# Hussein sends message to Americans on tape

WASHINGTON (AP) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein said in a message to Americans broadcast Tuesday that President Bush was sending their sons to a war more terrible than Vietnam.

In a 75-minute address taped last week, Saddam warned that if Bush were to launch war against Iraq. "it would not be up to him to end it."

Sitting at his desk with an Iraqi flag at his side, Saddam said he was addressing his message to the American people to explain the truth behind Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion and occupation of Kuwait.

The rambling address, peppered with references to Allah and his teachings, repeatedly accused Bush and Kuwait's rulers of plotting to impoverish his country and steal its oil.

Bush is "placing you in a critically embarrassing sit-uation ... on the edge of a bottomless abyss," by defending undemocratic governments like those of Kuwait, Saddam said.

"Bush, ladies and gentlemen, is sending your sons to war for no purpose save fatal arrogance.

Saddam spoke in Arabic. His remarks were translated with English subtitles supplied by Iraqi authori-

"Bush wants to bring back the sorrows of America

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and humanity by repeating the Vietnam experience, only this time in a more radical manner and more violent and more casualties," Saddam said.

The four major television networks broadcast excerpts of the tape on their evening news shows

Only CNN honored Saddam's request to show the whole tape, scheduling a 1 a.m. EDT broadcast.

Saddam, dressed in a dark suit rather than the military uniform he often favors, taped his address in response to an eight-minute message delivered by President Bush unedited on state-run Iraqi television 10 days ago. In that speech, Bush said Saddam had brought his people to the brink of war.

Although Bush told the Iraqi people his administration had no quarrel with them, Saddam said, "We have evidence that President Bush was himself involved in the Iran-gate or Iran-Contra conspiracy against Iraq in 1986 when he was Reagan's vice presi-

As vice president. Bush was privy to the Reagan administration's decision to sell weapons to Iran which was engaged in war with Iraq - in an effort to win freedom for American hostages held by pro-Iranian radicals in Lebanon.

The United States gave important help to Iraq, how-

ever, when in 1987 it put Kuwaiti tankers under the U.S. flag and protected them against Iranian attacks in the Persian Gulf.

Saddam accused Bush of lacking faith in God, and of "promoting a form of neo-Nazism" by styling himself as the leader of the free world.

Congress, too, was involved in a conspiracy against Iraq long before the Aug. 2 invasion, Saddam said. Lawmakers wanted to impose economic sanctions against his country, under the influenced of the pow-erful "Zionist" lobby of Israel's supporters, he said.

He challenged Bush, again, to an international television debate so he could tell the world the facts about Iraq's actions and so the American leader could learn about his intentions.

"If Bush has truth on his side, why should he evade debate?"

Iraq's detention of Americans and other foreigners "as guests in houses of our staff" is in the best interests of the United States because it could prevent a disastrous war, Saddam said.

U.S. officials say Saddam is holding 93 Americans, some of them at key military and financial installations, as "human shields" to ward off attack. The State Department has denounced the action in strong

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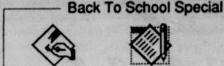
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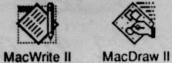
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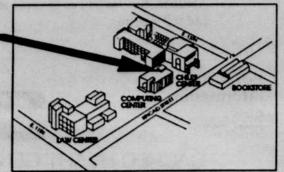
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