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IRAQ/KUWAIT: PRESIDENT BUSH'S SPEECH OF 20 AUGUST
SUMMARY

1. PRESIDENT BUSH CALLS FOREIGNERS DETAINED IN IRAQ/KUWAIT HOSTAGES, AND HOLDS IRAQ RESPONSIBLE FOR AMERICANS' SAFETY. HE EMPHASISES AMERICA'S DETERMINATION WITH HER ALLIES TO RESIST AGGRESSION, WITH FREQUENT ALLUSIONS TO WORLD WAR II AND KOREA.
DETAIL

2. IN A SPEECH TO THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS CONVENTION IN BALTIMORE ON 20 AUGUST (FULL TEXT FAXED TO EMERGENCY UNIT), THE PRESIDENT EXPLICITLY CALLED THE FOREIGN NATIONALS DETAINED IN IRAQ HOSTAGES, AND SAID THAT HE WOULD HOLD THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAQ RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SAFETY AND WELL BEING OF AMERICAN CITIZENS HELD AGAINST THEIR WILL. HE ALSO SET OUT FIVE LESSONS LEARNED IN THE PAST 18 DAYS, AND TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO URGE THE SENATE TO UPHOLD HIS NOMINATION OF JUDGE SOUTER TO THE SUPREME COURT AND TO CRITICISE ATTEMPTS BY CONGRESS TO CUT THE DEFENCE BUDGET EVEN FURTHER THAN THE ADMINISTRATION HAD PROPOSED.

3. THE FOLLOWING ARE THE MAIN POINTS WHICH THE PRESIDENT MADE ON IRAQ/KUWAIT:

- A. HE EXPRESSED PRIDE IN THE SUPPORT THAT THE US WAS GETTING FROM AROUND THE WORLD, AND MENTIONED TELEPHONE CALLS EARLIER ON 20 AUGUST TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND OZAL:
- B. THIS WAS A QUOTE CRISIS THAT WILL REQUIRE AMERICAN PLANNING, PATIENCE, AND YES, PERSONAL SACRIFICE. BUT A CRISIS THAT WE MUST AND WILL MEET IF WE ARE TO STOP AGGRESSION, HELP OUR FRIENDS, AND PROTECT OUR INTERESTS IN THE PEACE AND STABILITY OF COUNTRIES AROUND THE GLOBE UNQUOTE:
- C. US ACTION IN THE MIDDLE EAST WAS TO QUOTE RESTORE THE SOVEREIGNTY OF KUWAIT AND DETER THOSE WHO THREATEN FRIENDLY COUNTRIES AND THE VITAL INTERESTS OF THE US ... OUR CAUSE ... WOULD NOT BE EASY, OUR CAUSE IS RIGHT UNQUOTE:
- D. QUOTE AMERICA WILL NOT BE INTIMIDATED ... AMERICA STANDS

- AGAINST AGGRESSION, AGAINST THOSE WHO WOULD USE FORCE TO REPLACE THE RULE OF LAW UNQUOTE:
- E. THE FIRST LESSON QUOTE AS VIVID AS THE MEMORIES OF NORMANDY, KHE SANH, PORK CHOP HILL UNQUOTE WAS THAT QUOTE AGGRESSION MUST AND WILL BE CHECKED UNQUOTE:
- F. THE SECOND LESSON WAS THAT QUOTE BY ITSELF, AMERICA CAN DO MUCH: TOGETHER WITH ITS FRIENDS AND ALLIES, AMERICA CAN DO MUCH MORE FOR PEACE AND FOR JUSTICE UNQUOTE. HE PRAISED THE SAUDIS AND KING FAHD FOR THEIR HELP IN RESISTING AGGRESSION, AND SALUTED QUOTE THOSE GOVERNMENTS WHO ARE RESPONDING TO THE EMIR OF KUWAIT'S CALLS FOR THE FULL ENFORCEMENT OF US SANCTIONS:
- G. QUOTE RESTRICTIONS ON INNOCENT CIVILIANS FROM MANY COUNTRIES (WERE) UNACCEPTABLE UNQUOTE:
- H. TWO POINTS FOR THE LEADERS OF IRAQ: THE DETENTION OF FOREIGN CITIZENS WAS AGAINST THE ARAB TRADITION OF HOSPITALITY, AND ALL FOREIGNERS SHOULD BE RELEASED NOW:
- I. QUOTE WE'VE BEEN RELUCTANT TO USE THE TERM QUOTE HOSTAGE UNQUOTE, BUT WHEN SADDAM HUSSEIN SPECIFICALLY OFFERS TO TRADE THE FREEDOM OF THOSE CITIZENS OF MANY NATIONS HE HOLDS AGAINST THEIR WILL IN RETURN FOR CONCESSIONS, THERE CAN BE LITTLE DOUBT THAT WHATEVER THESE INNOCENT PEOPLE ARE CALLED, THEY ARE IN FACT HOSTAGES. AND I WANT THERE TO BE NO MISUNDERSTANDING. I WILL HOLD THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAQ RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SAFETY AND WELL BEING OF AMERICAN CITIZENS HELD AGAINST THEIR WILL UNQUOTE:
- J. THANKS TO GORBACHEV FOR HIS CONDEMNATION OF THE INVASION:
- K. A THIRD LESSON WAS THE QUOTE STEADFAST CHARACTER OF THE AMERICAN WILL UNQUOTE:
- L. THE FOURTH LESSON WAS TO ENSURE THAT THE PLANNED REDUCTION IN US ARMED FORCES (25 PERCENT BY 1995) DID NOT MEAN A REDUCTION IN AMERICAN STRENGTH:
- M. THE FIFTH AND FINAL LESSON WAS THE NEED FOR A CONTINUED STRONG DEFENCE BUDGET: THE DEFICIT COULD NOT BE ATTACKED BY ATTACKING THE HEART OF AMERICA'S ARMED FORCES. WHEN IT CAME TO NATIONAL DEFENCE, MOST AMERICANS KNEW THAT FINISHING SECOND MEANT FINISHING LAST:
- N. QUOTE AUGUST 1990 HAS WITNESSED WHAT HISTORY WILL JUDGE ONE OF THE MOST CRUCIAL DEPLOYMENTS OF ALLIED POWERS SINCE WORLD WAR II UNQUOTE: AND
- O. QUOTE HALF A CENTURY AGO, THE WORLD HAD THE CHANCE TO STOP A RUTHLESS AGGRESSOR AND MISSED IT. AND I PLEDGE TO YOU, WE WILL NOT MAKE THAT MISTAKE AGAIN UNQUOTE.
4. THE PRESIDENT ALSO TRIED TO STRIKE A NUMBER OF PATRIOTIC

CHORDS, WITH ANECDOTES ABOUT AMERICAN SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAD BEEN DEPLOYED TO THE GULF, AND ENDED BY QUOTING EISENHOWER'S WORDS TO THE ALLIED FORCES ON THE EVE OF D-DAY. THERE WERE REPEATED ALLUSIONS TO THE KOREAN AND SECOND WORLD WARS, AS WELL AS BATTLES IN VIETNAM.

COMMENT

5. THE ONLY NEW POINT OF SUBSTANCE IN THIS SPEECH WAS THE PRESIDENT'S DESCRIPTION OF THE DETAINEES AS HOSTAGES. OTHERWISE, HE DID HIS BEST, IN A SPEECH WHICH SHOWED SIGNS OF HASTE IN PREPARATION AND DELIVERY, TO RALLY SUPPORT FOR AMERICAN ACTION IN THE GULF, WHICH HE CAST REPEATEDLY IN TERMS OF THE DETERMINATION OF AMERICA AND HER ALLIES TO STAND UP TO A RUTHLESS AGGRESSOR, WHOM BUSH IMPLICITLY COMPARED TO HITLER.

WOOD

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