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an absolute minimum. And I feel so strongly about our troops over there. Certainly I feel that way about them, and I feel that way about the innocents who might get caught up in this conflict. So, I think it's fair to say there's a lot of prayer going on both here and on Capitol Hill and across this whole country. And it will be that way until this is concluded.

Q. Mr. President, Saddam Hussein says he won't be crushed.

The President. I won't take others right now. Thank you.

Q. Are you concerned this early talk of success might lead to unwarranted optimism on some people's part?

The President. No, I'm not concerned. There is no unwarranted optimism, and there will be none. And I would refer you to the briefing of the Secretary of Defense and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs.

Thank you all very much.

Note: The exchange began at 9:40 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House, prior to a meeting with congressional leaders. In his remarks, the President referred to Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney; Colin L. Powell, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of the U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf.

Exchange With Reporters on the Persian Gulf Conflict

January 17, 1991

Q. Mr. President, will you insist on an unconditional surrender by Saddam?

Q. Has it reached that point, sir, that surrender is the answer?

The President. I tried very hard last night to spell out our objectives, and I think it's very clear. And the United Nations spelled them out, and they remain the same. He can call it anything he wants, interpret any way he wants, but we are going to prevail. I don't want to get caught up in some semantics about all of this. He's got to get out of Kuwait. And he's got to do it with no concessions or no condition. That was determined long ago when he failed to comply with the U.N. resolutions. And now, in keeping with those, we are using force, and we're not going to stop until he fully

complies with the resolutions.

So, let's not worry about what we call it. Let's worry about—call it, if you want to make it clear, full compliance with the U.N. resolutions, full compliance with the objectives of the coalition forces.

Q. What do you think of his response so far?

The President. I think our people are doing very well.

Note: The exchange began at 3:13 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. 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.

Nomination of Carol T. Crawford To Be a Member of the United States International Trade Commission

January 17, 1991

The President today announced his intention to nominate Carol T. Crawford, of Virginia, to be a member of the United States International Trade Commission for the

term expiring June 16, 1999. She would succeed Alfred E. Eckes, Jr.

Ms. Crawford has served as Assistant Attorney General at the Department of Jus-

tice in Washington, DC, 1989–1990. Prior to this Ms. Crawford served as Associate Director for Economics and Government at the Office of Management and Budget at the White House, 1985–1989. She was Director of the Bureau of Consumer Protection for the Federal Trade Commission, 1983–1985, and Executive Assistant to the

Chairman, 1981–1983.

Ms. Crawford graduated from Mount Holyoke College (B.A., 1965) and American University (J.D., 1978). She was born December 25, 1943, in Mount Holly, NJ. Ms. Crawford is married, has three children, and resides in McLean, VA.

Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater Confirming Iraqi Missile Attacks on Israel and Saudi Arabia

January 17, 1991

The Department of Defense has confirmed the firing of missiles from Iraq into Israel and Saudi Arabia. Damage assessments are being made.

President Bush was informed of this action by NSC [National Security Council] adviser Brent Scowcroft earlier this evening.

The President has also discussed this matter with Secretary of State Baker and Secretary of Defense Cheney. The President is outraged at, and condemns, this further aggression by Iraq.

Coalition forces in the Gulf are attacking missile sites and other targets in Iraq.

Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater on United States Response to Iraqi Missile Attacks on Israel

January 17, 1991

The United States has been in touch with the Government of Israel to express its outrage over the missile attacks by Iraq. Secretary Baker discussed the matter with Prime Minister Shamir by telephone from the White House tonight. The Secretary assured the Prime Minister that the United States is continuing its efforts to eliminate this threat.

The United States expects to remain in close consultation with Israel on this issue. The U.S. has also been in contact with its

coalition partners.

The President has been kept informed of these developments and remains in the Residence.

Note: Press Secretary Fitzwater read this statement to reporters at 11:15 p.m. in the Briefing Room at the White House. The statement referred to Secretary of State James A. Baker III and Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of Israel.

The President's News Conference on the Persian Gulf Conflict

January 18, 1991

The President. I have a few opening remarks, and then be glad to take a few questions.

We're now some 37 hours into Operation Desert Storm and the liberation of Kuwait, and so far, so good. U.S. and coalition mili-