

Bush has expanded U.N. resolution 660

President Bush has snubbed another attempt at peace by the Iraqis. Bush called a proposal reached by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz "well short" of what would be required to end the Persian Gulf War.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater has said the Soviet proposal "doesn't require any response from us. This is between the Soviet Union and Iraq." This response is especially hard to swallow at a time when U.S. war planes are bombing Iraq everyday, and ground forces are gearing up for a bloody offensive.

The fact that Bush will not even consider the plan signifies that his goals in the war have moved beyond what the U.N. resolutions call for. Bush's goals now include the dismantling of the Iraqi Army and the overthrow of Saddam Hussein. Something the United Nations has not given him the authority to do.

The U.N. Security Council Resolution 660 calls for Iraq to unconditionally withdraw from Kuwait. U.S. officials have said this withdrawal would have to mean the Iraqis leave all of their tanks and armory behind when they go. Bush seems to have added his own footnotes to the U.N.'s resolution.

The Soviet proposal contains four main points: Iraq would leave Kuwait immediately with no preconditions. It would maintain its state structure and borders. No sanctions would be leveled against Iraq or Hussein. All further issues, including the Palestinian question, would be debated.

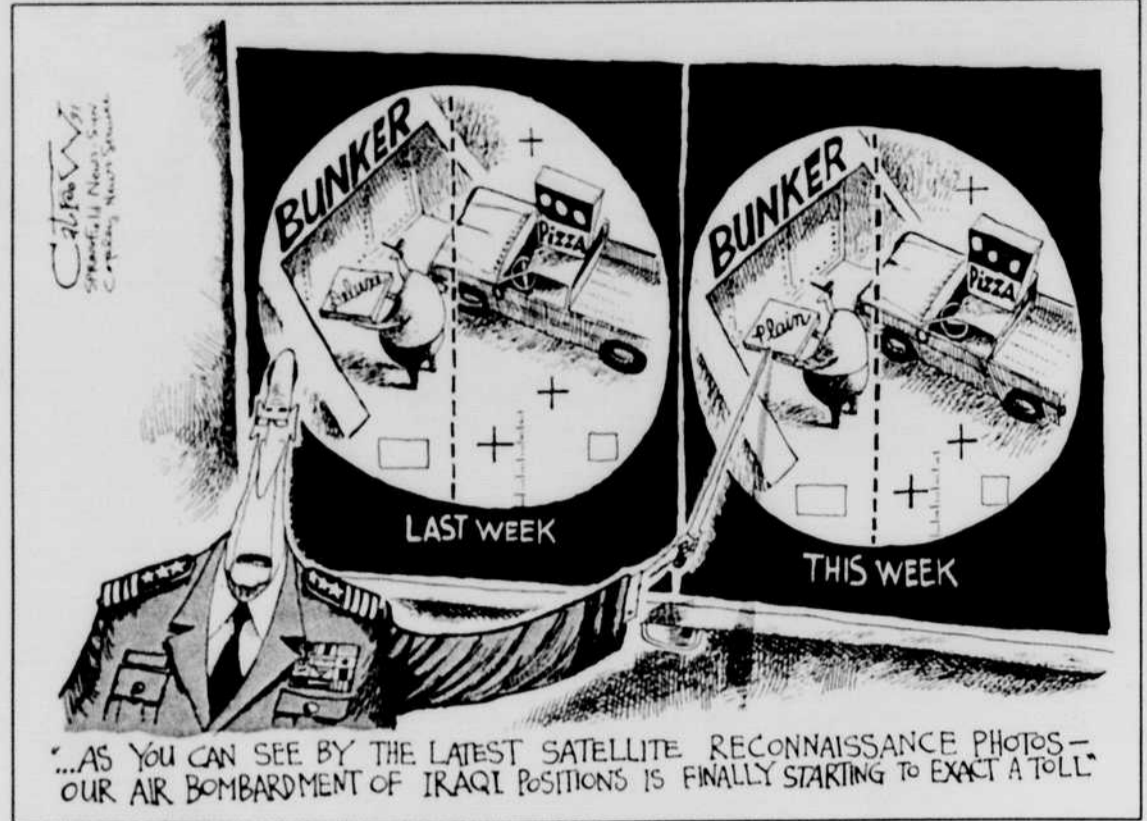
All four parts of the proposal should be acceptable to the United States if the only goal is to get Iraq out of Kuwait. The first point of the proposal is the most important. Iraq has promised to leave Kuwait with no preconditions. This is what the U.N. resolution calls for. The proposal also requires Iraq's government and borders remain intact. This clearly fits with the U.N.'s goals. Dropping all sanctions against Iraq would be a natural response to Hussein's withdrawal from Kuwait, making the third request a given. Debating the Palestinian issue, the fourth item, is something the whole world would benefit from, and should be taking place anyway.

If Bush only wants Hussein out of Kuwait as the U.N. agreed, this plan would be completely acceptable. But if Bush has expanded this goal and wants to humiliate Hussein and reduce his stature in the Arab world — if not eliminate him completely — then he has made a mockery of the allied coalition, the United Nations and the Americans fighting and dying in his name.

Which country, Mr. President?

Excerpt from an Associated Press story, Feb. 19:
 "It's a rich country, if they'd just use their resources wisely' instead of spending them to build a military machine."

— George Bush speaking to Congress on why the United States won't help pay to rebuild Iraq after the war.



LETTERS

Dear Bob

An open letter to Sen. Bob Packwood: I was distressed to hear that you voted in favor of allowing the use of force at President Bush's discretion.

This January vote hailed by its supporters as a negotiating tool brings horrifying images of the rhetorical misinformation of the Vietnam period. President Bush's rush into armed conflict bears a strong resemblance to Johnson's action in the early-to-mid-1960s as that president mired this country deeper in that ill-advised and immoral military action.

I strongly urge you to re-evaluate your position on the Persian Gulf War. This is not a "clean" war; there is no such thing. This is not a moral war; the premature abandonment of sanctions at the cost of countless lives dismisses this myth. This is not a rational war; Bush's "new world order" is clearly a shallow pitch to gloss over the desperate situation to be expected in the Middle East following the conflict.

Support the cessation of the offensive and the pursuit of a negotiated solution based on the region as a whole. Please explain your present position including an outline of your expected actions with respect to this difficult challenge facing our nation.

Samuel McL. Pierce
 Architecture

Peace wish

As members of the graduate school of business, we would like to express our wishes for peace in the Persian Gulf. As those of us who have signed this letter come from broad and diverse backgrounds, we, like the entire student body, have broad and diverse opinions on the war. But one position we all hold in common is the overriding importance of world peace.

As students of the University, we are also concerned about the bomb threats on campus, received Jan. 18. The University is a harbor for intellectuals, and should be a bastion of ide-

alism. No school of interest among the various area of studies at the University represents anything other than a collection of people seeking education.

No school, nor the University itself, is representative of the enemies of peace. And no school, not the Business Department and certainly not the administration of the University, should be a victim of violent protest or terrorism.

There is no moral rightness in war. And certainly passive protestation brings a moral rightness to the voice of the people. Such leaders as Ghandi and Martin Luther King Jr. raise the consciousness of millions without raising their hands in violence. Let this be our way also. To this effect we dedicate our letter; with it, our hopes for peace.

Gordon R. Lanser
 and 23 co-signers

Down Pat

Pat Malach's opinion column (ODE, Feb. 13) was not only ignorant, it was downright offensive. Gen. Colin Powell is one of the finest military commanders this nation has ever produced. I am sure, however, that he couldn't care less what Malach thinks of him.

What I found truly offensive was Malach's statement "people who choose the military because it is the best of limited options." When I graduate I am going on active duty because I want to, not because it is one of a set of "limited options." My father spent 20-plus years in the military because he liked it, not because it was a limited option.

Contrary to Malach's belief, not just anyone can join the military. In the past few years officer and enlisted positions have become very competitive.

Every person participating in Operation Desert Storm knew what they were getting into when they joined the service. If you disagree with our nation's policy that is, of course, your right. But to say the military is a limited option is a contempt-

ible slur on the honor of America's fine fighting forces.

Eric R. Eckman
 History

Program needed

The Human Services Department is one of several programs being phased out by the University due to recent budget cuts resulting from the decision on Measure 5.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with the department, it offers University students an opportunity to complete a specialized, practical, and meaningful curriculum in the area of human services.

It prepares undergraduates for careers in the areas of children, youth and families, mental health, and corrections by offering theoretical methods courses and hands-on experience in the Eugene and Portland communities through different agencies and organizations.

The program offers students the opportunity to instigate social growth and improvement within our communities — the core of this nation. There is no curriculum in Oregon that compares with this one.

By cutting this program from the University and by cutting funding for local community agencies, Measure 5 has succeeded in helping Oregon regress instead of progress.

If you are as infuriated and saddened as I am, I urge you to write to your local newspaper, your Representatives in Washington, the Chancellor of Higher Education Thomas Bartlett or Governor Barbara Roberts.

We can change our situation if we feel the need. If we don't at least try we will be at fault for our local community's problems in the future.

Cuts should no longer be made in education. We all know better than that. There are alternatives.

Alisa Quirey
 Human Services

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