AMBITIONS -- AS SADDAM HUSSEIN WOULD HAVE THE WORLD BELIEVE. OUR ACTION IN THE GULF IS ABOUT OUR DETERMINATION TO STAND UP TO AGGRESSION -- AND TO PRESERVE THE SOVEREIGNTY OF NATIONS.

IT IS ABOUT KEEPING OUR WORD AND STANDING BY OUR FRIENDS. IT IS ABOUT OUR VITAL NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS AND ENSURING PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE WORLD. IT IS ABOUT PRINCIPLE.

OUR OBJECTIVES REMAIN CLEAR: IRAQ MUST WITHDRAW FROM KUWAIT COMPLETELY, IMMEDIATELY AND WITHOUT CONDITION. \\ KUWAIT'S LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT MUST BE RESTORED. \\ THE SECURITY AND STABILITY OF THE PERSIAN GULF MUST BE ASSURED. \\ AMERICAN CITIZENS ABROAD MUST BE PROTECTED. \\

AND FINALLY, A FIFTH OBJECTIVE CAN EMERGE FROM THESE: A NEW WORLD ORDER, IN WHICH THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD, EAST AND WEST, NORTH AND SOUTH, CAN PROSPER AND LIVE TOGETHER.

THE EXTENT OF WORLD COOPERATION IN CONDEMNING SADDAM HUSSEIN IS UNPRECEDENTED.

THE CONCEPT OF BURDEN-SHARING IS GAINING ACCEPTANCE, WITH OUR ALLIES AND FRIENDS -- FROM BRITAIN AND FRANCE TO GERMANY, JAPAN AND THE ARAB WORLD -- CONTRIBUTING TROOPS AND SUPPLIES, AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THOSE COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY THE ECONOMIC BLOCKADE. IN FACT, SINCE SADDAM HUSSEIN'S UNPROVOKED ATTACK ON KUWAIT, MORE THAN TWENTY COUNTRIES HAVE ANSWERED THE CALL FOR HELP FROM THE GULF NATIONS TO PROVIDE DEFENSIVE ASSISTANCE AGAINST IRAQ. INDEED, IRAQ STANDS ALONE AGAINST THE WORLD COMMUNITY.

THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL HAS STRONGLY CONDEMNED SADDAM HUSSEIN'S ACTIONS NO LESS THAN SEVEN TIMES. UNITED AGAINST AGGRESSION, THE WORLD COMMUNITY IS WORKING TO RESOLVE THE CRISIS PEACEFULLY.

WE MUST ALSO RESIST SADDAM HUSSEIN'S ATTEMPTS TO LINK THE IRAQI INVASION WITH OTHER REGIONAL CONFLICTS. THIS IS MERELY AN EFFORT TO CREATE ADDITIONAL PRETEXTS SO THAT HE CAN STAY IN KUWAIT. WE WILL NOT BE DISTRACTED. ONCE THE GULF CRISIS IS ON ITS WAY TO RESOLUTION, WE WILL TURN AGAIN TO THE PEACE PROCESS.

OUR POSITION IS CLEAR AND CONSISTENT, CALLING FOR NEGOTIATIONS BASED ON U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338. THESE NEGOTIATIONS MUST INVOLVE TERRITORY FOR PEACE, SECURITY AND RECOGNITION FOR ISRAEL, AND LEGITIMATE POLITICAL RIGHTS FOR THE PALESTINIANS.

AS I HAVE SAID BEFORE, WE HAVE NO QUARREL WITH THE PEOPLE OF IRAQ. OUR MISSION IS TO OPPOSE THE INVASION ORDERED BY SADDAM HUSSEIN.

AS YOU WELL KNOW, LOVE OF JUSTICE, RESPECT AND DIGNITY ARE PRINCIPLES AS DEEPLY EMBEDDED IN THE ARAB TRADITION AS THEY ARE IN THE WESTERN TRADITION. AND THESE ARE QUALITIES EMBODIED IN THE TWO AND A HALF MILLION AMERICANS OF ARAB DESCENT -- WITH ORIGINS FROM MOROCCO TO THE ARABIAN PENINSULA. JUST LIKE SO MANY WHO COME TO AMERICA, ARAB IMMIGRANTS PURSUED NEW BEGINNINGS. THEY CAME IN SEARCH OF FREEDOM, JUSTICE AND EQUALITY. UNFORTUNATELY, TODAY SOME ARAB-AMERICANS ARE THE VICTIMS OF APPALLING ACTS OF HATRED.

THERE IS A SAD IRONY THAT WHILE OUR BRAVE SOLDIERS FIGHT AGGRESSION OVERSEAS, A FEW HATE-MONGERS HERE AT HOME ARE PERPETRATING THEIR OWN BRAND OF COWARDLY AGGRESSION. DEATH THREATS, PHYSICAL ATTACKS, VANDALISM, RELIGIOUS VIOLENCE, AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ARAB-AMERICANS MUST END. \\\

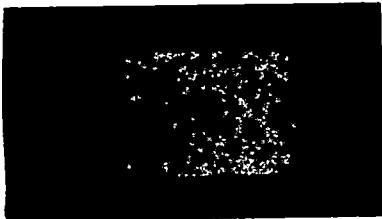
HATE CRIMES HAVE NO PLACE IN A FREE SOCIETY AND WE WILL NOT STAND FOR THEM. \\\

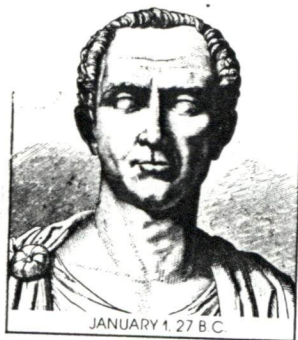
I HAVE BEEN APPALLED BY REPORTS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ARAB-AMERICANS. I CONDEMN SUCH ACTS AND WILL CONTINUE TO CONDEMN THEM.

THIS ADMINISTRATION SUPPORTED ENACTMENT OF THE HATE CRIMES LEGISLATION BECAUSE BIGOTRY AND HATE STILL EXIST IN THIS COUNTRY. HATE BREEDS VIOLENCE, THREATENING THE SECURITY OF OUR ENTIRE SOCIETY. AS I SAID WHEN I SIGNED THE BILL: ALL AMERICANS MUST JOIN TOGETHER TO RID OUR COMMUNITIES OF THE POISON OF PREJUDICE, BIAS AND DISCRIMINATION. \\

AMERICA IS HOME TO MILLIONS OF MUSLIMS -- WHO ARE FREE TO LIVE, WORK AND WORSHIP IN ACCORD WITH THE TRADITIONS AND TEACHINGS OF ISLAM. SIMILARLY, AMERICA IS ALSO HOME TO MILLIONS OF CHRISTIANS AND JEWS, ALSO FREE TO LIVE WORK AND WORSHIP. SURELY THE MULTINATIONAL TROOPS -- MEN AND WOMEN OF EVERY RELIGION AND COLOR -- WHO ARE NOW ON DUTY IN THE GLARE OF THE DESERT SUN, ARE AN EXAMPLE TO US HERE. THEY PROVE THAT A CRISIS ABROAD IS NO EXCUSE FOR DISCRIMINATION AT HOME. \\

AS WE REFLECT ON OUR ONGOING COMMITMENT IN THE GULF, WE SHOULD REMEMBER AN OLD ARAB PROVERB: "GOD IS WITH THOSE WHO PERSEVERE." WITH GOD'S HELP, WE SHALL PERSEVERE -- AND WE SHALL PREVAIL. \\
#





JANUARY 1, 27 B.C.

**BY LINDA
MILLGATE**



JANUARY 1, 1515

THE ALMANAC OF DATES



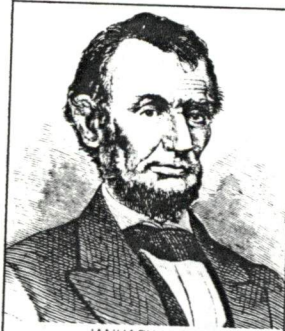
JANUARY 1, 1618



JANUARY 1, 1735



JANUARY 1, 1757



JANUARY 1, 1863



JANUARY 1, 1959



JANUARY 1, 1972

EVENTS OF THE PAST FOR EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR

the British as a spy
 artist, born
 proclaimed
 produced, first viewing of
 Alexandre Dumas play
 daily newspaper, established
 by the Minnesota Militia
 Lake
 at Fisher's Hill, Virginia
 financier, born
 sunk by a German submarine
 hurricane devastation on
 coast
 ended in Florida and
 Sierra Leone
 ker, born
 ended in the north-
 U.S.
 port Penn Dam on the Missouri
 ly damaged
 ed French Indo-China
 and the West Indies, lasting
 , mystery writer, died
 the zoo in Basel, Switzerland
 ublic of Mali
 el temple dedicated (Egypt)
 he U.S. celebrated

 f Iconium
 irst Pope after St. Peter
 irst Roman Emperor, born
 st Day)
 many, died
 in the War of the Roses,
 ailed in search of the
 t Passage
 ts degrees conferred in
 at Harvard
 Poles at Pildawa
 Spain, born
 ey City, New Jersey, then
 Powel's Hook
 ained by John Paul Jones,
 H.M.S. Serapis
 tish spy, captured

- 1800 William McGuffey, creator of the McGuffey Readers,
 born
 1806 Lewis and Clark expedition returned to St. Louis,
 Missouri
 1828 Chaka, Zulu chief, murdered
 1845 The Knickerbocker Baseball Club of New York City,
 first in the U.S., founded
 1846 J. G. Galle discovered the planet Neptune
 1847 Komei crowned Emperor of Japan
 1862 James W. Blake, composer of "Sidewalks of New
 York," born
 1870 Prosper Merimee, French writer, died
 1873 Detroit News newspaper founded
 1889 Walter Lippmann, columnist, born
 1898 Walter Pidgeon, actor, born
 1902 John Wesley Powell, Grand Canyon explorer, died
 1905 Japanese warship Mikasa sank with 599 aboard
 1910 Elliott Roosevelt, son of the President, born
 1911 First air mail pilot sworn in, to deliver mail
 from Garden City to Mineola, Long
 Island, New York
 1912 Russian Obnevka sank in the Dvina River
 1913 First plane flight across the Mediterranean
 completed
 1920 Mickey Rooney, actor, born
 1926 Gene Tunney beat Jack Dempsey in 10 rounds for
 the heavy weight boxing title
 1937 National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis
 created
 1939 Sigmund Freud, psychologist, died
 Time capsule buried at Flushing Meadow Park,
 New York, to be opened in 6939 A.D.
 1945 Sgt. Joe Louis, heavyweight boxing champion,
 awarded the Legion of Merit medal
 1949 U.S. President announced an atomic explosion in
 Russia
 1952 Rocky Marciano knocked out "Jersey Joe" Walcott
 for the heavyweight boxing title
 in 13 rounds
 1955 Hurricane Ione ended a 13-day stay in the
 northeastern U.S.
 1962 Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts opened in
 New York City with Philharmonic
 Hall completed
 1967 Hurricane Beulah blew itself out
 1970 University Day and Farmers' Day celebrations in
 Iran

 September 24th

Our Lady of Mercy, Patron of Caracas, Venezuela
 Feast of St. Thecla (Orthodox)
 15 AD Aulus Vitellius, Roman emperor, born

- 366 Pope Liberius died
768 Pepin III, "the Short," ruler of France and father
of Charlemagne, died
784 Second Council of Nice began, dealing with the
use of images in Roman Catholic
churches
1046 St. Gerard of Csanad died (Feast Day)
1066 Vikings entered York, England
1143 Pope Innocent II died
1332 Baliol crowned King of Scotland
1541 Paracelsus, Swiss physician, born
1621 First newspaper in England debuted
1657 First autopsy and coroner's jury verdict
recorded in America (Maryland)
1664 First convention between the English and the
Iroquois Indians held at Albany,
New York
1705 Stanislaus I crowned King of Poland
1755 John Marshall, U.S. Supreme Court Justice, born
1780 Benedict Arnold escaped to the British after
his attempt to betray West Point
1784 Zachary Taylor, 12th President of the U.S., born
1789 U.S. Attorney-General's office established
1817 Colgate University at Hamilton, New York,
organized
1820 Central Asia opened to British trade by a treaty
with Ladakh
1821 Jose Carrera, first president of Chile, shot
1826 Alexander Laing left Timbuktu
1847 U.S. Army entered Mexico City
1854 British-French victory at the Battle of Alma in
the Crimean War
1869 "Black Friday" financial disaster in New York
City
1896 F. Scott Fitzgerald, novelist, born
1904 New Market, Tennessee, train wreck
1906 Devil's Tower National Monument created
1924 Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research, Inc.
founded at Yonkers, New York
1952 Romania adopted a Communist constitution
French submarine La Sibylle lost off Toulon
1966 Start of hurricane Alma in southeastern U.S. and
the islands
1968 Swaziland joined the United Nations
1970 Luna 16 returned to Russia from the Moon
1971 American Indian Day celebrated

September 25th

Southdown sheep fair at Lewes, Sussex, England
Start of a two-day fair at Dover, England
Feast of St. Euphrosyne (Greek Orthodox)
Feast of St. Cadoc

A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for
adversity.

Proverbs 17;17

M.K.

Grant/Grossman
September 18, 1990
4:00 p.m.
A:ARAB

**BRIEF REMARKS: DROP-BY ARAB-AMERICAN BRIEFING
ROOM 450 E.O.B.
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1990
TIME?**

Welcome to the White House, and it's a pleasure to see so many of our friends here today.

I am honored that you could make it here today, to discuss the vital issue of our collective security, both abroad and at home -- as a country and as individuals.

You more than most understand
~~Let me begin with~~ what is at stake in the Persian Gulf -- our ideals as a nation, and our *determination* ~~ability~~ to stand up to aggressors in the post-Cold War era. Our objectives remain clear:

Iraq must withdraw from Kuwait completely, immediately and without condition. \\ Kuwait's legitimate government must be restored. \\ The security and stability of the Persian Gulf must be assured. \\ American citizens abroad must be protected. \\ And finally, a fifth objective can emerge from these: a new world order, in which the nations of the world, east and west, north and south, can prosper and live together.

The ~~level~~ *extent* of world cooperation in condemning Iraq is unprecedented. Since Saddam Hussein's unprovoked attack on Kuwait, more than 20 countries have answered the call for help from the Gulf nations to provide defensive assistance against Iraq. The United Nations Security Council has strongly condemned Saddam Hussein's actions, ~~no less than six times~~. United against

aggression, the world community is working to resolve the crisis peacefully.

As I have said before, we have no quarrel with the people of Iraq. Our mission is to oppose the invasion ordered by Saddam Hussein. Love of justice, respect and dignity: these are principles deeply embedded in the Arab tradition, as they are in the Western tradition. ~~There is no reason that we must live in animosity either at home or abroad.~~

^{So} Internationally, we will continue our search for peace in the Middle East -- an aspiration that has eluded man for ^{so many} centuries. ~~Longer than this nation has been alive.~~ ^{at home} Today, two and a half million Americans have come to the United States from ^{is} nations that ~~have been drawn and redrawn on the maps~~ -- Lebanon, ^{is} Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Palestine, Yemen and Iraq, to name a few. ^{now at the center of a turbulent conflict} ~~And while your Arab homelands share a sense of brotherhood, they often do not share one voice. But neither do all Americans.~~ ^{urgent to sensibly that}

~~Just like so many who come to America, their war~~ ^{Just like so many who come to America, their war} ~~And while your Arab homelands share a sense of brotherhood, they often do not share one voice. But neither do all Americans.~~ ^{justice and equality under the law.}

Let there be no mistake Here at home, there is one thing we all must agree on: the

violence against Arab-Americans must stop. ^{So today} There is a sad irony

that while our soldiers fight aggression, hate-mongers ^{for these some ideal abroad} ~~perpetrating aggression?~~ ^{are would} ~~The former are heroes, the latter are~~

~~cowards.~~ Sadly, the current Iraqi situation has meant a disturbing increase in hate-mongering against Arab-Americans. Death threats, physical attacks, vandalism, religious violence, and discrimination against private citizens -- ~~the Arab-bashing~~ ~~must end.~~ ^{||} ~~For hate crimes have no place in a free society.~~

I ask each of you to report any incidences of hate crimes to your local police, as well as the Justice Department Hate Crimes line (at 1-800-347-HATE.) Any threats, violence or discrimination motivated by religion, race, or ethnicity will not be tolerated. All allegations reported will be investigated by the FBI. If substantiated, they will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

This Administration enacted the Hate Crimes legislation because bigotry and hate still exist in this country. Hate breeds violence, threatening the security of our entire society. As I said when I signed the bill: All Americans must join together to rid our communities of the poison of prejudice, bias and discrimination. \\

America is home to millions of Muslims -- who are free to live, work and worship in accord with the traditions and teachings of Islam. Similarly, America is also home to millions of Christians and Jews, also free to live work and worship. Surely our multinational troops -- men and women of every religion and color -- who are fighting for justice in the glare of the desert sun, are an example to us here. They prove to us that a ~~basis~~ ^{aggression} abroad is no excuse for discrimination at home. \\

As we reflect on our ongoing commitment in the Gulf, I am reminded of an old Arabian proverb: "God is with those who persevere." With God's help, we shall persevere -- and we shall overcome.

#

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August 23, 1990

Mr. David F. Demerest, Jr.
Assistant to the President for Communications
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Dave:

As if you didn't have enough people giving you suggestions these days, I thought I might add two items to your repertoire:

1. Rudyard Kipling had it right in his short poem, "Dane-Geld," (copy attached). The analogies are obvious;
2. But we don't even need Kipling. The most poignant dispatch in modern American history was sent in 1904. One John Berdicaris, an American citizen, was kidnapped by a Riffian bandit named Raisuli from his villa in Tangier. Raisuli demanded ransom. Our response was to dispatch several warships (with Marines) to the area. Secretary Hay sent a note which would be difficult to misunderstand:

"Berdicaris alive or Raisuli dead."

Upon reflection, Raisuli released Mr. Berdicaris unharmed. Perhaps the same option might be presented to others with whom we are acquainted.

I doubt, however, that modern diplomatic usage would allow a President to be as direct as Secretary Hay's boss, T. R. Roosevelt; unless, of course, he had a good speech writer.

Mr. David Demerest
August 23, 1990
Page 2

Best personal regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'D' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Donald E. deKieffer

RUDYARD KIPLING'S VERSE

They wiped out all that they could find
Of beauty and strength and worth,
But they could not wipe out the Viking's Wind
That brings the ships from the North.

They could not wipe out the North-East gales
Nor what those gales set free—
The pirate ships with their close-reefed sails,
Leaping from sea to sea.

They had forgotten the shield-hung hull
Seen nearer and more plain,
Dipping into the troughs like a gull,
And gull-like rising again—

The painted eyes that glare and frown
In the high snake-headed stem,
Searching the beach while her sail comes down,
They had forgotten them!

There was no Count of the Saxon Shore
To meet her hand to hand,
As she took the beach with a grind and a roar,
And the pirates rushed inland!



DANE-GELD

A.D. 980-1016

It is always a temptation to an armed and agile nation
To call upon a neighbour and to say:—
“We invaded you last night—we are quite prepared to fight,
Unless you pay us cash to go away.”

And that is called asking for Dane-geld,
And the people who ask it explain
That you've only to pay 'em the Dane-geld
And then you'll get rid of the Dane!

[716]

DEFINITIVE EDITION

It is always a temptation to a rich and lazy nation,
To puff and look important and to say:—
“Though we know we should defeat you, we have not the
time to meet you.
We will therefore pay you cash to go away.”

And that is called paying the Dane-geld;
But we've proved it again and again,
That if once you have paid him the Dane-geld
You never get rid of the Dane.

It is wrong to put temptation in the path of any nation,
For fear they should succumb and go astray;
So when you are requested to pay up or be molested,
You will find it better policy to say:—

“We never pay *any*-one Dane-geld,
No matter how trifling the cost;
For the end of that game is oppression and shame,
And the nation that plays it is lost!”

THE ANVIL

NORMAN CONQUEST, 1066

ENGLAND'S on the anvil—hear the hammers ring—
Clanging from the Severn to the Tyne!
Never was a blacksmith like our Norman King—
England's being hammered, hammered, hammered into line!

England's on the anvil! Heavy are the blows!
(But the work will be a marvel when it's done.)
Little bits of Kingdoms cannot stand against their foes.
England's being hammered, hammered, hammered into one!

There shall be one people—it shall serve one Lord—
(Neither Priest nor Baron shall escape!)
It shall have one speech and law, soul and strength and sword.
England's being hammered, hammered, hammered into
shape!

[717]

Grant/Grossman
September 19, 1990
4:00 p.m.
A:ARAB

**BRIEF REMARKS: DROP-BY ARAB-AMERICAN BRIEFING
ROOM 450 E.O.B.
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1990
TIME?**

Welcome to the White House. It's a pleasure to see so many distinguished ~~Arab-American~~ friends here today. *leaders of the Arab-American community*

I am honored that you could be with us to discuss the vital issue of our collective security, both abroad and at home. I understand that Undersecretary Wolfowitz has just briefed you on the current situation in the Middle East, an issue of critical concern to everyone in this room.

You more than most understand
~~Let me begin with what is at stake.~~ *not about* Our action in the Gulf is not about religion, greed, or culture -- as Saddam Hussein *would have the world believe* says it is. Our action in the Gulf is about *our determination to stand up to* fighting aggression -- *to* and *e* preserving the sovereignty of nations. It is about keeping our word and standing by our friends. It is about our vital national security interests and ensuring peace and stability in the world.

Our objectives remain clear: Iraq must withdraw from Kuwait completely, immediately and without condition. \\ Kuwait's legitimate government must be restored. \\ The security and stability of the Persian Gulf must be assured. \\ American citizens abroad must be protected. \\ And finally, a fifth objective can emerge from these: a new world order, in which the

nations of the world, east and west, north and south, can prosper and live together.

The ~~level~~^{extent} of world cooperation in condemning Iraq is unprecedented. The concept of burden-sharing has gained acceptance, with our allies and friends -- from Britain and France to Germany, Japan and the Arab world -- contributing troops,^{and} supplies, and economic assistance to those countries affected by the economic blockade. In fact, since Saddam Hussein's unprovoked attack on Kuwait, more than twenty countries have answered the call for help from the Gulf nations to provide defensive assistance against Iraq. Indeed, Iraq stands alone against the world community. The United Nations Security Council has strongly condemned Saddam Hussein's actions no less than [seven] times. United against aggression, the world community is working to resolve the crisis peacefully.

As I have said before, we have no quarrel with the people of Iraq. Our mission is to oppose the invasion ordered by Saddam Hussein. As you well know, love of justice, respect and dignity~~s~~ ~~these~~^{as} are principles deeply embedded in the Arab tradition, as they are in the Western tradition. And these are qualities embodied in the two and a half million Americans of Arab descent -- ~~Kuwaitis, Lebanese, Syrians, Jordanians, Saudi Arabians, Yemenis, and Iraqis, to name a few.~~ ^{NSC language} Unfortunately, today some ~~of~~ ^{Arab} these Americans are the victims of appalling discrimination and hatred. There is a sad irony that while our brave soldiers fight aggression overseas, hate-mongers here at home are perpetrating

Just like so many who come to America, ^{Arab immigrants} pursued ~~at~~ ^{at} their beginnings. They come in search of freedom, justice and equality.

their own brand of cowardly aggression. The current Iraqi situation has meant a disturbing increase in hate-mongering.

**Death threats, physical attacks, vandalism, religious violence, and discrimination against Arab-Americans must end. **

~~For~~ **hate crimes have no place in a free society and we will not stand for them. **

I ask all Americans to report any incidences of hate crimes to your local police, as well as the Justice Department Hate Crimes line. Any threats, violence or discrimination motivated by religion, race, or ethnicity will not be tolerated. All legitimate allegations reported **will be investigated** by the FBI. If substantiated, they **will be prosecuted** to the fullest extent of the law.

This Administration enacted the Hate Crimes legislation because bigotry and hate still exist in this country. Hate breeds violence, threatening the security of our entire society. As I said when I signed the bill: **All Americans must join together to rid our communities of the poison of prejudice, bias and discrimination. **

America is home to millions of Muslims -- who are free to live, work and worship in accord with the traditions and teachings of Islam. Similarly, America is also home to millions of Christians and Jews, also free to live work and worship. Surely our multinational troops -- men and women of every religion and color -- who are fighting for justice in the glare

of the desert sun, are an example to us here. They prove that a **crisis abroad is no excuse for discrimination at home.** \\

As we reflect on our ongoing commitment in the Gulf, I am reminded of an old Arabian proverb: "God is with those who persevere." With God's help, we shall persevere -- and we **shall** overcome.

#

CW - What do you think?

As a possible Paragraph 3:

((I'm going to keep my remarks brief, because in the words of the famous Arab-American poet, Kahlil Gibran, "We shall never understand one another until we reduce the language to seven words." I've got a few more than seven words today, but please indulge me.))

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aggression. The current Iraqi situation has meant a disturbing increase in hate-mongering. **Death threats, physical attacks, vandalism, religious violence, and discrimination against Arab-Americans must end.** \ \  For hate crimes have no place in a free society and we will not stand for them. \ \ ✓

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As we reflect on our ongoing commitment in the Gulf, I am reminded of an old Arabian proverb: "God is with those who persevere." With God's help, we shall persevere -- and we **shall** overcome.

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(c) 1990, The Boston Globe, August 26, 1990

harassed. In 1942, after Pearl Harbor was bombed, Japanese-Americans were herded into concentration camps.

In 1990, Arab-Americans are the target, as they have been whenever a crisis flares in the Mideast. "You move out or you will die," a voice in the darkness told Taha. "They are calling my son, an American, a terrorist," said Hassan Khweis, recounting schoolyard taunts in Manchester, N.H.

The Boston Police Department's Community Disorders Unit is prepared to investigate the threats against Taha as soon as he makes out a complaint.

This is a national problem that demands a federal response. The US attorney general, Richard Thornburgh, should make it clear that threats, violence and discrimination against Arab-Americans will not be allowed. Allegations of discrimination should be investigated by the FBI; if substantiated, they should be speedily prosecuted.

Arab-Americans come from many lands, including Syria, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and the West Bank, and, like the citizens of these lands, they have a range of views about the Persian Gulf situation.

(c) 1990, The Boston Globe, August 26, 1990

Whatever their political beliefs, they are entitled to the full protection of US law. The rest of the world is watching the US reaction to this crisis. In their preoccupation with events abroad, Americans may forget that their behavior at home is part of that response. An international crisis is no excuse for discrimination.

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO ARAB AMERICAN GROUPSRoom 450
Old Executive Office Building

3:11 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Welcome to the White House. Thank you very, very much. First, let me thank Richard and Paul. I've been doing a little homework listening -- hey, Bill-- listening to your questions and saying, thank God I don't have to answer any of them, because I'm -- (laughter.)

But I'm here to just make a few comments, and I want to start by thanking both the gentlemen that are behind me here, and those with whom they work. In Richard's case, Brent Scowcroft; in Paul's case, Secretary Cheney; and all the team that we have. But these two individuals have worked night and day during this series of events that are called on the evening news, and properly so, the Gulf crisis. So to both of you, my sincere thanks. And this one over, too, here that some of you know, John Sununu. (Applause.) He's been concentrating a lot on trying to do something about the budget deficit, and the same time being at my side as we cope with the problems in the Gulf. So all three have been extraordinarily busy, as I know you have. But I want to welcome you to the White House. A pleasure to see so many distinguished leaders of the Arab-American community here.

I'm told that Congressman Nick Rahall is here. Nick, where are you? Ooops, way back there -- (applause) -- modestly sitting in the back. I don't understand that, but he ought to be in the front row because he's a of good conscience and he helps me understand the heartbeat in some of the Arab communities, and certainly in the Arab-American community. And I'm grateful to him that he took the time to be with us today.

I'm going to keep my remarks brief because in the words of the famous Arab-American poet, Kahlil Gibran, "We shall never understand one another until we reduce the language to seven words." Well, I've got a few more than seven words, so please indulge me. But I won't keep you too long.

I am honored that you could be with us to discuss the vital issue of our collective security, both abroad and at home. And I understand that you've had a good briefing. I heard a couple, and I don't know whether you've had others as well, but those were good on the situation in the Gulf. I've never seen an issue, certainly since I've been President, that just pervaded the thoughts of everybody in our country.

You, more than most, I think, understand what's at stake here. And our action in the Gulf is not about religion, nor is it about greed, or culture, or imperialist ambitions, as Saddam Hussein would have the world believe. Our action in the Gulf is about our determination to stand up -- to stand up with other nations against aggression, and to preserve the sovereignty of nations. It is about keeping our word and standing by our friends. It is about our vital national security interests and ensuring peace and stability in the world. So to sum it up: It is about principle.

MORE

Our objectives remain clear: Iraq must withdraw from Kuwait completely, immediately, and without condition. Kuwait's legitimate government must be restored, the security and stability of the Persian Gulf assured, and American citizens abroad must be protected. And finally, a fifth objective can emerge from these: a new world order in which the nations of the world, east and west, north and south, can prosper and live together.

The extent of world cooperation in condemning Saddam Hussein is literally unprecedented. The concept of burden sharing is gaining acceptance with our allies and with our friends -- from Britain and France to Germany, Japan and the Arab world -- contributing troops and supplies and economic assistance to those countries affected by the economic blockade. In fact, since Saddam Hussein's unprovoked attack on Kuwait, more than 20 countries have answered the call for help from the Gulf nations to provide defensive assistance against Iraq.

And indeed, Iraq stands alone against the world community. Over and over again, Saddam Hussein has attempted to make this the Arab world against the United States. You've heard it over and over and over again. And that lie is not going to be perpetuated. It simply is not true. We are joined with many others around the world. Iraq stands alone against the world community. The United Nations Security Council has strongly condemned Saddam Hussein's actions no less than seven times. Active consideration going on for another resolution right now. United against aggression, the world community is working to resolve the crisis peacefully.

We must also resist his attempt -- Saddam Hussein's attempt -- to link the Iraqi invasion with other conflicts. There are other regional conflicts and they're serious, and they've got to be solved. And we've got to do our level best to be catalysts for the solution. But we are going to resist his attempts to justify what he did based on other regional concerns. So I think these are merely, on his part, an effort to create additional pretexts so that he can stay in Kuwait. And I'll guarantee I'm not going to be distracted by this. Once the Gulf crisis is on its way to resolution, of course, we want to go forward with the peace process.

And our position is clear and consistent, calling -- I heard your questions and I understand where you're coming from. And I agree with much of what I thought was being said here. Certainly agree with what our people here have told you. But our position is clear, calling for negotiations based on these two resolutions. And these negotiations have got to involve territory for peace, security, recognition for Israel, and legitimate political rights for the Palestinians.

As I said before, we have no quarrel with the people of Iraq either. Our mission is to oppose the invasion ordered by Saddam Hussein. As you well know, love of justice, and respect and dignity are principles as deeply embedded in the Arab tradition as they are in the whole Western tradition. No question about that. And these are qualities embodied in the 2.5 million Americans of Arab descent -- with origins from Morocco to the Arabian Peninsula. Just like so many who have come to America, Arab immigrants pursued new beginnings. And they came in search of freedom and justice and equality.

Unfortunately, today -- I'm glad the media are here because I want this message to go out beyond this room -- today some Americans are the victims of appalling acts of hatred. And this is a sad irony that while our brave soldiers fight aggression overseas, a few hate-mongers here at home are perpetrating their own brand of cowardly aggression. Death threats, physical attacks, vandalism, religious violence and discrimination against Arab-Americans must end. (Applause.)

These hate crimes have no place in a free society and we

MORE

were not going to stand for them. I've been appalled by reports from some of you, friends of mine, here in this room -- by reports of discrimination against Arab-Americans. And I condemn such acts, and I will continue to condemn them.

This administration has supported enactment of the Hate Crimes legislation because bigotry and hate still exist in this country. And hate breeds violence, threatening the security of our entire society. As I said when I signed the bill, all Americans must join together to rid our communities of the poison of prejudice, bias and discrimination.

America is home to millions of Muslims -- who are free to live, work and worship in accord with the traditions and teachings of Islam. Similarly, America is also home to the millions of Christians and Jews, also free to live, work and worship. And surely the multinational troops -- men and women of every religion and color -- who are now on duty in the glare of the desert sun, are an example to us right here at home. They prove that a crisis abroad is no excuse for discrimination at home.

As we reflect on our ongoing commitment in the Gulf, we should remember an old Arab proverb: God is with those who persevere. With God's help, we shall persevere -- and we shall prevail. And I'm very proud to have all of you here today.

Thank you. (Applause.)

I have a signing ceremony out there on the South Lawn at 3:30 p.m. Let me just take a couple of questions here to get a feel of the random feel of what's on you all's mind. (Laughter.)

Q Mr. President, you are a strong and successful advocate of direct dialogue between parties in conflict in crisis situations. We saw your skill in influencing President Gorbachev to abandon plans for economic sanctions and military actions against the Lithuanian people during their struggle for independence earlier this year. You were instrumental in bringing about a peaceful resolution to that crisis by encouraging Mr. Gorbachev to have direct negotiations with the Lithuanian leadership. Mr. President, why don't you apply this same successful strategy to the current conflict and have a direct dialogue with the Iraq leadership in order to bring about a peaceful resolution to this crisis?

THE PRESIDENT: It's a good point and I think the United States should always be willing to talk. But the United Nations has acted in concert. There can be no negotiation in terms of the criteria set down. We can't talk about dividing up Kuwait, or elections not restoring the leaders, or occupying -- permitting this aggression to stand in any way. Eventually, we may do this. But what you've heard is reiteration over and over again from this dictator that they'll never withdraw and all of that. So I think it's going to take a little time before there can be any fruitful and serious negotiations. Others have tried. You've seen people calling for "an Arab solution," and that's fine. But they have failed, because each time they've tried to do that, whether it's King Hussein or whether it's Salah of Yemen or whoever else has stepped up to the plate, they have struck out because of this man's insistence on remaining in Kuwait. So maybe it will come about.

I appreciate what you've said about the fact that sometime negotiations can bring things forward. We want a peaceful solution, but we don't want to do it and undermine -- and I won't do it and undermine the solid consensus that exists in the world. We're not going to yield one inch on those provisions that I spelled out, sir.

Q We are the foundation and we are ready to have our offices -- to have a direct dialogue between the administration here and the leadership in Iraq. We are ready to take this opportunity with your approval.

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THE PRESIDENT: You've got my approval if you can succeed without giving on these important points. I mean, that is the thing. I think the Iraqi people would welcome that. I know the American people would welcome it. I know all other 19 countries in the Gulf would welcome it. And I know a hundred jillion members of the United Nations would welcome it. But we cannot give at this junction. We're not going to do that. (Applause.)

Q In the name of God, I thank you very much that you allow me to speak, Mr. President. I just want to bring four points to your notice. One is, as -- we condemn the aggression and annexation of Kuwait in no uncertain terms. And number two, as Moslems, we also object to Saudi Arabia inviting the foreign troops to our land. Number three, is what are you defending now? The oil interest has already been defended, the Saudi Arabia has already been defended, and if you are defending to put a Sultan on the throne, I think it is not comparable to the high ideals of democracy elsewhere in the world.

In Eastern Europe you wanted democracy. We want democracy in Russia. But according to Freedom House, as of today, 60 percent of all population enjoys the freedom to elect their own governments. Only 40 percent of the people of the world do not enjoy the freedom. And who are those two billion people? One billion are Chinese and the other billion are Moslems from Morocco to Malaysia, because they are under the thumb of their monarchs and dictators because they rule by their fear and -- and tyranny and terror. So if the objective of to put the Sultan back to the throne, I think it is not ideal for a big office like the President of the United States.

THE PRESIDENT: The objective is to see that naked aggression does not pay off, sir. That's what the objective is, and that's why we are going to stay with that position and we're not going to permit this. (Applause.) Iraq is no model of democracy, nor was Kuwait. That isn't the question here. The question is, international law and respect for one's neighbor.

Q What I urge you, Mr. President, is to have justice and equality and peace. There should be no double standard there.

THE PRESIDENT: That's what I'm for. (Applause.)

Q There has to be a negotiated settlement --

THE PRESIDENT: No negotiations. Withdrawal totally from Kuwait.

Q But the Palestinians should also have the right --

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Two over here, and I've got to go. I've got a meeting out there on the South Lawn at 3:30 p.m. I'm going to be in serious trouble.

Q Mr. President, I have a proposal that will be a blessing to and solve the Middle East problem.

THE PRESIDENT: Let's hear it. Quick. (Laughter.) We need it.

Q Solve the Arab-Israeli conflict tenaciously by implementing pressure on both Israel and Iraq to relinquish their occupied territories in exchange for a trade and defense treaty with the United States. Then offer the same trade and defense treaty to other deserving Arab states. Since there would be no remaining cause for belligerency from either side, hopefully, peaceful coexistence may be accomplished permanently. Israel knows that time and 150 million Arabs are against them. I have a letter to you --

THE PRESIDENT: Send it over, yes. It's got some interesting points. But first, we've got to take care of the situation that exists right now because of naked aggression, one country against another. That cannot be permitted to stand. We have

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been trying to be involved in the other process. You know that some territory has been given up. We want to see 242 implemented. But to permit Saddam Hussein to link these two questions and approve of his aggression, why, I simply can't do that.

Q Mr. President, I'm from Kuwait. I thank you very much, sir. In response to this gentleman here, it is up to the Kuwaiti people to choose whether they want an Amir or a Sultan, and nobody -- (applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: Good statement. Thank you, sir.

Last one. Listen, you guys are going to get me in trouble. (Laughter.)

Q We thank you very much for inviting us here today and we hope -- and my question, really is to you -- will this be the first in a number of briefings that we will be able to have as Arab-Americans? Because we can help you, as you can help us --

THE PRESIDENT: This isn't the first. Maybe for the first the organization. But I see people in this room that I have met with before. And I want to continue to do that. We've tried hard to do this. But I'd like to assure you that it will not be the last. We can argue whether it's the first, because I don't know how -- but no, I think you raise a very good point. I meant what I said in these prepared remarks about what I feel in my heart about what some of you all are going through because you happen to be Arab Americans. It is simply not fair to lump the outrageous behavior of a dictator halfway around the world into how people are treated here at home.

There are plenty of other reasons to have meetings with you, but that's a good one right there. Sure, hand it over.

Q God bless you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, sir. (Applause.) Thank you.

Q Mr. President, I'm from Iraq. I was born in Iraq. Mr. President, I am very concerned about the next President of Iraq who today is a child and today is cutting the food from him. If this young fellow is going to be malnourished and one day he has to sit down with the next president of the United States who will take your office, how is he going to deal with him? Can you please, from humanitarian point of view, let's go with the food emergency? It is needed. And I do appreciate it. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Absolutely. But let me tell you this. The United Nations -- it's a very important point. This is a very important point. It includes Kuwait, it includes Iraq, it includes wherever food and little kids are going without nourishment. But the United Nations has addressed itself to this. And do you know what the response so far has been. The response has been that you cannot -- they will not permit any kind of distribution supervision to see that the food gets to the -- particularly a lot of Asians stranded there.

I talked to one of the most distinguished citizens of the world who has devoted a lot of his life to the refugee business. And he's just back on behalf of Perez de Cuellar from surveying the situation. And what he was told is that the Asians particularly who are suffering the most -- I'm talking about Filipinos, I'm talking about Bangladeshis and Indians and people -- they're the ones who are hurting the most because of Saddam Hussein's refusal to permit what the United Nations has called for.

But look, every American, all of us here, must have our concerns out there for the women and the children and all these others. I am much less interested in feeding Saddam Hussein's army at this point. But we want to get the food to those that need it. And that includes refugees that aren't Iraqi citizens. They're

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hurting the most. These were the poorest of the poor that had jobs there in Kuwait. And now they're being thrown out with -- and the message is coming through -- well, you people in Pakistan, you people in India, you people in Bangladesh, feed your own people. We're going to take care of Iraq.

All he has to do is agree to what the world has called for -- international supervision. And the United States and others would stand at the ready to help. We're standing at the ready to help anyway. But this is a matter of international law now under the sanctions. So he can't violate that. You must use your influence, if anyone has any with him.

Q -- can he supervise it?

THE PRESIDENT: That would be great if we can get that done, yes.

Q One question about Lebanon, please.

THE PRESIDENT: Shoot.

Q Very short. (Laughter.) We in the National Alliance of Lebanese Americans applaud and support the lead our government has taken in responding to the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait. In fact, our government has taken every action against Iraq that we have been urging should be taken against Syria for its similar action in Lebanon. (Applause.)

Syria is now apparently allied with our government and others against Iraq. This disturbs us greatly, unless our government has some plan to use its newfound leverage on Syria to cause Hafiz Asad to conform to the norms of civilized behavior that we are attempting to enforce against Saddam Hussein.

This is the question. What is our plan to make Syria conform? And if there is no plan, doesn't our alliance with Syria compromise our moral position in the worldwide effort against Iraq? (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: This thing is so complex over there that it's pretty hard to give you a definitive answer. Out of this, though, there could well be a new world order. And part of that must be the peaceful resolution of the division of the Lebanon. I've been there. I've worked there years ago. And I'm old enough -- you're too young, but I'm old enough -- no, you're not too young, but she is -- (laughter) -- no, seriously, to remember Lebanon as the peaceful crossroad. It didn't matter what was going on in the rest of the world commerce survived, people got along one with the other, different religions and different ways of life all thriving there.

We want to help on that. I've been frustrated. One of the great frustrations of my job, as John Sununu can tell you from sitting there and listening to me wring my hands all the time, is my inability to have helped bring peace to the Lebanon. And Syria does have a key role. And I hope out of this, that we can use this new world order, if you will, that might emerge if we all stay together to be catalysts for peace in the Lebanon.

You struck a -- that's why I came back here because you struck a chord that I really feel strongly about. And so I would hope that that and many other things that are happening over there would result in the solution to these problems that have escaped us for so many years.

Listen, I do have to go. And thank you all very, very much.

END

3:35 P.M. EDT