

We face a crucial challenge in developing the generic technologies that are important to both the public and the private sectors. And that's why the budget supports work in high performance computing and communications, in energy research and development, in aeronautics, in biotechnology—the basis for some of the most promising industries of the 21st century.

Technology may be the key to the future, but people are the key to technology. The national education goals that we established with the Nation's Governors explicitly recognizes this connection. And one of our most ambitious goals is for American students to be first in the world in science and math achievement by the year 2000.

Our budget includes substantial funding increases for math and science education. But those math and science goals will never be achieved if they are seen simply as goals for government alone. All sectors of society must recognize the importance of scientific literacy and strive to achieve it. And that's where the AAAS comes in. Your Project 2061 is working where all lasting change must occur—at the local level, to transform the teaching of math and science.

Last fall, we had 200 of the best mathematics and science teachers in the country here to the White House. And more than a few of those teachers pointed out that kids are natural-born scientists. And they delight in the sheer pleasure of learning new things, making something work, understanding the world. This delight is something most scientists never lose. The Nobel Prize-winning geneticist Barbara McClintock once said of her work: "I did it because it was fun. I couldn't wait to get up in

the morning. I never thought of it as science."

And the sheer adventure of science is one of the main reasons for holding this meeting and for the continued vitality of the AAAS. Sharing science's sense of adventure through education and outreach has never been more important than now. And your work is vitally important. Of all humanity's concerns, the power of knowing is the greatest pursuit, the surest promise for a brighter future, and the greatest covenant that we keep with those kids of the future, those future generations.

So, let us pursue the adventure of science as a sacred trust. And let us keep the fire of the American mind burning brightly for the sake of the future that our children deserve.

Thank you all very, very much for coming here. I hope your meetings are worthwhile and productive. And we're proud of each and every one of you. And at this special time, may God bless the United States.

*Note: President Bush spoke at 9:58 a.m. in Room 450 of the Old Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of Energy James D. Watkins; D. Allan Bromley, Assistant to the President for Science and Technology; Adm. Richard H. Truly, Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; Richard C. Atkinson, chairman of the board, Donald H. Langenberg, president, and Leon M. Lederman, president-elect of the association; and Sherwood Rowland, president of the University of California at Riverside.*

## Exchange With Reporters in Andover, Massachusetts, on the Iraqi Offer To Withdraw From Kuwait

February 15, 1991

Q. Mr. President, is there any indication that Iraqis are turning around and going home?

Q. Do you think this is words only, this Iraqi statement?

The President. What statement? You mean this morning?

Q. Yes.

The President. Oh, there's no evidence of any withdrawal. I mean, as I said down in

Washington, it's a cruel ploy. What he did was reiterate some conditions and add some new ones. And it's totally unacceptable to everybody.

You know, my heart goes out to the people in Iraq that you saw kind of jumping with joy early on, firing their weapons—which is I guess their sign of joy—in the air, and only to recognize when the fine print came out that it was a step backwards.

So, there's no sign of any withdrawal. I wish there were; so did the whole world.

Q. —members of the coalition, sir?

Q. What do you think the use of the word "withdrawal" means? It's the first time we've heard that.

*The President.* I don't know. It doesn't mean compliance with the United Nations resolutions. Until that happens, regrettably, there will not be a cessation of hostilities. There will be no pause, there will be no cease-fire, there will be no reliving experiences in the past that were unhelpful to a peaceful, satisfactory conclusion of the war. And so, there's nothing in this thing to offer hope. I wish I thought there was; there's not.

Q. Any sign that this tempts any members of the coalition?

*The President.* No, they're all—the ones we've talked to are all solid and got on this thing the minute they saw the declara-

tion coming out of Baghdad, pronounced it—it was an initiative—pronounced it dead on arrival because there wasn't anything new or significant. There was just some more conditions including asking the American taxpayer to pay for damage in Iraq. It's the other way around—there—reparation sanctions are called for under the United Nations. Reparations for Iraq—undoes the damage that it's done to its neighbors. I don't know how you repay for the loss of human life in Kuwait, the brutality, the 15-to-20-year-old Kuwaitis just this last week. You can't make amends for that.

But this was a cruel ploy. And the world saw it as such, including the coalition, which is just as solid today as it's ever been.

Now, I've got to get on and learn something more about the Patriot. But thank you all very much.

*Note: The exchange began at 12:40 p.m. in the Andover Room of the assembly building at the Raytheon Missile Systems plant. In his remarks, President Bush referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange. Following the exchange, the President toured the plant facilities.*

## Remarks to Raytheon Missile Systems Plant Employees in Andover, Massachusetts

February 15, 1991

Listen, I came up here to thank you guys, but thank you for that warm welcome. And Reverend Gomes, thank you, sir, for that lovely prayer, so fitting tribute to those who are serving overseas and those serving at home here. And thank you, Tom, my old friend Tom Phillips, the chairman, for that warm welcome and making these arrangements. Let me pay my respects to another old friend, the Governor of the Commonwealth, Bill Weld, and his able Lieutenant Governor, Paul Cellucci, over here. I'm glad that they're here with us today.

And look, I view it as an honor to be

here, to come to Raytheon, the home of the men and women who built the Scudbusters. We're very, very grateful.

Earlier today, maybe your hopes were lifted, maybe mine—mine were—and I think some hopes were lifted in downtown Baghdad with the statement. And I expressed, earlier on, regret that that Iraqi statement that first gave rise to hope in fact turned out to be a cruel hoax. Not only was the Iraqi statement full of unacceptable old conditions, Saddam Hussein has added several new conditions.

Let me state once again: Iraq must with-