

Jan. 18 / Administration of George Bush, 1991

A. Baker III; King Hussein I of Jordan; and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz of Iraq. Marlin Fitzwater was Press Secretary to the President.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on the Persian Gulf Conflict *January 18, 1991*

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

On January 16, 1991, I made available to you, consistent with section 2(b) of the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution (H.J. Res. 77, Public Law 102-1), my determination that appropriate diplomatic and other peaceful means had not and would not compel Iraq to withdraw unconditionally from Kuwait and meet the other requirements of the U.N. Security Council and the world community. With great reluctance, I concluded, as did the other coalition leaders, that only the use of armed force would achieve an Iraqi withdrawal together with the other U.N. goals of restoring Kuwait's legitimate government, protecting the lives of our citizens, and reestablishing security and stability in the Persian Gulf region. Consistent with the War Powers Resolution, I now inform you that pursuant to my authority as Commander in Chief, I directed U.S. Armed Forces to commence combat operations on January 16, 1991, against Iraqi forces and military targets in Iraq and Kuwait. The Armed Forces of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Kingdom, France, Italy, and Canada are participating as well.

Military actions are being conducted with great intensity. They have been carefully planned to accomplish our goals with the minimum loss of life among coalition mili-

tary forces and the civilian inhabitants of the area. Initial reports indicate that our forces have performed magnificently. Nevertheless, it is impossible to know at this time either the duration of active combat operations or the scope or duration of the deployment of U.S. Armed Forces necessary fully to accomplish our goals.

The operations of U.S. and other coalition forces are contemplated by the resolutions of the U.N. Security Council, as well as H.J. Res. 77, adopted by Congress on January 12, 1991. They are designed to ensure that the mandates of the United Nations and the common goals of our coalition partners are achieved and the safety of our citizens and forces is ensured.

As our united efforts in pursuit of peace, stability, and security in the Gulf region continue, I look forward to our continued consultation and cooperation.

Sincerely,

George Bush

Note: Identical letters were sent to Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the House of Representatives; Robert C. Byrd, President pro tempore of the Senate; George J. Mitchell, Senate majority leader; Robert Dole, Senate Republican leader; and Robert H. Michel, House Republican leader.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on the Activation of the Ready Reserve *January 18, 1991*

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

I have today, pursuant to section 673 of title 10, United States Code, authorized the Secretaries of the Army, Navy, and Air Force, and the Secretary of Transportation

with respect to the Coast Guard when it is not operating as a service within the Department of the Navy, to order to active duty units and individual members not assigned to units of the Ready Reserve. The

continued deployment of United States forces in and around the Arabian Peninsula necessitates this action.

A copy of the Executive order implementing this action is attached.

Sincerely,

GEORGE BUSH

Note: Identical letters were sent to Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Dan Quayle, President of the Senate. The Executive order is listed in Appendix E at the end of this volume.

Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater on the Activation of the Ready Reserve

January 18, 1991

At the request of the Secretary of Defense, the President today authorized the Department of Defense and the Department of Transportation to order members of the Ready Reserve of the Armed Forces to active duty under the provisions of section 673 of title 10, United States Code. This step is necessary to support the continued operations of U.S. forces in Operation

Desert Storm. This authority will enable reservists to remain on active duty for longer than 180 days and will also permit the call to active duty of personnel in excess of the 200,000 previously authorized.

The Executive order on the activation of the Ready Reserve is listed in Appendix E at the end of this volume.

Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater on the Death of King Olav V of Norway

January 18, 1991

The President today sent a letter to His Majesty King Harald V and Her Majesty Queen Sonja of Norway extending President and Mrs. Bush's condolences on the death of King Olav V. In the letter, the President said that King Olav V was a symbol of Norway's spirit and verve, and that his graciousness and energy would be

missed.

King Olav V lived in the United States during the Second World War as a guest of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. During his long reign, Norway and the United States have enjoyed a very close and productive friendship. He was much admired by the American people.

Nomination of Melissa Foelsch Wells To Be United States Ambassador to Zaire

January 18, 1991

The President today announced his intention to nominate Melissa Foelsch Wells, of Connecticut, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Coun-

selor, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Zaire. She would succeed William Caldwell Harrop.