

United Nations votes to use military force against Iraq

by Jennifer Lessard
Staff Writer

After nearly a decade of war with nearby Iran, in which the only benefit was a sizable debt, Saddam Hussein, ruler of Iraq, moved his military into Kuwait to take over the oil rich fields and the leadership of the Kuwait government August 2.

The Iraqi military took thousands of foreign hostages to use as shields in case of a military attack. Most diplomats and hostages have been released and Secretary of State James Baker will bring home five American diplomats still remaining in Baghdad on Jan 12.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz met with Baker in Geneva Jan. 10 to speak in regards to the United Nations (UN) Security Council resolutions which stress Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait by Jan. 15. According to Baker "Tariq Aziz didn't explicitly say Iraq would stay in Kuwait but he never said

he would withdraw, even if the Iraqis demands are met." Those demands are to discuss Palestinian issue with Israel, which the State Department feels is a decoy to get attention off of Kuwait and onto Arab and Palestinian problems. Aziz stated an open threat to attack Israel if war breaks out.

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During the meeting Baker attempted to pass on a letter written by President Bush, through Aziz, to Saddam Hussein. Aziz refused to accept the letter, saying that it used offensive language that was not appropriate for heads of

state. Bush said that those accusations were totally false.

Baker said, in regards to the six hour meeting, "I heard nothing that suggested to me any Iraqi flexibility whatsoever in complying with the United Nations Security Council resolutions."

President Bush has not given up on diplomatic efforts, which now will be pursued by the U.N. The American media speculation is that there are two possible scenarios that could prevent hostilities. They theorize that Iraq might have a partial withdrawal from Kuwait and make it politically harder for the U.S. to justify an attack. Their second scenario was to send United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to Baghdad for a last ditch diplomatic effort.

De Cuellar announced Wednesday, Jan. 9, that he would visit Baghdad on Saturday to meet with Saddam Hussein.

The Pentagon is preparing for war, preparing for a possible 6000 air strikes a day for two weeks straight. Over 370 thousand U.S. men and women have been sta-

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tioned in the area and over 600 thousand multi-national troops are all ready in position. Over 152 thousand U.S. armed forces reservist have been called up since August 2, and the Pentagon is authorized to activate a maximum of 200 thousand. If Bush approves U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney's request to allow the

activated reservist to serve up to two years, the reservist scheduled to return home in mid-February after six months on active duty, would stay on active duty for a possible two more years.

On Saturday congress approved a resolution to support the president in his decisions about the gulf. This was not a formal declaration of war. The resolution gave the president the support many people felt he needed before he could order military action.

Yesterday the White House held to its public stance that military action would not be delayed much past today if Iraqi forces do not withdraw from Kuwait.

United Nations Secretary-General de Cuellar described Saddam's "response to all those who have talked to him in recent days has been hard-line, showing no flexibility and no indication that he intends to leave Kuwait."

Letters from the endless beach

by Frank Jordan
Staff Writer

All of America's eyes will be on the kingdom of Saudi Arabia over the next few days and weeks. A pail of war hangs over the country as peaceful negotiations break-down all over the place. But for all of the political haggling going on, there are a group of men and women that the American people better not give up on.

The brave men and women ordered into what the Pentagon calls Operation Desert Shield are not and should not be caught up in the political rhetoric that is going to sweep us away over the next days and weeks.

A good friend of mine, who just happens to be my cousin, is currently serving with U.S. forces in Operation Desert Shield. He is 1LT Joe Jordan, serving with the 1st Battalion, 504th Infantry Regiment (Airborne), 82nd Airborne Division, headquartered at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. The following are some of his reflections, through his letters, of "life on the endless beach....."

game against some Marines. You have any idea how hot it is to play a football game out here? It feels like one of those hot days in Boise, when we used to lay by the pool, and just veg. Only about 20 degrees hotter. I am starting to get used to it, however.

They make us drink so much water. [Going to the bathroom] 20 times a day is not my idea of being normal. You would think we were drinking a very good, ice cold BEER (or beers) more than normal men should. But we are not normal men, are we?

Gotta go. Say Hi! to Susie for me, she sounded worried in her last scribble.

Take care, will you.

Joe

9 Nov 90

It sure is nasty here. Starting to cool off, however.

How the hell are you, Frank? When are the powers that be going to send you to the big beach? I sure do need some company.

No women, no alcohol, not much fun. Life here is getting to be SO routine. Get up at o-dark-30, find a wash rag to get the dust off (we still do not have showers), meet with the commander, go through daily training plans, eat the dreaded plastic food, and then go play war on the beach.

Had to go to the dispensary yesterday, had a tooth that was really bugging me. All is well now.

Could you do me a huge, although illegal favor? I want a 40-ounce bottle of Budweiser, wrapped up in, say, a copy of Miss January. Could you do that for me? PLEASE?? Don't bust your butt over this one.

Take care will you? I sure do miss you, and everyone else.

Susie hasn't written me in over a month. Do you think that she is just a little mad at me for going on active duty? I know what you are thinking.

Well, think cool thoughts, O.K.? As Reverend Wham would say, "Have a glorious day!!"

Joe

24 Dec 90

Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year and all that crap.

We were laying odds to see if Santa would deliver a gift to Saddam. We are trying to see with the satellite. Kinda hard, though.

Thank you very much for the package. All those magazines, all those newspapers, ALL THAT CANDY! No beer, though? You disappoint me, Frank. I thought I knew you better than that.

A question. How come we have to be here at such a fun, and great time of the year? I have been thinking about that lately, and I cannot come up with an answer.

January 15 is almost here, and we just don't know what is going to happen. Most of my guys are truly scared. Me too.

We are not that far away from the border. If shooting starts, I believe that we can do the job that we were sent to possibly do. I don't know.

You wrote that you wanted to put some of my writing in your college newspaper. Go ahead and do that. Just don't put in the stuff about operations and the other personal things, O.K.? Tlanx.

Frank, have the merriest of all Christmases and a very Happy New Year's Eve, O.K.? I will write again to you soon.

So, from the land of the endless beach, I bid a fond farewell. God Bless.

Love, Joe

Note

My cousin did mention that some of the guys in his company have not received too much mail. This is one of the things that truly makes the gals and guys over in the desert feel like we as Americans care about them.

As the U.S. and its Allies prepare for war, I would like everyone to send a note, or a letter, or a small gift, to any service member in any branch of the Armed Forces.

Whether or not you agree with the President on this issue does not matter. The soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines in the Gulf region do not play politics. They are doing the job they were sent to do. Let us support them in every way possible.

Opinions on war in the desert

"My feelings on the Gulf situation are mixed. I feel that the U.S. shouldn't get involved in so much of the International affairs, but I also believe that we need to keep order. I feel that instead of praise, President Bush should get some criticism; if he hadn't been involved in selling arms in the Gulf with the Reagan administration, we may not be in such a sticky mess now. I think instead of protecting the United States he's trying to protect his own ass from a major political scandal. "We the people" are being misinformed and maybe even misled."

Aaron Wright, Student

"The Persian Gulf affects everyone directly and indirectly by a number of ways, I think what we are doing is right. If Saddam gets away with it who's going to stop someone else from doing the same thing?"

Christine Larke, Student

"I feel that if we go to war we should try to get it over with as soon as possible. We can't let this guy just go and take over whatever country he wants to. Who's to say he will stop with Kawaii?"

Keri Jones, Student

"I think it's the beginning of the end. If the conflict lasts over three months we are destined to lose.

But if we are not there, world oil prices will be controlled by a fanatical leader. In that case the entire world will lose."

Ed Baird, Student

From the editor

Soldiers need our support

I feel a great sadness for what is yet to come of the events in the Persian Gulf.

Now more than ever it is up to us to speak up and let our voices be heard. Maybe it is too late to stop the inevitability of war, but there are thousands of men and women in Saudi Arabia who need our support.

Whether you agree with the stand the U.S. is taking in the Gulf or not is not the question anymore. We must now face the reality of war and ask ourselves how we as individuals and as a nation are going to deal with war.

The men and women in the armed forces need our support. It is up to us to let them know that they are not to blame for what is going on. They are, however, to be commended for their bravery and commitment to America and to the rest of the world.

Many of the people in the services are there because it is a means for them to get an education. I don't think anyone ever expected this to come about, and now, instead of getting their education in an institution of higher education, they are in the desert

facing the possibility of death.

Do your part in letting the service people know we care about them and value their lives. It is as simple as writing a letter saying hello and sending it to any service person. Put together a care package with newspapers, pictures or treats. Anything will do. Inform them about what is going on in the states. Tell them about movies you have seen recently or send them a tape of the music that is currently popular. Keep them in touch with their home.

It is up to us to let them know we want them to come back and we look forward to their return to the states. It is also important not to forget about them and to let them know we care.

Although I am too young to remember the end of the Vietnam War, today many people say that besides ever getting involved in Vietnam the biggest mistake America ever made was not welcoming the soldiers home, letting them know they mattered as people and respecting them for their fulfillment of their duties.

Let us not make this mistake again.

14 Sept 90

Hey, cousin of mine, what the #!#!# is up? I made it without incident in the land of the big beach, Saudi Arabia.

God damn, it sure is hot here. It feels like someone put us into a big microwave and turned it up on 100%. The weather guys said it got up to about 128 degrees today. In the shade.

I've been here about two weeks. Not much for us to do yet. Right now, we just go to a bunch of meetings and stuff.

Oh, got to go. One more thing, could you call my mom once in a while. She really is shaken up by all of this. Give her some of those great 'cheer-me-up' quotes you always gave me. It sure would help.

So from the land of the endless beach, Sayonara.

Joe

2 Oct 90

Hey, what the heck is up? This is your cousin, Joe, reporting from the tan wasteland, the big beach. Had one hell of a football