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FM WASHINGTON

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INFO IMMEDIATE MODUK, UKMIS NEW YORK, EC POSTS, ME POSTS, ACTOR

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MIPT (NOT TO ALL):

IRAQ/KUWAIT: PUBLIC COMMENTS BY ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS  
SUMMARY

1. BAKER, CHENEY AND SCOWCROFT APPEAR ON THE TV NETWORKS' QUOTE NEWSMAKER UNQUOTE SUNDAY PROGRAMMES.

DETAIL

2. SECRETARIES BAKER AND CHENEY AND NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER SCOWCROFT EACH GAVE INTERVIEWS TODAY (12 AUGUST) TO THE THREE MAJOR TV NETWORKS' SUNDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS PROGRAMMES. THEY ALL STRESSED THAT THE US TROOP BUILD UP, AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MULTINATIONAL EFFORT FROM OTHER COUNTRIES, WERE AT THE REQUEST OF THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT AND THAT THE DEPLOYMENTS WERE A DEFENSIVE MEASURE AND A DETERRENT TO FURTHER IRAQI AGGRESSION IN THE REGION. ALL THREE REFUSED TO BE DRAWN AS TO THE TOTAL NUMBER OF US FORCES LIKELY TO BE DEPLOYED OR WHAT FUTURE MILITARY OPTIONS MIGHT BE OPEN TO THE PRESIDENT. QUOTE I WOULD NOT WANT TO PREDICT EXACTLY WHAT THE US RESPONSE MIGHT BE IN TERMS OF VARIOUS MILITARY CONTINGENCIES, BUT THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT THE US HAS A SIGNIFICANT MILITARY FORCE IN THE AREA, THERE IS MORE ON THE WAY, AND THE PRESIDENT WILL HAVE A RANGE OF OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO HIM SHOULD HE BE REQUIRED TO USE MILITARY CAPABILITY UNQUOTE (CHENEY). THEY WERE ALSO CAREFUL NOT TO PREDICT ANY TIMEFRAME FOR SANCTIONS TO BITE OR HOW LONG US FORCES WERE LIKELY TO REMAIN. THEY ALL REFERRED TO THE UNPRECEDENTED WORLDWIDE CONDEMNATION OF SADDAM AND SUPPORT FOR SANCTIONS. THERE WAS PARTICULAR CONCERN FOR US (AND OTHER) CITIZENS WHO WERE BEING PREVENTED FROM LEAVING IRAQ AND KUWAIT.

3. BAKER ANNOUNCED THAT THE US HAD RECEIVED A REQUEST FROM KUWAIT FOR SUPPORT TO ENFORCE SANCTIONS: QUOTE THE LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT OF KUWAIT HAS JUST REQUESTED OF US AND OTHER NATIONS SUPPORT FOR ENFORCEMENT OF THE UN ECONOMIC SANCTIONS. IN OTHER WORDS THEY HAVE MADE THE FORMAL REQUEST NOW THAT IS NEEDED UNDER ARTICLE 51 OF THE UN CHARTER FOR THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER COUNTRIES TO HAVE A LEGAL BASIS FOR STOPPING

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THE EXPORT OF OIL AND THAT SORT OF THING ... WE NOW HAVE THE LEGAL BASIS FOR INTERDICTING THOSE KINDS OF SHIPMENTS ... WE NOW HAVE A FORMAL REQUEST TO IMPLEMENT THOSE SANCTIONS AND WE INTEND TO DO THAT ... THE MEASURES THAT WE USE WILL BE THOSE MEASURES THAT ARE NECESSARY AND PROPORTIONATE UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES. UNQUOTE.

4. SCOWCROFT, REFERRING TO THE POSSIBLE USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS, DESCRIBED THEM AS A TERROR WEAPON AND THAT THEIR USE WOULD BE TAKEN VERY, VERY SERIOUSLY. HE AGREED THAT ITS (CW) EFFECT AGAINST UNPROTECTED CIVILIANS OR TROOPS WOULD HAVE VERY SIMILAR EFFECTS TO A NUCLEAR ATTACK. IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION ABOUT POSSIBLE FURTHER IRAQI AGGRESSION, SCOWCROFT SAID QUOTE I THINK HIS (SADDAM'S) INVASION OF JORDAN WE WOULD TREAT IN A SIMILAR MANNER TO HIS INVASION OF KUWAIT. UNQUOTE.

5. FULL TEXTS BY FAX TO FCO EMERGENCY UNIT.

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