

MEMORANDUM

AUGUST 20, 1990

TO: SENATOR DOLE
FROM: BILL WISECARVER
SUBJECT: SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT AT THE VFW'S 91ST ANNUAL CONVENTION

The VFW is currently at the Baltimore Convention Center's Hall A. There are 12,000 registered delegates. President Bush spoke to them to this morning, in which he, for the first time called the foreign citizens trapped in Iraq "hostages" (after the Iraqi government announced that the foreigners are to be dispersed to military targets for "protection").

The schedule of events for Tuesday, August 21st are as follows:

- * 09:30-- Presentation to Pat Buchanan.
- * 10:30-- Speech by Sectary Edward Derwinski.
- * 11:00-- Speech by yourself (15-30 minutes).
- * 11:45-- Presentation to Col. Carl Ryan, Director of Battlefield Monuments.
- * 12:00-- Presentation to Ms. Diane Carlson Evans, Chairwoman of the Womens Vietnam Veterans Monument Committee.

You will be met at the Sharp Street entrance to the Convention Center by Larry Rivers, Executive Director of the VFW.

MEMORANDUM

AUGUST 20, 1990

TO: RICHARD QUINN

FROM: BILL WISECARVER

SUBJECT: VFW SPEECH AT THE BALTIMORE CONVENTION CENTER
AUGUST 21ST, 1990

TIME: 11:00 TO 11:30

PLACE: BALTIMORE CONVENTION CENTER, HALL A. GO TO SHARP STREET
ENTRANCE; VIP ROOM- #203

DIRECTIONS: HIGHWAY 95 TO BALTIMORE. EXIT #53 TO PRATT STREET;
RIGHT AT PRATT TO CENTER. TAKE A RIGHT AT SHARP
STREET. GO TO THE SHARP STREET ENTRANCE TO ROOM #203.

POINTS OF CONTACT:

LARRY RIVERS- (301) 244-8048

BOB O'TOOL- (301) 332-1281/ 547-1200 EXT. 2582

Remarks of Senator Bob Dole

VFW CONVENTION

Baltimore, Maryland

August 21, 1990

YESTERDAY, YOU HEARD
FROM THE COMMANDER IN
CHIEF. YOUR RESPONSE TO HIS
REMARKS SENT A STRONG
MESSAGE TO SADDAM HUSSEIN,
AND TO PEOPLE AROUND THE
WORLD: THE V.F.W. STANDS

STRONGLY BEHIND THE
PRESIDENT — AS HE
CONFRONTS THE GREATEST
CHALLENGE OF HIS PRESIDENCY.

TODAY, I WANT TO TALK
TO YOU ABOUT SOME OF THE
SAME ISSUES THE PRESIDENT
DISCUSSED, FROM MY
PERSPECTIVE ON CAPITOL
HILL — WHERE I HAVE THE
RESPONSIBILITY FOR RAISING THE

PRESIDENT'S BANNER, AND
PUSHING HIS PROGRAM.

AS I STAND HERE THIS
MORNING, I AM REMINDED THAT
— 22 YEARS AGO TO THE
DAY — SOVIET TANKS ROLLED
INTO CZECHOSLOVAKIA,
MARKING THE ABRUPT AND
ICE—COLD END OF WHAT WAS
THEN BEING CALLED THE
'PRAGUE SPRING.'

THERE WAS A LOT OF
HAND—WRINGING IN REACTION
TO THE KREMLIN'S
AGGRESSION —— BUT NOBODY
REALLY DID MUCH ABOUT IT.

THIS TIME, THANK GOD, IT'S
DIFFERENT.

THIS TIME, IF SOVIET
FORCES MOBILIZE, THEY WILL
MOBILIZE ON OUR SIDE —— THE
SIDE OF FREEDOM. THIS TIME,

VIRTUALLY ALL THE NATIONS OF
WORLD ARE STANDING
TOGETHER —— AND ACTIVELY
STANDING UP TO SADDAM
HUSSEIN'S NAKED AGGRESSION.

THE LAST TIME,
CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND THE
OTHER ENSLAVED NATIONS OF
EASTERN EUROPE HAD TO WAIT
FOR NEARLY A QUARTER
CENTURY, AND THAT

REMARKABLE SERIES OF EVENTS
WE HAVE WITNESSED THESE PAST
MONTHS, TO WIN THEIR
FREEDOM.

THIS TIME, WE ARE
DETERMINED TO MAKE SURE
THAT SADDAM HUSSEIN DOES
NOT GET AWAY WITH HIS
BLOODY GAMBLE; THAT
AMERICA'S FRIENDS IN THE
REGION ARE NOT OVERRUN;

THAT AMERICA'S VITAL
INTERESTS —— SECURITY AND
ECONOMIC INTERESTS —— ARE
PROTECTED.

AND LET ME MAKE ONE
POINT SO LOUD AND CLEAR
THAT IT WILL BE HEARD AND
UNDERSTOOD, NOT ONLY IN
BALTIMORE, BUT IN BAGHDAD,
TOO: THIS TIME, THE PEOPLE OF
THE UNITED STATES WILL NOT

BOW TO BLACKMAIL.

AND THEY WILL

OVERWHELMINGLY SUPPORT ANY

ACTION TAKEN BY THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED

STATES TO WIN THE FREEDOM

OF AMERICANS HELD HOSTAGE;

OR TO PUNISH THOSE WHO

HAVE ASSAULTED OR

IMPRISONED INNOCENT

AMERICANS.

ABOUT FOUR MONTHS AGO,
I HAD A LITTLE CHAT WITH
SADDAM HUSSEIN. I WENT TO
IRAQ, WITH A BIPARTISAN
DELEGATION OF SENATORS, TO
EXPLORE IF THERE WAS ANY
CHANCE TO IMPROVE
RELATIONS WITH SADDAM'S
REGIME.

ON THAT OCCASION, WE
HEARD A LITTLE "SERMON FROM

SADDAM," ON WHAT
CONSTITUTED WHAT HE CALLED
"REAL GREATNESS" IN THE
MODERN WORLD. SUCH
"GREATNESS," HE TOLD US,
STEMMED NOT FROM MILITARY
POWER, BUT THE FORCE OF
MORALITY. HE SAID TO US,
AND THIS IS A QUOTE: "WHERE
A PERSON IS JUST IN HIS
POSITION, HE IS THE MIGHTIER

ONE. ... WHERE HE PARTAKES IN
ATTAINING PEACE, NOT FOR
HIMSELF BUT FOR MANKIND AS
A WHOLE, HE IS THE MIGHTIER.'

I SUSPECT SADDAM'S
TROOPS HAVE PUT UP
BILLBOARDS WITH THAT QUOTE
ALL OVER OCCUPIED KUWAIT.

BUT THAT QUOTE, AND
SADDAM'S RECKLESS WORDS
AND DEEDS THESE PAST COUPLE

OF WEEKS, GIVE YOU SOME
IDEA OF THE KIND OF MAN WE
ARE DEALING WITH. A MAN
WHO LIES THROUGH HIS TEETH.
A MAN FOR WHOM CONCEPTS
LIKE PEACE — ARE JUST A
COVER TO MASK HIS PLANS
FOR WAR.

BUT MARK THIS WELL, TOO:
HE IS A STUBBORN, TOUGH,
RUTHLESS MAN — ONE WE

MIGHT DESPISE, BUT WE
SHOULDN'T UNDERESTIMATE.

WE WILL DO WHAT HAS TO
BE DONE —— BUT LET'S GO
INTO THIS WITH OUR EYES OPEN.
IT WON'T BE EASY. IT WON'T
BE PRETTY. IT WON'T BE
WITHOUT COST. AND IT MAY
NOT BE QUICK.

BUT IT DOES HAVE TO BE
DONE.

AND WE HAVE TO BE
PREPARED TO DO WHATEVER WE
HAVE TO, TO GET THE JOB
DONE.

LET ME UNDERSCORE A KEY
POINT. A LOT OF WHAT HAS
TO BE DONE IS OVER THERE —
— IN SAUDI ARABIA, AND THE
SURROUNDING REGION.

NOT ALL OF IT SHOULD BE,
OR CAN BE DONE, BY THE

UNITED STATES ALONE.

FOR TWO CENTURIES AND
IN COUNTLESS EMERGENCIES,
OUR RECORD IS CLEAR: WHEN
THE BELL RINGS, THE UNITED
STATES IS THERE, DOING OUR
SHARE AND A WHOLE LOT
MORE. WE ARE THERE, TODAY,
IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

BUT THE STAKES IN THAT
REGION, IN THIS CRISIS, ARE

SKY HIGH, NOT ONLY FOR US,
BUT FOR THE WHOLE WORLD
COMMUNITY.

IT IS TIME FOR ALL THE
NATIONS OF THE WORLD TO
STAND UP AND BE COUNTED. IT
IS TIME FOR A TRULY
INTERNATIONAL EFFORT, IN
WHICH SHARED INTERESTS ARE
MATCHED BY SHARED
COMMITMENT.

SO FAR, OUR ALLIES AND
FRIENDS AROUND THE WORLD —
— INCLUDING IN THE MIDDLE
EAST —— HAVE, FOR THE MOST
PART, RESPONDED WELL.

WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO
EXPECT, AND TO INSIST, THAT
THEY WILL STAND WITH US NOT
ONLY IN THE IMMEDIATE CRISIS,
BUT FOR AS LONG AS IT TAKES.
THIS TIME, THERE CANNOT

BE ANY "FREE LUNCHESES" FOR
ANYONE.

BUT LET ME SAY, TOO: WE
HAVE SOME ADDITIONAL WORK
TO DO AT HOME, TO MAKE
SURE NO ONE DOUBTS THAT WE
ARE STANDING AS FIRMLY AS
WE SHOULD BEHIND THE
PRESIDENT, AND BEHIND
AMERICA.

JUST A FEW DAYS BEFORE

SADDAM'S TROOPS AND TANKS
ROLLED INTO KUWAIT, A
MISGUIDED MAJORITY OF
LIBERAL SENATORS:

— DONNED THEIR "ROSE—
COLORED GLASSES;"

— DECLARED AN END
NOT ONLY TO THE COLD WAR
WITH THE SOVIETS, BUT ALL
WAR, AND ALL THREATS OF
AGGRESSION;

— AND DECIDED THAT
WHAT AMERICA NEEDED WAS
NOT A DEFENSE SECOND TO
NONE — BUT A SECOND-RATE
DEFENSE.

THEY VOTED NOT SIMPLY
TO “CUT,” BUT TO RECKLESSLY
“GUT,” AMERICA’S DEFENSE.

IN VOTE AFTER VOTE, THAT
MISGUIDED MAJORITY SENT OUT
THIS TIMID MESSAGE: AMERICA

WILL DO WHATEVER MUST BE
DONE TO INSURE THE PEACE —
— AS LONG AS IT DOESN'T
COST TOO MUCH; OR ENTAIL
ANY SACRIFICE; OR FORCE US
TO FACE UP TO THE WORLD AS
IT REALLY IS, RATHER THAN AS
WE WOULD LIKE IT TO BE.

IN VOTE AFTER VOTE, THEY
SENT A MESSAGE THAT MUST BE
RINGING IN THE EARS OF THOSE

TENS OF THOUSANDS OF BRAVE
YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN NOW
ON STATION IN THE MIDDLE
EAST: DO WHATEVER MUST BE
DONE — AS LONG AS YOU
DON'T RUN UP TOO LARGE A
BILL.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:
WITH ALL THE CHANGES IN THE
WORLD, ONE THING HASN'T
CHANGED.

FREEDOM ISN'T CHEAP.

BUT YOU AND I KNOW:

WHATEVER IT COSTS TO INSURE

FREEDOM FOR OUR CHILDREN

AND GRANDCHILDREN -- IT IS

WORTH IT.

IT IS A PRICE THAT MUST

BE PAID.

SO THAT IS ONE THING

THAT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY:

TO INSURE THAT, WHEN WE SEND

OUR FORCES TO FAR—FLUNG
CORNERS OF THE GLOBE ——
WE SEND THEM THERE WITH THE
MILITARY MIGHT TO DO THE
JOB.

ONE OTHER THING IS OUR
RESPONSIBILITY, TOO: MAKING
SURE THAT THE FLAG THOSE
TROOPS CARRY —— THE FLAG
THAT WE FLY —— IS AS
REVERED HERE AT HOME, AS WE

WANT IT TO BE RESPECTED
AROUND THE WORLD.

YOU'VE SEEN IT JUST AS I
HAVE: THE DISGUSTING SCENES
OF UGLY MOBS IN IRAQ AND
JORDAN, TORCHING THE
AMERICAN FLAG.

AND I BET YOU'VE HAD THE
SAME TWO REACTIONS I HAVE:
AN UNDERSTANDABLE ANGER AT
THIS FOREIGN DESECRATION OF

OLD GLORY ——BUT,
SIMULTANEOUSLY, A
RESURGENCE OF REVULSION
THAT IT IS NOT ONLY
FOREIGNERS, BUT A FEW
MINDLESS MORONS IN THIS
COUNTRY, WHO THINK IT IS "OK."
TO DESECRATE OUR FLAG.

WHEN OVER 40% OF THAT
OTHER BODY OF CONGRESS
VOTES AGAINST A FLAG

DESECRATION AMENDMENT TO
THE CONSTITUTION —— YOU
START TO WONDER WHETHER
THEY DESERVE THE NAME OF
'HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.'
YOU START TO ASK: JUST WHO
DO THEY THINK THEY ARE
REPRESENTING?

WHEN ROUGHLY THAT SAME
PERCENTAGE OF THE SENATE
VOTES AGAINST THE

AMENDMENT, YOU AS VOTERS
AND PROUD AMERICANS MUST
START TO WONDER: DO WE
REALLY HAVE THE RIGHT PEOPLE
WORKING FOR US IN WHAT
SOME PEOPLE CALL THE
"GREATEST DELIBERATIVE BODY
IN THE WORLD."

SOMETIMES REAL CRISES
HAVE A WAY OF PUTTING
THINGS IN THE RIGHT

PERSPECTIVE; OF PUTTING
THINGS BACK IN FOCUS.

MAYBE THE EVENTS OF
THESE PAST FEW WEEKS, AND
THE PROSPECT OF EVENTS THAT
COULD UNFOLD OVER THE NEXT
FEW DAYS —— PERHAPS THEY
HAVE GIVEN SOME MEMBERS OF
CONGRESS A LITTLE DIFFERENT
PERSPECTIVE ON WHAT'S GOING
ON AROUND THE GLOBE, AND A

LITTLE BETTER FOCUS ON THE
REAL WORLD.

PERHAPS WE OUGHT TO
LOOK FOR SOME WAY TO GIVE
THE CONGRESS ANOTHER
CHANCE TO DECIDE — ISN'T IT
WORTH PROTECTING THAT
BEAUTIFUL FLAG THAT OUR
BRAVE YOUNG MEN AND
WOMEN ARE PROUDLY BEARING
IN THE DANGEROUS, SHIFTING

SANDS OF THE MIDDLE EAST?

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

THERE IS NO BODY OF MEN
AND WOMEN IN THIS COUNTRY
WHO HATE WAR MORE THAN
YOU DO.

BUT THERE IS NO BODY OF
MEN AND WOMEN WHO
UNDERSTAND MORE CLEARLY
THAT THERE IS ONE THING EVEN
WORSE THAN WAR — AND

THAT IS LOSING YOUR FREEDOM.

EVEN NOW, THOUSANDS OF
YOUNG AMERICANS ARE
BECOMING "INSTANT VETERANS"
OF AN EXPERIENCE WE HAD ALL
HOPEd THEY WOULD NEVER BE
FORCED TO CONFRONT.

WHETHER THEY, TOO,
BECOME VETERANS OF A
FOREIGN WAR IS NOT YET
CLEAR.

WHAT IS CLEAR, THOUGH,
IS THAT THEY ARE READY TO
DO WHATEVER HAS TO BE
DONE.

AND WE ARE READY,
TOO -- YOU, THE MEMBERS OF
THE VFW; AND I AND ALL
PATRIOTIC AMERICANS -- WE
ARE READY, TOO.

READY TO STAND UP FOR
OUR TROOPS.

AND READY TO STAND UP
FOR AMERICA.

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