

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 20, 1991

Dear Senator Dole:

I was heartened by your comments yesterday that now is not the time for Congress to micromanage the Administration's efforts to conduct post-war diplomacy in the Middle East, and specifically not the time to tie our hands on aid to Jordan.

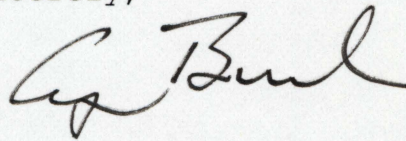
As I emphasized yesterday, the Administration strongly opposes legislation which would prohibit U. S. assistance to Jordan. Like members of Congress, the Administration has been deeply disappointed by Jordan's support for Iraq during the recent crisis. We have made our concerns very clear to the Government of Jordan, and have suspended all aid while completing a review of our security assistance programs.

Nevertheless, we need to retain maximum flexibility in the historic task of helping to build a more secure and more peaceful Middle East on the basis of the international coalition's defeat of Iraqi aggression. Jordanian stability remains important to the region and to U. S. interests -- and indeed to Israel's interests -- and Jordan could play a significant role in post-war diplomacy, especially in the Arab-Israeli peace process.

2

We must not let our disappointment with Jordan's behavior during the Gulf crisis unnecessarily constrain our post-war diplomacy. We must try to focus on the possibilities for the future, not the disappointments of the past. The challenges in the path of securing the peace are enormous, but so are the opportunities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "G. Bush". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and a stylized "Bush".

The Honorable Robert Dole
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510