

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.

Currently Ambassador Wells serves as the United States Ambassador to the People's Republic of Mozambique. Prior to this, Ambassador Wells served as director of the IMPACT Program in Geneva, Switzerland, 1982–1986; resident representative of the United Nations Development Program and special representative to the United Nations Secretary-General for relief operations in Uganda, 1979–1982; U.S. Representative on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, 1977–1979; U.S. Ambassador to Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde, 1976–1977; and commercial counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Brasilia, Brazil, 1975–1976. She has also served as deputy director for major export projects at the Department of Commerce in Washington, DC, 1973–

1975; chief of the business relations branch in the Bureau of Economic Affairs, 1972–1973; personnel officer for the Board of Examiners, 1971–1972; and economic officer at the U.S. Embassy in London, England, 1966–1970. Ambassador Wells has also served as an economic officer at the U.S. Mission to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris, France, 1964–1966. From 1958 to 1961, Ambassador Wells served in several capacities at the Department of State.

Ambassador Wells graduated from Georgetown University (B.S., 1956). She was born November 18, 1932, in Tallinn, Estonia. Ambassador Wells is married and has two children.

## Remarks on the Persian Gulf Conflict and the Baltic States and an Exchange With Reporters

January 21, 1991

*The President.* Let me just say a quick word about the brutal parading of these allied pilots. I was talking to Speaker Foley about this coming down, and it is very clear that this is a direct violation of every convention that protects prisoners. The International Red Cross, I understand, certified to that today.

In the first place, this is not going to make a difference in the prosecution of the war against Saddam. It's not going to make a difference. I've said that before. I said that when he brutally held hostages that numbered up into the thousands. And it's not going to make a difference. But I would make the strongest appeal that these people be treated properly and that they be given the treatment that is accorded to them under the international conventions—and they are not being. And America is angry about this, and I think the rest of the world is, because this morning I talked to more of our coalition partners. So, it is backfiring. If he thought this brutal treatment of pilots is a way to muster world support, he is dead wrong. And I think everybody is upset about it.

Speaker, I won't put words in your mouth, but——

*Speaker Foley.* I concur absolutely with what the President said. It's a clear violation of the Geneva provisions for the protection of prisoners of war, and it will have very, very strong repercussions not only throughout the United States but throughout the world if these violations continue.

*Q.* Mr. President——

*The President.* No, I can't do a press conference. I do want to say something, though, about the Baltic States. I am increasingly concerned. We had a statement on that yesterday. I would again appeal to the Soviet Union leaders to resist using force. And we've heard European countries speaking out on this now, and the world is very much concerned about that as well.

So, thank you all very much.

### *Persian Gulf Conflict*

*Q.* ——war crimes, sir?

*Q.* Will he be held accountable, Mr. President? Will he be held accountable?

*The President.* You can count on it.