

PERSIAN GULF WAR

U.S. still at war with Hussein

WASHINGTON (AP) — As allied forces prepare to claim their main military objective, the Kuwaiti capital city, the Bush administration is turning its focus to the destruction of Saddam Hussein's army within Iraq.

Pentagon officials said Iraqi forces were "in full retreat" from Kuwait, and that the U.S. Army's VII Corps attacked and defeated a division of Saddam's Republican Guard troops inside Iraq.

Allied troops were poised to enter Kuwait City, following U.S. and Saudi special forces that entered Tuesday.

With Hussein facing the loss of not just the war but his army as well, President Bush vowed to press the fighting "with undiminished intensity" and prevent Hussein's troops from escaping surrender.

"He is trying to save the remnants of power and control in

the Middle East by every means possible," Bush said. "And here, too, Saddam Hussein will fail."

Vice President Dan Quayle, reflecting the administration's stiffened stance against Hussein, made clear the United States wants to render the Iraqi leader powerless.

"Saddam and his military machine are simply incompatible with a lasting and just peace," Quayle said.

The administration's tough talk was endorsed by allies. Britain, France, Egypt, Germany, Italy and Japan all said withdrawal alone was not enough and that Iraq must comply with all 12 U.N. resolutions imposed after Iraq's Aug. 2 takeover of Kuwait.

Members of Congress, reacting to the prospects of a sweeping allied victory, urged Bush to give Hussein no quarter after a White House meeting with

the president.

"Our mission is clear — it is time to finish the job, once and for all," said the Senate Republican leader Bob Dole of Kansas.

Sen. Richard G. Lugar, R-Ind., said "The president told us that we're going to continue to prosecute the war because Saddam Hussein has not surrendered and it's very important that he be defeated, that Iraq be defeated."

A Democrat, Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont, said Bush "has strong support from the Congress in making sure there isn't any way for Saddam Hussein to declare victory. It isn't a victory; it's a rout."

House Speaker Thomas S. Foley, D-Wash., said he hoped Hussein would be forced to account to his countrymen for policies that have bankrupted Iraq and left it in ruins.

Congress wants allies to pay up

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lawmakers considering President Bush's request for \$15 billion in taxpayer money to finance the Persian Gulf War are demanding that allied countries deliver on their promised financial help.

The House Budget Committee examines the spending proposal today, a day after members of the Senate Appropriations Committee grilled administration officials on the plan.

While leaving little doubt that Congress will ultimately provide whatever money the Pentagon needs to conduct the war with Iraq, senators spent much of their time Tuesday complaining that America's war allies have fallen short of contributing their fair shares.

Japan and oil-rich Arab nations were favorite targets.

"We have this check-in-the-mail syndrome, especially with some countries that have the most ability to pay," said Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt. "When you watch some of the actions of Japan, it's sort of an arrogant condescension toward us."

"The Saudis would have been the 20th province of Iraq if we had not moved," said Sen. Alfonse D'Amato, R-N.Y. "It shouldn't be on the back of American taxpayers."

Other countries have delivered just \$14.9 billion out of the \$53.5 billion they have promised to pay the United States for its military efforts in the gulf.

Japan has promised \$10.7 billion in assistance and delivered \$1.3 billion. Saudi Arabia has sent \$6 billion out of \$16.8 billion in pledges; Kuwait has provided \$3.5 billion out of \$16 billion promised; and the United Arab Emirates have paid \$1 billion of a \$3 billion pledge.

Administration officials have said they be-

lieve the \$15 billion in U.S. funds, plus the promised allied payments, should be enough to finance the war through March 31. But they concede that Bush may have to seek more money should the fighting last longer.

White House budget director Richard Darman and Deputy Defense Secretary Donald Atwood told senators they believed the allies would make their payments in full by March 31.

But some senators advised the officials that unless they moved quickly, the United States might never receive all the pledged help.

"Remember, boys, bill 'em while the tears are falling," said Sen. Dale Bumpers, D-Ark., recalling the advice of a law school professor. "Enforcing the contribution commitments is going to be impossible ... once the crisis is over."

Members of the Senate panel also said they would scrutinize Bush's request to ensure that it sought funds for the war effort, not for other programs the Pentagon might want to pursue.

Bush and congressional leaders have agreed that military spending will decline over the next five years. Atwood and Darman said the war spending bill seeks to replenish weapons and other supplies only to the level of the planned cuts.

The administration believes the U.S. deployment will cost about \$40 billion in fiscal 1991, which ends Sept. 30, not including the costs of actual combat. The Defense Department has said the costs of fighting alone could be \$77 billion.

Several lawmakers said they favored providing emergency aid to Israel, which has incurred expenses from being on constant military alert and preparing for an Iraqi gas attack.

Kuwaitis reclaim capital from Iraq

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — Kuwaiti resistance leaders declared late Tuesday they were in control of their smoke-filled and ravaged capital following nearly seven months of Iraqi occupation.

They said fleeing Iraqi troops had taken thousands of Kuwaiti captives with them and left behind an armory of tanks and loaded weapons.

U.S. Army and Saudi special forces probed the city Tuesday, the vanguard of an allied force of thousands poised to enter the coastal city. Some of the U.S. commandos wore Arab headdresses along with their uniforms, and carried small, easily concealed automatic weapons.

Later, troops of the 1st Marine Division entered Kuwait City after a daylong advance from central Kuwait, according to a pool report. They then took part in a battle against Iraqi troops at Kuwait International Airport.

During their advance, the Marines said they destroyed more than 100 Iraqi tanks.

Kuwaiti resistance leaders claimed Iraqis rounded up their hostages from schools and mosques. The hostages included relatives of Kuwaiti military personnel and prominent families, these leaders said.

"They were killing us just for no reason. They were chasing us ... They were killing us, we don't know why," said Mahdi al-Kallaf, who claimed he was a resistance fighter.

"The life was horrible. It wasn't a life," said resident Sadeq al-Zadi in a television interview.

The city appeared to have largely escaped the effects of allied bombing, but there were burned-out buildings and roadblocks set by Iraqi troops.

Abandoned Iraqi T-55 tanks were scattered along the highway into town, as well as transport trucks and smaller vehicles. Elsewhere were handguns, machine guns and anti-tank launchers abandoned by Saddam Hussein's forces.

One Iraqi anti-aircraft battery was abandoned, fully loaded. Major hotels were damaged and burned by retreating Iraqi forces. Many of the other office towers and modern buildings 'symbols of Kuwait's oil prosperity' were devastated.

Most of the electricity and water supplies have been cut.

"A lot has been destroyed. I hope a lot has been left," said Kuwait's Finance Minister Sheik Ali Khalifa al-Sabah in a radio interview.

Escorted by Kuwaiti resistance leaders, the special forces soldiers went first to the Saudi Embassy and then to the American diplomatic compound, where they found the U.S. seal hanging on the outside wall and the gates chained shut.

They decided against immediately entering the compound for fear of mines and booby traps.

One U.S. soldier, who refused to give his name, carried an American flag to the gates of the compound. He said it had been given to him during the Tet Offensive in Vietnam in 1968 by a Marine who died in his arms.

The dozen or so members of the special forces said they had entered the city after meeting with the resistance leaders.

Resistance officials said the Iraqi troops began their withdrawal Monday night from the city, which had a pre-invasion population of about 450,000.

They said some Iraqis may still be in one sector of the city, and others hidden in schools. The resistance leaders reported taking an undetermined number of prisoners to a local jail.

However, U.S. officials in Saudi Arabia and Washington said the allies did not control the Kuwaiti capital yet.

Outside the city, Iraqi prisoners were being transported to the rear in dozens of buses.

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