

Feb. 27 / Administration of George Bush, 1991

this suspension on the part of the coalition becomes a permanent cease-fire.

Coalition political and military terms for a formal cease-fire include the following requirements:

Iraq must release immediately all coalition prisoners of war, third country nationals, and the remains of all who have fallen. Iraq must release all Kuwaiti detainees. Iraq also must inform Kuwaiti authorities of the location and nature of all land and sea mines. Iraq must comply fully with all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions. This includes a rescinding of Iraq's August decision to annex Kuwait and acceptance in principle of Iraq's responsibility to pay compensation for the loss, damage, and injury its aggression has caused.

The coalition calls upon the Iraqi Government to designate military commanders to meet within 48 hours with their coalition counterparts at a place in the theater of operations to be specified to arrange for military aspects of the cease-fire. Further, I have asked Secretary of State Baker to request that the United Nations Security Council meet to formulate the necessary arrangements for this war to be ended.

This suspension of offensive combat operations is contingent upon Iraq's not firing upon any coalition forces and not launching Scud missiles against any other country. If Iraq violates these terms, coalition forces will be free to resume military operations.

At every opportunity, I have said to the people of Iraq that our quarrel was not with them but instead with their leadership and, above all, with Saddam Hussein. This remains the case. You, the people of Iraq, are not our enemy. We do not seek your

destruction. We have treated your POW's with kindness. Coalition forces fought this war only as a last resort and look forward to the day when Iraq is led by people prepared to live in peace with their neighbors.

We must now begin to look beyond victory and war. We must meet the challenge of securing the peace. In the future, as before, we will consult with our coalition partners. We've already done a good deal of thinking and planning for the postwar period, and Secretary Baker has already begun to consult with our coalition partners on the region's challenges. There can be, and will be, no solely American answer to all these challenges. But we can assist and support the countries of the region and be a catalyst for peace. In this spirit, Secretary Baker will go to the region next week to begin a new round of consultations.

This war is now behind us. Ahead of us is the difficult task of securing a potentially historic peace. Tonight though, let us be proud of what we have accomplished. Let us give thanks to those who risked their lives. Let us never forget those who gave their lives. May God bless our valiant military forces and their families, and let us all remember them in our prayers.

Good night, and may God bless the United States of America.

Note: President Bush spoke at 9:02 p.m. from the Oval Office at the White House. In his address, he referred to Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney; Colin L. Powell, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Secretary of State James A. Baker III; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The address was broadcast live on nationwide radio and television.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Foreign Minister Roland Dumas of France

February 28, 1991

Reporter. Mr. President, do you still want to prosecute Saddam Hussein for war crimes?

The President. I don't want to take any questions here in the Oval Office, but we

have with us today the Foreign Minister from one of our fundamentally key coalition partners. And I will take this opportunity to

express my appreciation not only to Minister Dumas but to the President of the French Republic, Francois Mitterrand, for the extraordinary and, I'd say, historic cooperation we've had.

And I'm glad to have this opportunity, Roland, to tell you how much we appreciate the closeness, the way in which you and our Secretary of State have worked through a lot of ups and downs in the road. And we valued your advice, your judgment, the courage of your fighting people. And you've come here on an exciting day for all Americans. It's most fitting that you be here, too.

The Foreign Minister. Let me say how glad I am to be here today, especially, and to thank you for receiving me today and give to the American people the regards from France. And we have been fighting together in this big, difficult period, and I hope now we continue to work together to build peace.

The President. We've got to, yes.

The Foreign Minister. A very good peaceful and stable settlement in that region.

The President. Well, that's what we all want to do, so we'll have a chance to talk about the problems and the challenges that lie ahead.

Thank you all very much.

The Foreign Minister. Thank you very much.

[At this point, another group of journalists entered the room.]

The President. May I simply repeat what I said a minute ago to the first wave of journalists. I still will not take questions in here, but this is a very special day. And it is most fitting that Roland Dumas, a friend, Foreign Minister of France, be here because it gives me a chance on behalf of all the American people to thank the French Government, the President, Francois Mitterrand, and the Minister for

the extraordinary cooperation we've had, all of us together, working together since day one. And there have been some bumps in the road, and we've always valued the counsel and the steadfast solidarity that we've had with France.

And I want to take this opportunity, Mr. Minister, to thank your courageous people in the military in the Gulf. They have served with great distinction. I heard what General Schwarzkopf said yesterday, commending the French soldiers. And it brought tears to my eyes because we've worked closely in the past, working closely in present. And now we've got some big diplomatic problems that you and Jim can talk about in detail. But we're very glad you're here, very glad. We're very grateful to you.

The Foreign Minister. Well, let me say I thank you very much indeed for your words. And I will repeat it to the French President. And I appreciate very much what you said and the work we have done together——

The President. It's been good.

The Foreign Minister. ——American people and French people in this difficult period of time. I'm sure we will continue now to settle the peace for the future and to have good cooperation together between ourselves and between our two people and to our people—we work together in the same boat.

The President. We must do that.

The Foreign Minister. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

Note: The President spoke at 1:17 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to President Francois Mitterrand of France; Secretary of State James A. Baker III; and Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of the U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf.