

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DEFEAT DEM RESOLUTION: SADDAM IS WATCHING

IT IS IRONIC THAT, WHEN THE SENATE VOTES IN A FEW MOMENTS, IT WILL BE JUST AFTER ELEVEN O'CLOCK. BECAUSE, TRULY, WE ARE ALSO AT THE ELEVENTH HOUR IN THE PERSIAN GULF.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT -- TIME IS RUNNING OUT FOR SADDAM HUSSEIN; AND TIME IS RUNNING OUT FOR PEACE IN THE PERSIAN GULF.

NO ONE WANTS WAR. CERTAINLY THOSE OF US WHO HAVE PERSONALLY EXPERIENCED THE HORROR OF WAR -- MYSELF, MANY OF US HERE, PRESIDENT BUSH, AND THE COUNTLESS OTHERS AROUND THIS NATION -- WE DO NOT WANT WAR.

WE WANT PEACE.

BUT WE ALSO WANT SADDAM HUSSEIN OUT OF KUWAIT.

AND THAT, MR. PRESIDENT, IS WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE NUNN RESOLUTION.

NUNN RESOLUTION: A HOLIDAY FOR SADDAM

IT WILL NOT GET SADDAM HUSSEIN OUT OF KUWAIT.

IT WILL NOT PRESERVE THE PEACE -- BUT INSTEAD MAKE WAR ALMOST INEVITABLE.

THE NUNN RESOLUTION AND THE POLICY IT ENDORSES DOES THE WRONG THING.

UNDER THE GUISE OF "GIVING SANCTIONS TIME TO WORK," IT ACTUALLY GIVES SADDAM HUSSEIN A HOLIDAY FROM THE THREAT THAT WE MIGHT USE FORCE.

THE EXPERTS TELL US THAT SANCTIONS WILL NOT SIGNIFICANTLY ERODE SADDAM'S CAPACITY TO WAGE THE KIND OF WAR HE ALMOST CERTAINLY WILL WAGE. THEY ARE HURTING THE PEOPLE OF IRAQ -- BUT THEY WILL NOT GET SADDAM HUSSEIN OUT OF KUWAIT.

AND THAT JUDGMENT IS BASED ON SANCTIONS BACKED UP BY AT LEAST SOME CREDIBLE THREAT OF USING FORCE.

THE NUNN RESOLUTION WIPES OUT THAT CREDIBLE THREAT, AND TELLS SADDAM HUSSEIN: WE WILL NOT USE FORCE FOR MANY MONTHS.

HE WILL USE THE NUNN RESOLUTION HOLIDAY TO DIG IN EVER MORE DEEPLY INSIDE KUWAIT.

AS MUCH AS WE DON'T WANT TO THINK ABOUT THE ULTIMATE RESULT OF CONTINUED RELIANCE ON SANCTIONS, WITHOUT THE CREDIBLE THREAT OF FORCE -- WE MUST. IF WAR ULTIMATELY COMES, IT WILL MEAN MORE AMERICAN DEAD. MORE AMERICAN WOUNDED.

SUPPORTERS OF THE NUNN RESOLUTION HAVE ANGUISHED OVER THE LOSS OF LIFE IF WE GO TO WAR. THEY ARE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT. WE ALL SHARE THAT ANGUISH.

SADDAM IS WATCHING

BUT THEY HAVE FAILED TO FACE UP TO THE TERRIBLE TRUTH: PUTTING INTO PLACE THE POLICY THEY ADVOCATE MEANS THAT, ULTIMATELY, WE MAY PAY A HEAVIER PRICE IN AMERICAN DEAD AND WOUNDED.

AND, MR. PRESIDENT, THE NUNN RESOLUTION SENDS THE WRONG SIGNAL.

AMONG THE MILLIONS AROUND THE WORLD WATCHING TO WHAT WE DO, WE HAVE NO MORE AVID SPECTATOR THAN SADDAM HUSSEIN.

HE HAS WATCHED THE WORLD UNITE AGAINST HIM, AND IMPOSE DAMAGING SANCTIONS ON HIS COUNTRY. HE HAS SEEN THE BUILD-UP OF AMERICAN FORCES AROUND HIM. HE HAS OBSERVED THE UNITED NATIONS, ON TWELVE SEPARATE OCCASIONS, CONDEMNING HIS ACTION; AND MOST RECENTLY AUTHORIZING THE USE OF FORCE TO OUST HIM FROM KUWAIT.

HE HAS WATCHED IT ALL -- AND HE HASN'T BLINKED YET. MAYBE HE NEVER WILL.

(MORE)

THE A.W.O.L CONGRESS

BUT ONE THING IS CLEAR, AT LEAST TO ME. HE WON'T BLINK -- AND, SHORT OF WAR, HE WON'T GET OUT OF KUWAIT -- UNLESS HE IS CONVINCED THAT AMERICA IS UNITED, DETERMINED, AND PREPARED TO USE FORCE IF NECESSARY.

FOR TWO MONTHS, WHILE THE REST OF THE WORLD HAS ACTED, WHILE THE PRESIDENT HAS ACTED, WHILE OUR TROOPS HAVE BEEN DOING THEIR JOB IN THE PERSIAN GULF -- CONGRESS HAS BEEN A.W.O.L.

BY OUR INACTION, WE HAVE SENT SADDAM HUSSEIN THE WRONG MESSAGE, AND GIVEN HIM SOME SMALL GLIMMER OF HOPE: THAT MAYBE CONGRESS WOULD ONE DAY PULL THE RUG OUT FROM UNDER THE PRESIDENT, AND PULL THE PLUG ON OUR COMMITMENT IN THE PERSIAN GULF.

FINALLY, WE ARE GOING TO ACT. WE ARE GOING TO SEND SOME CLEAR SIGNAL TO SADDAM HUSSEIN.

LET US HOPE IT IS THE RIGHT SIGNAL.

THE SIGNAL THAT, SOMEHOW, HE HAS BEEN MISSING. THAT AMERICA IS UNITED, DETERMINED, AND READY TO DO WHAT MUST BE DONE.

THE MESSAGE THAT HE MUST RECEIVE, LOUD AND CLEAR, IF THERE IS TO BE ANY HOPE THAT HE WILL LEAVE KUWAIT PEACEFULLY.

IF WE PASS THE NUNN RESOLUTION, WE WILL SEND PRECISELY THE WORST SIGNAL TO SADDAM, AT PRECISELY THE WORST TIME.

AMERICA UNITED

IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, SADDAM HUSSEIN -- NOT GEORGE BUSH, BUT SADDAM HUSSEIN -- WILL MAKE THE DECISION AS TO WHETHER WE HAVE WAR, OR WHETHER WE HAVE PEACE.

LET US MAKE SURE, AS HE MAKES THAT DECISION, THAT HE UNDERSTANDS EXACTLY WHERE AMERICA STANDS, AND EXACTLY WHAT AMERICA IS PREPARED TO DO.

LET US MAKE SURE THAT HE UNDERSTANDS THAT AMERICA STANDS UNITED, AND DETERMINED TO DO WHATEVER WE MUST, TO ACHIEVE OUR VITAL NATIONAL GOALS.

I URGE ALL SENATORS TO VOTE AGAINST THE NUNN RESOLUTION.

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