

urday, how will this impact your Presidency both in terms of how you're seen domestically and by foreign leaders?

*The President.* I have no idea. I did my job. It was my job, and I did it the best I could.

*Q.* Don't you think it will have some political effects—

*Q.* Any political considerations, Mr. President, at all?

*The President.* I have no idea. It's my job. I did exactly what I said I'd do in the campaign when confronted by circumstances like this. The evidence was clear. And we took the appropriate action. And it was the right thing to do for the United States, and I feel quite comfortable with it.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:16 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House.

## Letter to Congressional Leaders on the Strike on Iraqi Intelligence Headquarters

June 28, 1993

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

Commencing at approximately 4:22 p.m. (EST) on June 26, 1993, at my direction, U.S. naval forces launched a Tomahawk cruise missile strike on the Iraqi Intelligence Service's (IIS) principal command and control complex in Baghdad. This facility is the headquarters for the IIS, which planned the failed attempt to assassinate former President Bush during his visit to Kuwait in April of this year. This U.S. military action was completed upon impact of the missiles on target at approximately 6 p.m. (EST).

Operating under the United States Central Command, two U.S. Navy surface ships launched a total of 23 precision-guided Tomahawk missiles in this coordinated strike upon the key facilities in the IIS compound. The USS PETERSON (DD 969) launched 14 missiles from its position in the Red Sea, while the USS CHANCELLORSVILLE (CG 62) in the Arabian Gulf launched nine missiles. The timing of this operation, with missiles striking at approximately 2:00 a.m. local Iraqi time, was chosen carefully so as to minimize risks to innocent civilians. Initial reports indicate that heavy damage was inflicted on the complex. Regrettably, there were some collateral civilian casualties.

I ordered this military response only after I considered the results of a thorough and independent investigation by U.S. intelligence and law enforcement agencies. The reports by Attorney General Reno and Director of Central Intelligence Woolsey provided compelling evidence that the operation that threatened the life of

President Bush in Kuwait City in April was directed and pursued by the Iraqi Intelligence Service and that the Government of Iraq bore direct responsibility for this effort.

The Government of Iraq acted unlawfully in attempting to carry out Saddam Hussein's threats against former President Bush because of actions he took as President. The evidence of the Government of Iraq's violence and terrorism demonstrates that Iraq poses a continuing threat to United States nationals and shows utter disregard for the will of the international community as expressed in Security Council Resolutions and the United Nations Charter. Based on the Government of Iraq's pattern of disregard for international law, I concluded that there was no reasonable prospect that new diplomatic initiatives or economic measures could influence the current Government of Iraq to cease planning future attacks against the United States.

Consequently, in the exercise of our inherent right of self-defense as recognized in Article 51 of the United Nations Charter and pursuant to my constitutional authority with respect to the conduct of foreign relations and as Commander in Chief, I ordered a military strike that directly targeted a facility Iraqi intelligence implicated in the plot against the former Chief Executive. In accordance with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, this action was reported immediately to the Security Council on June 26. On June 27, Ambassador Albright provided evidence of Iraq's assassination attempts to the United Nations Security Council, which had been con-

vened in emergency session at our request.

I am certain that you share my sincere hope that the limited and proportionate action taken by the United States Government will frustrate and help deter and preempt future unlawful actions on the part of the Government of Iraq. Nonetheless, in the event that Iraqi violence, aggression, or state-sponsored terrorism against the United States continues, I will direct such additional measures in our exercise of the right of self-defense as may be necessary and appropriate to protect United States citizens.

I remain committed to ensuring that the Congress is kept fully informed regarding significant

employments of the U.S. Armed Forces. Accordingly, I am providing this report on the U.S. military actions of June 26, consistent with the War Powers Resolution. I appreciate your thoughts and continued support as we address these important concerns.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Robert C. Byrd, President pro tempore of the Senate.

## Statement by the Press Secretary on the President's Telephone Conversation With President Boris Yeltsin of Russia

*June 28, 1993*

Beginning at about 1:15 p.m. this afternoon, President Clinton spoke with Russian President Boris Yeltsin for 30 minutes. The two leaders exchanged views on issues to be discussed at the G-7 summit in Tokyo. President Clinton described G-7 efforts to develop a program to support the process of democratic reform and development of free markets in Russia and said the U.S. expects the G-7 to move forward with a solid package of assistance.

President Clinton also reviewed progress made in implementing the U.S. bilateral assistance package he announced in Vancouver, noting that the U.S. had already obligated more than half of the \$1.6 billion. President Clinton said that the separate and additional \$1.8 billion assistance package for Russia has been approved by the House of Representatives and was under consideration by the Senate. He reiterated to President Yeltsin his full support for this effort.

## Nomination for the National Labor Relations Board

*June 28, 1993*

The President announced today that he intends to nominate law professor and arbitrator William Gould to the National Labor Relations Board.

"William Gould has a tremendous amount of both practical and scholarly experience in labor law," said the President, "and stands for the principles I want the NLRB to uphold: the rights of all workers to participate in labor orga-

nizations and the need for labor and management to work together to increase our Nation's competitiveness in a global marketplace. I think that he will be an excellent addition to the Labor Relations Board."

NOTE: A biography of the nominee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.