

Oct. 28 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1994

judgment is that we can handle that, then I expect that decision will flow in a prompt fashion. But we're going to wait a little while longer to make sure we have all the evidence, we know exactly where we are, we know what the range of risks are. And we'll make a decision pretty soon.

Q. Sir, are you feeling a little unplugged from your domestic matters here?

The President. No. No. I haven't been gone long enough to be unplugged.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:44 p.m. at Bayan Palace. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With Prince Bandar in Hafal-Batin, Saudi Arabia

October 28, 1994

King Abdul-Aziz Medal

Q. Your Majesty, would you care to tell us what the decoration was, what its purpose was, Prince Bandar?

Prince Bandar. This is the highest medal in the kingdom, that His Majesty awarded the President for his gratitude for the President of the United States of America and the people of the United States.

The President. You all are holding up well?

Q. No, are you?

Q. What are you going to do with all your medals now? Put them in your library?

The President. No, I'm going to wear them to my press conference and hope that I'll get more respect. [Laughter] I'll just wait until a difficult question arises, and I will put it on and hope it serves as a shield.

NOTE: The exchange began at 9:43 p.m. at the Royal Compound Reception Hall. Prince Bandar was Saudi Ambassador to the United States. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Joint Communique of the United States of America and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

October 28, 1994

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahad Bin Abdul-Aziz Al-Saud, King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia held a meeting with his excellency President William Clinton, during his Excellency's current visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on Friday the 23d of Jumda Al-Awal, 1415, A.H., corresponding to the 28th of October, 1994.

In this meeting, the two leaders reviewed bilateral relations along with regional and international issues of common interest. In this regard, there was an expression of deep satisfaction at the level of bilateral relations and a mutual readiness to promote and develop their relations in a way that serves the common interests of the two countries and the well-being of the

two peoples as well as contribute to the security and development of the whole region.

In addition, the two leaders discussed recent developments related to the peace process in the Middle East. On this matter, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, with great satisfaction, noted the relentless efforts of President Clinton and his government to move ahead the peace process and emphasized support for all the agreements already reached. On his part, President Clinton expressed his appreciation for King Fahad's support for the Israel-PLO agreements and the Israel-Jordan Peace Treaty and for his promotion and enhancement of the peace process. In particular the President expressed appreciation to him and his counterparts in the

Gulf Cooperation Council for ending their enforcement of the secondary and tertiary boycotts. Both leaders emphasized their commitment to continue efforts to achieve concrete progress in the Israeli-Syrian and Israeli-Lebanese track. The two leaders took cognizance of the fact that a permanent and comprehensive peace in the area must be based on the Security Council Resolutions 242, 338 as well as the Principle of Land for peace.

During the talks, the two leaders also examined current threats that endanger regional peace and security, notably, the recent Iraqi violation of Security Council Resolutions and confirm the ill intentions of the Iraqi Government and its continued aggressive policies that threaten the security and stability of the Gulf area.

They also noted the provisions of Security Council Resolution number 949, underscoring their firm resolve to prevent Saddam Hussein from again posing a threat to Iraq's neighbors, particularly, the security of the State of Kuwait and future stability of the region. The two leaders voiced their view that any attempt to lift

or alleviate the sanctions on Iraq will continue to be premature as long as Iraq does not comply fully and comprehensively with all the Security Council Resolutions that pertain to its aggression on the State of Kuwait. Consequently, any other efforts, inconsistent with the Security Council Resolutions, would only result in encouraging the Iraqi regime to continue its aggressive policies and to flout the will of the international community.

The two leaders emphasized that they had no quarrel with the Iraqi people with whose plight they sympathize. They drew attention to the humanitarian provisions of the UNSC resolutions which the Iraqi regime has failed to take up. The responsibility for the hardship of the Iraqi people lies entirely with the Iraqi regime.

The United States and Saudi Arabia condemn all terrorist activities. We are united against all the enemies of peace, those who threaten aggression and those who kill innocent people and whose real target is peace itself. In this way, we will widen the circle of peacemakers and promote reconciliation between them.

Remarks on Returning From the Middle East

October 29, 1994

Thank you very much, and good morning. Less than 24 hours ago, I stood with the brave men and women of our Armed Forces stationed at Tactical Assembly Area Liberty in the desert sands of Kuwait. I went there to express my pride and the pride I know all Americans share in the job our military is doing to protect our interests in the Persian Gulf.

Our troops are living in difficult conditions. But I saw in their faces the pride they have in their work and the work of our coalition partners. And I can tell all Americans, their morale is high and they are prepared and ready to do their job, to do what they must to stand up for freedom. Anyone who doubts it should go and see what I saw in the sands of Kuwait.

I also wish that all Americans could have been with me in the Wadi Araba, on the border between Israel and Jordan. There, in the middle of the Great Rift Valley, soldiers of the nations of Israel and Jordan reached across 47 years of hostility to shake hands in a true, genuine

gesture of reconciliation, just as their leaders found the courage to sign a peace treaty, a crucial step on the road to a comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Israel and Jordan looked to America to help them to make peace. And they and other nations in the Middle East look to America as we travel the difficult road ahead, until we achieve peace throughout the Middle East. And as I said in every one of the six nations I visited, the United States will continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with those who seek the peace, with those who take risks for peace, with those who stand up for change in the face of terrorists and extremists who seek to destroy the peace by killing the innocent. They cannot, they must not, they will not succeed. They are the past; the peacemakers are the future.

My trip to the Middle East is a reminder that we live in times when the spirit of America—our freedom, our vitality, our strength, our respect for others, our commitment to the fu-